

# Cat ordinance requires vaccinations

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person's private or public property." Grant also included a remedy for those pet owners who can't or won't control their wandering — cats. "Any owner of a cat that is unable to keep the cat on their own premises due to the nature of the animal, shall ac-

cept as their full responsibility, the cost of any damage to any other person's private or public property." Resident Deborah Pilette told the council of her troubles with neighbors' cats, who have killed birds in their yard, destroyed screens on windows and have driven her own two cats nuts. "They (neighbors) are more or less

complacent about the problem. They tell us to prove it," Pilette said. "I think it's discriminatory that dogs and dog owners are under certain restrictions and cats and cat owners are not." "We literally live like prisoners in our home during the summer. Our cats are terrified. Stray cats are coming up to our windows," she said.

WITH THE new ordinance, city attorney John Donohue told what Pilette can do to remedy the situation. A complaint can be made, he said, which would be referred to his office. Warrants could be issued and the irresponsible cat owners taken to court. "I really think this (new rules) addresses the realities of the nature of a cat," Donohue said, adding that as in any court case, a judge will have

to make a determination on the evidence. Grant's revisions also call for the cat to be under reasonable control of the owner at all times except when the owner has permission to be on other owners' property. The ordinance also calls for owners to make sure all cat droppings and uneaten food on their own property are cleaned up. It also allows owners to have a maximum of three

dogs and three cats on their property. And it requires that owners may not allow their pets — cats or dogs — to defecate or cause a nuisance in public areas or private property, without permission of the property owner. All dog and cat droppings also must be picked up and disposed of properly by owners, according to the new ordinance, which will go into effect sometime in October.

## New laws list responsibilities, including licensing and cleanup

By Casey Hans  
Staff Writer

A cat control ordinance was approved in the city of Farmington Monday, making cat owners responsible for licensing, immunization and cleanup of their pets.

The measure, introduced earlier this month and approved unanimously by the city council, will go into effect in 60 days. That will give city staff time to decide how to handle the licensing situation, said public safety director Frank Lauhoff. Based on experiences in other cities, he expects only about 50 licenses to be issued.

The city council in neighboring Farmington Hills also approved a cat control measure Monday.

THE FARMINGTON ordinance requires that:

• Owners be responsible for the control of their animals — including

any damage they may create.

• Cats be under the supervision of their owners. They are not allowed to roam the community creating damage to property and to wildlife in the Rouge River valley.

• Cats must be immunized against rabies and licensed similar to dogs, although they will not be required to wear a collar or harness to display a license tag. The license must be kept in possession of the owner.

Also new in Farmington's law is a sanitation regulation for both dogs

and cats, making owners responsible for cleanup in public parks, on sidewalks and on public and private property.

As in Farmington Hills, residents will be allowed to house up to three cats and three dogs — a total of six animals. They cannot have more without being a licensed kennel.

Lauhoff has said he does not intend to have officers chasing cats. The new law simply allows residents to make complaints, and allows the city to issue tickets or take appropriate action.

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33'	36'	\$10.00	\$7.25
36'	39'	\$11.00	\$8.00
39'	42'	\$12.00	\$8.75

POOL SIZE	COVER SIZE	REG.	SALE
12'	15'	\$3.00	\$2.00
15'	18'	\$4.00	\$2.75
18'	21'	\$5.00	\$3.50
21'	24'	\$6.00	\$4.25
24'	27'	\$7.00	\$5.00
27'	30'	\$8.00	\$5.75
30'	33'	\$9.00	\$6.50
33'	36'	\$10.00	\$7.25
36'	39'	\$11.00	\$8.00
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