

## Wildlife Committee

### July 25, 2025, Meeting Notes

#### References:

- 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](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1pK5Eur7G_ABeGQzfTlJeAqKk6NlpMnp9?usp=drive_link)
- Discuss Information for the DNR website regarding the Wildlife Committee. Please see the example here: <https://dnr.illinois.gov/programs/invasivespeciescouncil/terrestrialplants.html>

#### NOTES:

##### Attendees:

Joy O'Keefe  
Scott Meister  
Liza Leher

Joy asked Liza to talk about what she added to the paper. She reported she input some community information and stated that it is unclear what the origin is of cats in the Working Cat program. It appears they are taking feral cats and moving them to other locations. Shifting risk? Tree House is another program. They will only adopt out a maximum of 3 cats per property. She is not comfortable with TNR, the different models and how expensive they are. Some of the papers have not been clear. Need to clarify that TNR needs a lot of things in place to be a successful model.

Joy asked whether the state recognizes the Working Cat program and the challenges associated.

Joy reported that Katie has added some examples and asked how much the Wildlife Committee needs to delve into a paper or is it better to keep it simple. Liza and Scott agree to keep it simple.

Joy will amend this section.

Gary input several examples from other communities.

Joy reported that a number of groups in Oregon have collaborated to form Cats Safe At Home. American Bird Conservancy has a program called Cats Indoors. Newark Audubon Society has created a pdf on how to make your own Cats Indoors campaign.

Scott suggested amending the paper to encourage IDNR to adopt the Florida program and to review the resources provided, i.e. Newark, ABC and Oregon programs. Move all of the recommendations to the end.

Liza recommended that we should differentiate between the existing IDNR feral cats page. The committee should highlight how the recommendations from the committee are different.

Joy discussed the IDNR webpage. Does IL law allow for trap, neuter and release?

Scott will review the IL Welfare Act and see what he can find. He will add the appropriate act.

The Committee briefly discussed next species to consider. It was recommended that something easier and less controversial should be tackled. The following were recommended:

Red Eared Sliders or Mediterranean house gecko – something easier to work with.

Joy will send out the updated paper by the end of next week, ask people to look it over, and ask them to consider the next animal - focusing on an easier species would be a good strategy. Lydia will wait to send anything until after Joy sends out the updated paper and she will let them know the two species recommended.