

PUBLIC SAFETY AND HEALTH COMMITTEE on 2025-07-03 9:00 AM - 7/1/25 AMENDED
File Number 250482 has been added.
Meeting Time: 07-03-25 09:00

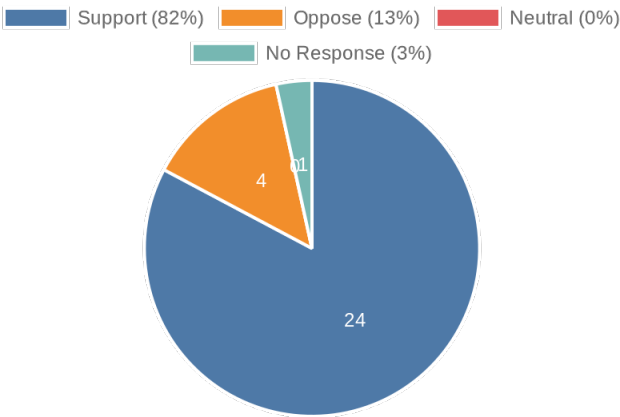
eComments Report

Meetings	Meeting Time	Agenda Items	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
PUBLIC SAFETY AND HEALTH COMMITTEE on 2025-07-03 9:00 AM - 7/1/25 AMENDED File Number 250482 has been added.	07-03-25 09:00	23	29	24	4	0

Sentiments for All Meetings

The following graphs display sentiments for comments that have location data. Only locations of users who have commented will be shown.

Overall Sentiment



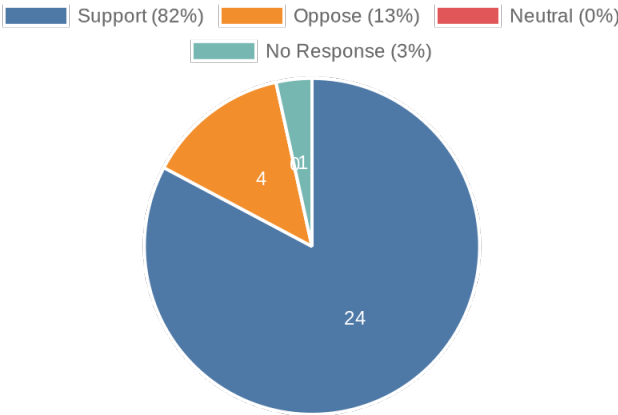
PUBLIC SAFETY AND HEALTH COMMITTEE on 2025-07-03 9:00 AM - 7/1/25 AMENDED
File Number 250482 has been added.
07-03-25 09:00

Agenda Name	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
10. 250028 A substitute ordinance relating to the ethical treatment and ownership of animals.	29	24	4	0

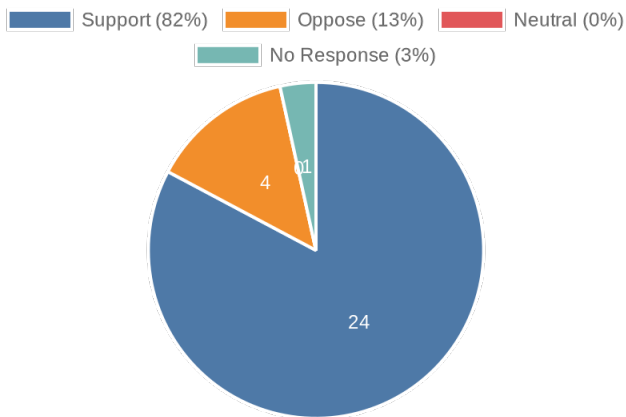
Sentiments for All Agenda Items

The following graphs display sentiments for comments that have location data. Only locations of users who have commented will be shown.

Overall Sentiment



Overall Sentiment



Richard Craig

Location:

Submitted At: 7:10am 07-03-25

I appreciate that this ordinance affirms TNR as the preferred method for managing community cats and outlines protections for sterilized, eartipped animals. These are positive, humane steps that support long-term population control and community care.

At the same time, I'm concerned about the reliance on penalties and permit systems without sufficient investment in access and equity. Many people—especially in low-income neighborhoods—are already doing the quiet, essential work of caring for stray and community animals. Without accessible services like low-cost microchipping, spay/neuter, or registration help, this ordinance risks criminalizing care rather than supporting it.

We need to treat animal welfare as a community effort, not just an enforcement issue. In a time of shelter overcrowding and widespread pet abandonment, we should build up the people helping, not fine or exclude them. I urge the Council to center support and equity in implementation.

Emily Burrows

Location:

Submitted At: 6:50am 07-03-25

I oppose ordinance #250028. I support TNR and ethical animal welfare, though the bill's entirety will have a punitive impact on families who are unable to access veterinary services since our city does not have a vet clinic in all neighborhoods or ZIP codes. WHS' spay/neuter programs have immense success at helping families unable to afford spay/neuter access this exact care, but even the largest high-volume s/n clinic is currently booked over 3 months in advance. Mandating before providing access is a mis-step in our systemic approach to what could otherwise be an equitable approach to supporting families who need access to services. The end result will ultimately burden shelters with overcrowding, remove pets from families who already love them and needed access to care, and will overwhelm our current national veterinary shortage. Please consider the programs that already exist to continue providing equitable, honest, access to care in achieving the outcomes this bill aims to seek, and please continue to let these programs achieve the results. When programs that prioritize relationship

building are funded, we achieve a happier, safer community--the community that we all want.

Fergus S.

Location:

Submitted At: 6:08am 07-03-25

I stand in full support. These ordinances are attainable - as someone who works in animal welfare!

Natalie Schade

Location:

Submitted At: 6:04am 07-03-25

I oppose this in its current form. While I passionately support TNR, I urge people supporting this to actually read it in it's entirety.

Capping outdoor colony cats at two per property will throw many functioning colonies into immediate violation. My TNR colony has 2. Many colonies are larger than that, are stable, and well-managed. Under this law, healthy, eartipped cats could be removed and euthanized without warning.

Limiting pets to 3 total animals per household is also in there. You have 2 dogs and 2 cats? You need a permit. Child wants a rabbit? Permit and fees.

As WHS President Allison Fotsch stated, mandating microchipping and sterilization without addressing affordability or access will disproportionately hurt low-income families and seniors on a fixed income. Folks who just want to help animals. If this passes, it will encourage people not to TNR, just to avoid the hassle. The wonderful people who do this now, simply out of the kindness of their hearts, need support.

This ordinance expands enforcement while offering no support. It needs major revision before it becomes law. Compassion should never be a code violation. TNR needs help, not more red tape.

Jill Kline

Location:

Submitted At: 10:55pm 07-02-25

While I support the intent of this bill, it's punitive approach will disproportionately impact families with limited access to veterinary care, causing additional financial burden and separations from the pets they love. With a national veterinary shortage, access is already limited, especially in underserved areas. The program I work with serves pet owners on Milwaukee's near north side, and there is not a single veterinary clinic in our focus area, which covers more than two zip codes. This ordinance mandates services like microchipping and spay/neuter for cats but does not include a plan to ensure those services are available and accessible. In Milwaukee, an estimated 64,000 pets live in households below the poverty line—many of whom would struggle to meet these mandates without a plan for support.

The program referenced above has served more than 24,000 animals and 12,000 families. When we've removed barriers like cost and transportation, most families - many who have never been able to access veterinary care before - have chosen to spay/neuter, and microchip their pets. A supportive approach will have the impact we'd like without the negative consequences for pets and people.

Megan Cooper

Location:

Submitted At: 10:18pm 07-02-25

I fully support the proposed TNR ordinance.

Gamila Salem

Location:

Submitted At: 9:51pm 07-02-25

I'm writing in strong support of the proposed bill to fund a Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) program in our city. TNR is a humane, effective solution to managing community cat populations. It prevents new litters, reduces nuisance behaviors, and improves public health through vaccination and sterilization.

Community cats also provide a valuable service by helping control rodent populations. Their presence deters rats

and mice, reducing the need for harmful poisons and chemical pest control. Cities with active TNR programs report fewer animal complaints, lower shelter intake, and more peaceful coexistence between cats and residents.

This program is not only compassionate—it's practical and cost-effective. I urge you to support this bill for the well-being of our neighborhoods and the animals who live in them.

Katrina Rasler

Location:

Submitted At: 9:38pm 07-02-25

I am in full support of TNR and the ethical treatment of animals.

Jennifer Conrardy

Location:

Submitted At: 9:02pm 07-02-25

I appreciate that this ordinance affirms TNR as the preferred method for managing community cats and outlines protections for sterilized, eartipped animals. These are positive, humane steps that support long-term population control and community care.

At the same time, I'm concerned about the reliance on penalties and permit systems without sufficient investment in access and equity. Many people—especially in low-income neighborhoods—are already doing the quiet, essential work of caring for stray and community animals. Without accessible services like low-cost microchipping, spay/neuter, or registration help, this ordinance risks criminalizing care rather than supporting it.

We need to treat animal welfare as a community effort, not just an enforcement issue. In a time of shelter overcrowding and widespread pet abandonment, we should build up the people helping, not fine or exclude them. I urge the Council to center support and equity in implementation.

Rachel Wagner

Location:

Submitted At: 9:01pm 07-02-25

I completely support humane treatment of all animals. Please support!

Elizabeth Speck

Location:

Submitted At: 8:56pm 07-02-25

I am in full support of this ordinance. TNR Programs work. They take cats who are social off the streets and get them adopted/into foster, then ensure that cats who are not social get neutered/vaxxed, so they are as healthy as possible. These efforts help to reduce the stray/feral population. Without TNR Programs, the overpopulation will only get worse. Additionally those who stand up and are willing to caretake, help to ensure the cats who are too afraid for human interaction are provided for and cared for.

The other parts of the ordinance help to hold pet owners accountable and have responsibility. Mandatory microchipping and neutering/spaying will further help to keep animals off the streets by reuniting them with their owners, and will help to solve overpopulation issues. And the other pieces of the ordinance help to reduce abandonment/cruelty/abuse.

Kayla Pagel

Location:

Submitted At: 8:42pm 07-02-25

I fully support the proposed TNR ordinance

Chrissy Craig

Location:

Submitted At: 8:27pm 07-02-25

I support this ordinance's recognition of TNR as the preferred, humane method of managing community cats and appreciate the protections for altered and eartipped cats. These are important, compassionate steps for both

animals and their caretakers.

However, I'm concerned about how enforcement may impact marginalized communities. Financial and logistical barriers to microchipping and registration could lead to citations, impoundment, or loss of pets for those already facing housing or income insecurity. Vague nuisance standards and complaint-driven enforcement can also enable biased or targeted reporting in over-policed neighborhoods.

We are in a crisis—too many homeless animals and not enough homes. Shelters are overwhelmed. We must prioritize keeping animals in the loving homes they already have.

I urge the Council to pair these new standards with accessible support: subsidized services, transparent enforcement, and protections for those caring for animals in good faith.

Kaitlin Cullen

Location:

Submitted At: 8:09pm 07-02-25

I am in full support of TNR and the ethical treatment of animals.

Sue Farrell

Location:

Submitted At: 7:50pm 07-02-25

I fully support this ordinance! We as humans have a moral obligation to protect all living beings from cruelty and suffering. Passing this law is a first step in showing that we will not tolerate cruelty and abuse to animals.

Karen Seeliger

Location:

Submitted At: 7:47pm 07-02-25

I fully support the proposed TNR ordinance.

Kate Hartlund

Location:

Submitted At: 7:39pm 07-02-25

I fully support the proposed TNR ordinance.

Sarah Otto

Location:

Submitted At: 7:05pm 07-02-25

As an active Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) non-profit organization, The Urban Cat Coalition supports the updated ordinance. Since 2017 we have provided TNR services to over 6,000 cats. We have largely shouldered the responsibility and costs for these cats, as we recognize most people do not have the financial means to do so.

A TNR ordinance provides the framework and support needed for a larger, successful and sustainable program. This ordinance will legitimize and standardize TNR practices, facilitate better collaboration and reduce shelter intake - leading to fewer cats and kittens entering shelters and ultimately reducing euthanasia rates.

Adopting a TNR ordinance is a responsible and compassionate choice for our community. It offers a humane and effective solution to manage community cat populations, improve public health, reduce nuisance behaviors, and save taxpayer money. By embracing TNR, we can create a better future for both cats and the people who live alongside them.

Michelle Altoro

Location:

Submitted At: 6:54pm 07-02-25

I support TNR

Kellie Farrell

Location:

Submitted At: 6:46pm 07-02-25

I am in full support of TNR and the ethical treatment of animals

Kristen Hemmingsen

Location:

Submitted At: 6:34pm 07-02-25

Support

Kristin Catalano

Location:

Submitted At: 6:12pm 07-02-25

I support this legislation because meaningful change is urgently needed to protect the animals in our city and create a more humane, responsible, and sustainable framework for animal care. This ordinance introduces critical reforms—including mandatory microchipping, tethering restrictions, humane community cat management through trap-neuter-return, and enforcement against irresponsible ownership—that prioritize the health and safety of animals while also reducing shelter intake and community complaints. Importantly, it addresses the out-of-control problem of backyard breeding by requiring permits, veterinary oversight, and record-keeping for any litters, whether intentional or accidental. These measures will help curb the cycle of neglect, abandonment, and overpopulation that continues to overwhelm shelters and neighborhood streets. Similar ordinances in other cities have already proven successful, leading to fewer stray animals, reduced shelter euthanasia rates, and improved public safety. By implementing these ethical standards and accountability measures, Milwaukee has the opportunity to follow that proven path and become a model for compassionate and effective animal policy.

Karen Sparapani

Location:

Submitted At: 6:04pm 07-02-25

Milwaukee Area Domestic Animal Control Commission (MADACC), is proud to fully support this legislation, and were principal authors of it. MADACC takes in 13K strays a year, goes out on over 7K calls for assistance in the community, provides free and low-cost vaccines and spay/neuter surgeries to thousands of residents each year.

As the sole provider of animal control, bite quarantine, seized animal holding, and assisting law enforcement with cruelty and neglect cases we see daily the struggles and cruelty in the city. These changes are proactive, not punitive and address many long overdue issues. We want to educate and elevate the community. We know they love their pets.

Public safety, breeding oversight, consumer protection, sterilization for cats, microchipping and TNR services rather than euthanasia for outdoor cats and understanding the cruelty of 24/7 tethering of dogs in the outdoors are just some of the major issues in our city. We have built a strong coalition of support and resource providers to ensure that residents can comply with these ordinances and be introduced to many new ways to provide the resources to give their animals the best lives possible.

Molly Kelly

Location:

Submitted At: 5:14pm 07-02-25

I fully support TNR & humane treatment for ALL.

Roberta DeBartolo

Location:

Submitted At: 4:55pm 07-02-25

Support TNR and ethical treatment of animals.

Sara Dykstra

Location:

Submitted At: 3:54pm 07-02-25

As a Milwaukee County resident of 25 years, a rescue volunteer for 13, and a TNR advocate for 12 years I fully

support this step in the right direction. I have TNR'd around 80 cats in my life and given a female cat has an average of 100 kittens in her lifetime, the numbers go up exponentially. One could say I've saved hundreds of thousands of kittens from being born on our streets. We have a dedicated team of constituents who are volunteers working tirelessly to TNR and humanely reduce the cat population in Milwaukee, but municipal help is necessary to make true change. I look forward to reform on abuses to animals and aid to constituents to get a handle on managing cat colonies. It benefits our community, our environment, and of course, our animals.

Angela Payne

Location:

Submitted At: 3:18pm 07-02-25

Support! Lets TNR!

Alison Fotsch

Location:

Submitted At: 2:41pm 07-02-25

On behalf of the Wisconsin Humane Society, I am writing to express concerns about proposed ordinance #250028. As the largest provider of spay/neuter and microchipping for the public in the Milwaukee area, as well as countless other services for tens of thousands of Milwaukee residents, we want to be a partner in conversations that impact animals and their families in our community.

While we support the goals of improving animal welfare, the ordinance mandates services without providing scalable resources to support compliance. Our own high-volume spay/neuter clinic is booked months in advance.

Mandating procedures like spay/neuter, microchipping, and training—without addressing affordability and access—will disproportionately impact low-income residents and communities of color. Punitive enforcement risks further marginalizing families already facing systemic barriers.

We recommend a community support approach that prioritizes access to services over legal mandates that punish those who are unable to comply. We respectfully urge the committee not to support this proposed substitute ordinance in its current form.

Respectfully, Alison Fotsch | President & CEO

Alisen Huske

Location:

Submitted At: 1:14pm 07-02-25

My name is Alisen Huske. I am a 20 year Milwaukee County resident. I fully support 250028 A substitute ordinance relating to the ethical treatment and ownership of animals. I have trapped-neutered-returned 25+ cats in my neighborhood over the years leading to 0 increase in the community cat population that I care for still. Prior to my efforts, our neighbors reported many litters of kittens outside every spring/summer. Targeted TNR efforts had a huge impact. I have also helped care for hundreds of Milwaukee county cats through volunteering with the Urban Cat Coalition over the years, an organization "dedicated to helping create a no kill community by humanely reducing the community cat population in the Milwaukee area through targeted trap-neuter-return". We have needed a humane plan for community cats and a TNR ordinance in Milwaukee County for many many years and I am very hopeful that this ordinance will really help us get all community cats sterilized, the community educated and help reduce the pain and suffering that we see when cats are born and live outside generation after generation. And I know this will help reduce the burden on our rescues and shelters too! Thank you!