

Owner's manual

Humane Society suggests guidelines

Frank Lauffoff, Farmington public safety director, contacted Gary T. Thomas, Michigan Humane Society

Council considers a curtail on cats

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"It is estimated that nationwide there are slightly more cats than dogs kept domestically. Cities that currently require licensing for cats continue to find that only five to 10 percent of cats are being licensed as compared to the number of dog licenses issued," Lauffoff said.

"Putting a collar on a cat can be dangerous to a cat's own safety because cats can climb and get their collars caught," Deadman said. "How do you make those 10-year-old cats inside cats?" he asked.

"Dogs who are found stray are picked up, impounded and released after the owner can show proof of rabies immunization," Lauffoff said.

"There's one thing, I'd like you to consider when you address the whole issue," Lauffoff said. "Right now, if someone walks by your home and even though the dog is under control of the owner on a leash and the dog decides this is the time and place to do his thing, there is no violation by city code. There is nothing that public safety can do about that."

"Council member William Hartsock said that while he believes in owner responsibility, 'if it's not a problem, let's not create an ordinance.' He said he does not favor overregulation."

Never be a dirty bird.

director, for cat guidelines. The MHS supports the regulation of cat ownership along the following

Responsible owners are the answer, not limiting the number of animals, councilmember Joanne McShane said. The proposed cat ordinance would also protect cats from rabies and feline leukemia.

"I think I'd like to limit this type of ordinance," McShane said. "I don't want to become Big Brother."

Small claims court may offer one option for cat nuisance/damage, Donohue said.

lines and for the following reasons:

- There should be different licensing fees to encourage owners to sterilize their cats. The MHS wants a financial incentive for owners to sterilize. Sterilized animals are less of a problem because they are less aggressive in hunting and in ranging from their home. They are not involved in noisy breeding behavior. Fewer cats mean fewer euthanized cats.

- Rabies will become a problem with cats as rabies makes its way westward in wildlife populations. Mandatory rabies vaccinations for cats will then be necessary from a public health standpoint.

- Cats should be outdoors only when under a leash and under the direct supervision of their owners. Cats should not be "tied out" because they are vulnerable to attack by other cats and dogs.

- Cats running at large outdoors have a much higher mortality rate than indoor cats or cats under their owner's direct supervision outdoors. They encounter cars on the road, fan belts in the engine compartment during the winter, fatal diseases and aggressive dogs.

CATS RUNNING at large are one of the leading predators in many states and are number one in a recent Wisconsin study. They reduce the population of native species, including many songbirds.

"We often see cases where owners of one or two animals create a nuisance situation through irresponsible ownership practices while conscientious owners of seven or more animals have neighbors who do not even know that they have animals," Tiscornia said.

"Numerical restrictions are no panacea and tend to penalize responsible owners. An effective nuisance ordinance is a more discriminating alternative," he said.

The MHS is concerned with any requirement that unsupervised cats be collared or harnessed. Collars, unless safety collars, have a real potential for hanging the cat to death. Safety collars are safer but tend to come off too easily.

Harnesses are the best of these poor alternatives but still pose a significant risk in hanging up the cat in a remote location where it can die due to lack of water or food, according to the MHS.

Book helps author work through grief

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mother nothing... I had nothing to give."

She was eventually able to begin the written journey through her childhood, which had its own painful moments, through today with its major losses and lessons. The suggested title for her book is "Live, Love, Laugh," taken from her brother Larry who wore the words on a gold chain around his neck.

Her motto is now "Life is too short to be little," and she is taking her life one day at a time as she writes the book and re-awakens the pain. "I think I can help people. I think we help each other through," she said. "I just look at life so differently now — it's so precious."

"I HAVE a Pandora's Box and try to open it one day at a time," she added, describing the pain and healing which now come hand-in-hand. "That's what this book is — the opening of my Pandora's Box."

The healing process is also one for her family. Her two daughters, now 9 and 10, have learned that

their mother is human and that it's alright to cry. "It was very difficult on them," she added. "They realize that death is a very important part of their lives. They see my vulnerability."

Family is everything to her, and life's hardships have made them all the more important.

After the death of her brother Mike, Cox decided to quit her nursing job at Botsford Hospital and stay home with her children.

She got involved in Christmas Around the World, a direct sales company which allowed her to spend more time with her family, but also kept her mind off her family problems. "I decided then I was never going to spend 80 percent of my life preparing for life. I was going to live it," she said.

Ironically, the holiday items she markets bring her joy in remembering the good times with her brothers — not sadness at the holiday. It also gave her — once a shy young woman — a chance to come out of her shell.




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