

WILDLIFE COMMITTEE

June 27, 2025

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

NOTES

Outdoor Cat Proposal :

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1UCRawHk4CuuhdU6JMYpdw9GDcGVRW13i/edit>

Literature resources folder:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1pK5Eur7G_ABeGQzfTlJeAqKk6NlpMnp9?usp=drive_link

In attendance:

Joy O'Keefe

Michael Eiccholz

Scott Meister

Liza Leher

Katie Baughman

John Lough

Welcome from Joy.

The committee reviewed the document.

Introduction: Mike has worked on the introduction. Mike has added the intrinsic value that some people assign to cats, whether justified or not.

Initiating Event: Nothing else needed

Distribution of Cats: Nothing else needed

Official Control: Liza added some comments about trap neuter and release, rabies vaccinations, etc. Not clear that there are any specific areas where TNR species are being maintained.

Need to include information about how people are adding, i.e. people in Chicago have cats for outdoor control of rodents – “Community Cats”. She will make this clearer.

Cats in Action: https://catsinaction.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/cook_county_feral_cats_ordinance.pdf

www.treehouseanimals.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Cats-at-Work-Fact-Sheet-NEW.pdf

John reported that Cook County has an ordinance on Feral Cats. The ordinance provides instructions for caretakers, ordinance requirements, etc.

Recommendations: Recommend that the State work with local governments to develop public policies for control. Geographic locations can be very different.
Some additional recommendations have been added. Need to get the state to understand it is an issue and there are some ways they can address it. Add language similar to Florida. Joy could not find anything about a PR campaign in Florida. They do have a nice web resource.

Consequences of Introduction: Joy provided a paragraph and has changed the score to 3. John suggested, while there may be rules, they are not necessarily enforceable with the cats or people. Need cultural practices to support change.

Katie still does not have an updated endangered species list. She is using the latest one from 2020.

Final Score: 12 or Medium.

Uncertainty: Joy added some language and Liza made some edits.

Other states: SWC-1 Page Policy on Outdoor Cats. State of Florida has developed a policy. <https://myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/nonnatives/feral-cats/domestic-cat-policy/>

What does the Committee need to add?

The survey needs to be sure to address a broad demographic - deeper dive into rural and urban communities, etc. The State should work with a social scientist to help develop the survey.

Need to provoke action with IDNR. What would it take? If you can show a seminal impact on conservation areas they may be willing to take action. What do the managers of natural areas think? Need a better understanding of impacts to natural areas?

The Florida policy has thought through the socio-economic issues as well as the natural areas impacts. Committee agrees that the Florida policy is a good example that the State should consider as a guide for Illinois. Should be attached to this paper as an appendix. Can IDNR take their existing language and make it stronger?

Assignment:

Everyone look for examples of an educational campaign from a government entity. Please put the link in the document.
Joy will make any changes to the document and send it out to the committee for feedback.