

ORDINANCE

SUBJECT: 11.31 – ANIMAL REGULATIONS

COMMITTEE: HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

FIRST CONSIDERATION: August 21, 2025

FINAL CONSIDERATION: September 18, 2025

ORDINANCE # 222 – 9/25 PUBLICATION DATE September 25, 2025

The County Board of Supervisors of La Crosse County does ordain as follows:

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND s. 11.31, ENTITLED "ANIMAL REGULATIONS", OF THE GENERAL CODE OF LA CROSSE COUNTY, WISCONSIN

ANALYSIS

Amendments to La Crosse County's Health and Human Services Ordinance to apply modern and appropriate standards to animal control regulations. Proposed changes are related to Commercial animal establishments, community cats, vicious animals, quarantine and exam requirements, and cat trap, neuter, vaccinate, and return (TNVR) program.

Section 11.31(2)(c)(g)(h)(i)(j)(n)(p)(u)(w)(aa)(dd)(gg)(jj)(kk)(ll)(mm)(oo) has definition changes related to vicious animals and Cat TNVR program.

Section 11.31(3)(g) has been amended to remove reference to the date on which a list is provided to the Clerk's office as this date is no obsolete.

Section 11.31(7) has been amended to establish facility types within the commercial animal establishment permit.

Section 11.31(7)(c)13 has added regulated cats and requirements for rabies vaccination.

Section 11.31(10) has changed the requirement to 2 examinations for a quarantine from 3 per our approval as a local rabies program through the State of Wisconsin.

Section 11.31(10)(a) has added isolation facility for quarantines.

Section 11.31(26)(d) has changed the language of "remove the animal" to "rehome to an isolation facility" in La Crosse County.

Section 11.31(28) has been created to establish requirements for a Community Cat Management Program that will Trap, Neuter, Vaccinate and Return (TNVR).

ORDINANCE #222 – 9/25

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND s. 11.31, ENTITLED "ANIMAL REGULATIONS" OF CHAPTER 11, PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE, OF THE GENERAL CODE OF LA CROSSE COUNTY, WISCONSIN

The County Board of Supervisors of the County of La Crosse does ordain as follows:

Section 1. Section 11.31(2) is amended to read:

(1) DEFINITIONS.

- (a) *Altered Male.* Any male animal that has been operated on to prevent it from procreating.
- (b) *Animal.* Any living vertebrate, domestic or wild, except a human being.
- (c) *Animal Control Facility.* Any facility for the care of animals operated under a contract with a political subdivision under s. 173.15(1).
- (d) *Animal Shelter.* Any facility operated by a humane society, municipal agency or its authorized agents, for the purpose of impounding or caring for animals held under the authority of this subchapter or State law.
- (e) *Auctions.* Any place or facility where animals are regularly bought, sold or traded, except for those facilities otherwise defined in this subchapter. This section does not apply to individual sales of animals by owners.
- (f) *Circus.* A commercial variety show featuring live animal acts for public entertainment.
- (g) *Commercial Animal Establishment.* Includes: Animal Day Care Facility, Animal Training Facility, Boarding Facility, Breeder, and Commercial Kennel. An establishment wherein any person is engaged in the business of boarding, breeding, buying, letting for hire, training for a fee or selling dogs, cats, birds or other animals. A person shall be engaged in the business under this definition if the business involves the breeding and selling of more than 2 litters of pups or kittens, 2 clutches of birds, or 2 or more dogs, cats, or other animals in a 12 month period of time. Every reference to "kennel" in s. 11.31, shall mean "commercial animal establishment" as herein defined.
- (h) *Community Cat.* A cat that is free roaming and may be cared for by one or more persons who is/are known or unknown. There is a range in the level of sociability of community cats.
- (i) *Community Cat Caregiver.* Any person other than an owner, who in accordance with a good faith effort to trap, sterilize, vaccinate and return any community cat, provides voluntary care, including, but not limited to food, water and shelter to a community cat or community cat colony.
- (j) *Community Cat Colony or Colony.* A group of cats that congregates, more or less, together as a unit and shares a common food source.

- (k) *Confined for Quarantine.* Restriction of an animal at all times by the owner, or his agency, to an escape proof building away from other animals and the public.
- (l) *Disinfectant.* An agent, usually a chemical, that kills growing forms but not necessarily resistant spore forms, of the disease producing microorganisms.
- (m) *Disinfection.* The act of destroying infectious agents.
- (n) *Ear Tipping.* A straight-line cutting of the tip of the left ear of a cat while the cat is anesthetized and has been sterilized and given a rabies shot.
- (o) *Exotic Animals.* An animal that is not normally domesticated in the United States or that is wild by nature as further defined by s. 11.31(2)(bb) and including any live animal from any of the following scientific classifications: artiodactyla, crocodilian, elephantidae, felidae, marsupialia, non-human primates, perissodactyla, pinnipedia, ursidae, elasmobranchii.
- (p) *Free Roaming.* Not restrained by leash, cord, chain or enclosure.
- (q) *Grooming Shop.* A commercial establishment where animals are bathed, clipped, plucked or otherwise groomed.
- (r) *Has Been Bitten.* Has been seized with the teeth or jaws so that the person or animal seized has been nipped, gripped, wounded or pierced, and further includes contact of saliva with any break or abrasion of the skin, including scratches.
- (s) *Humane Officer.* Any person certified by the State, designated by the County and the Humane Society as a Humane Officer who is qualified to perform such duties under the laws of this State.
- (t) *Humane Society.* Any organization for the prevention of cruelty to animals incorporated under the laws of the State.
- (u) *Isolation Facility.* A humane society shelter, veterinary hospital, municipal pound or other place specified by an officer which is equipped with a pen or a cage which isolates the animal from contact with other animals.
- (v) *Leash.* A cord, rope, strap, chain or training lead which shall be securely fastened to a dog, cat or other animal and shall be of sufficient strength to keep such dog, cat or other animal under control.
- (w) *Nuisance Cat.* A cat or community cat whose behavior disturbs the peace by:
 - 1. Habitually or continually howling or fighting; or
 - 2. Habitually and significantly destroying, damaging or soiling property against the wishes of the owner of the property
- (x) *Owner.* Any adult person owning, keeping or harboring 1 or more animals. An animal shall be deemed to be harbored if it is fed or sheltered for 7 consecutive days or more.
- (y) *Pet.* Any animal kept for pleasure rather than utility.
- (z) *Pet Shop.* Any person, whether operated separately or in connection with

another business enterprise, except for a licensed kennel or cattery that buys, sells, or boards any species of animals.

(aa) *Provoked Bites*. Provoked bite incidents occur when an animal responds viciously to circumstances including, but not limited to, the following:

1. The bite victim was unlawfully on the property of the owner of the biting animal. This does not include individuals lawfully present for legitimate purposes, such as postal or delivery personnel, utility workers, youth engaged in school or charitable fundraising, or others conducting business with the occupant. Casual passage by the property on a sidewalk or public right-of-way is also not considered provocation;
2. The bite victim teased, tormented, abused, assaulted, or attacked the biting animal at the time of the bite or at any time in the past;
3. The bite victim was disturbing the biting animal's natural functions, such as sleeping or eating, while on its owner's property;
4. The biting animal was protecting or defending its owner or a member of its owner's household from an attack or assault;
5. The biting animal was protecting itself, its kennels, or its offspring from the bite victim while on its owner's property;
6. The bite victim was committing a crime or offense while on the property of the owner of the biting animal;
7. The biting animal was responding to a command or encouragement to attack the bite victim; or
8. The biting animal was responding to pain or injury inflicted by the bite victim.

(bb) *Public Nuisance*. Any animal or animals which:

1. Molests passersby or passing vehicles.
2. Attacks other animals.
3. Trespasses on school grounds.
4. Is repeatedly at large.
5. Damages private or public property.
6. Barks, whines, howls or makes other sounds common to its species in an excessive, continuous or untimely fashion.

(cc) *Rabies Vaccination Certificate*. A certificate describing the animal, age and breed, owner, vaccination tag number, dated and signed by a licensed veterinarian, which indicates that the described animal has been immunized against rabies.

(dd) *Regulated Cat*. A cat that is under ownership per 11.31(2)(w) that is located in a municipality that requires the cat to be licensed.

(ee) *Restraint*. An animal shall be deemed to be under restraint if confined on the premises of its owner, or if accompanied by a responsible person capable of controlling such animal, and under that person's direct control via a leash no more than 6 feet in length held securely by the person.

(ff) *Commercial Riding School or Livery Stable*. Any place which has available for hire, boarding and/or riding instructions, any horse, pony, donkey, mule or burro. An establishment wherein a person is engaged in the business of boarding, breeding, buying, letting for hire, training for a fee or selling

horses. A person shall not be engaged in the business under this definition if the business involves such isolated or sporadic sales purchases or practices that the infrequency of such occurrences, including the sale price and gross profit, support the inference that the person is not pursuing a business or a part-time business of a commercial riding school or livery stable.

- (gg) *Severe Injury*. Any physical injury that results in broken bones or disfiguring lacerations requiring multiple sutures or cosmetic surgery.
- (hh) *Spayed Female*. Any female animal which has been operated upon to prevent conception
- (ii) *Theatrical Exhibit*. Any live or recorded performance open to the general public whether or not admission is charged.
- (jj) *Trained Rabies Observer*. A natural person certified by the department as meeting the qualifications to observe quarantined animals in an isolation facility to determine if the animal exhibits any signs of rabies.
- (kk) *Trap, Neuter, Vaccinate and Return (TNVR)*. To humanely trap a cat and sterilize, vaccinate against rabies, ear tip and return the cat to the location where it was trapped.
- (ll) *TNVR Program*. A program in which community cats are humanely trapped, sterilized, vaccinated against rabies, ear tipped and returned to the location where the cats were trapped.
- (mm) *Vaccination Against Rabies*. The vaccination of a dog or cat by a licensed veterinarian with a rabies vaccine licensed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.
- (nn) *Veterinary Hospital*. Any establishment maintained and operated by a licensed veterinarian for the boarding of animals or the diagnosis and treatment of disease and injuries of animals.
- (oo) *Vicious Animals*. Any animal or animals that constitute an imminent threat to public health or safety. Any animal or animals meeting one or more of the following criteria shall be deemed an imminent threat to public health and safety:
 - 1. Any animal involved in 3 unprovoked attacks on persons or other animals within a 12 month period;
 - 2. Any animal who bites 2 persons or 2 other animals without provocation within a 12 month period;
 - 3. Any animal who inflicts severe injury on a human being without provocation; or
 - 4. Any animal who kills a domestic animal without provocation while the attacking animal is off the owner's property.

No canine or canine crossbreed shall be found to be a vicious dog solely because it is a particular breed, nor is the ownership of a particular breed of canine or canine crossbreed prohibited. No animal shall be found to be a vicious dog if the threat, injury, or damage was sustained by a person who was provoking the animal per 11.31(aa)1-8:

No police dog that was engaged in the performance of its duties as such at the time of the acts complained of shall be found to be a vicious dog. No animal that, at the time of the acts complained of, was responding to pain or injury or was protecting itself, its kennel, its offspring, a person, or its owner's or custodian's property, shall be found to be a vicious dog.

- (pp) *Wild Animal*. Any live animal which can normally be found in the wild state. For the purpose of this Code, wolf dog hybrids are considered wild animals.
- (qq) *Zoological Park or Zoo*. Any facility, other than a pet shop or kennel, displaying or exhibiting 1 or more species operated by a person, partnership, corporation or government agency.

Section 2. Section 11.31(3)(g) is amended to read:

- (g) Reimbursement to Officials. Collecting and listing officials under the jurisdiction of this section may retain a portion of each dog license issued as determined by the County Board pursuant to s. 13.05(4)(a)1, or 2, or 3 of this Code.

Section 3. Section 11.31(7) is amended to read:

- (7) **COMMERCIAL ANIMAL ESTABLISHMENT PERMIT.** Includes: Animal Day Care Facility, Animal Training Facility, Boarding Facility, Breeder, and Commercial Kennel.

- (a) Fees. The fees for this permit shall be determined by the County Board.
- (b) Compliance to Minimum Standards. Each permit holder shall, in addition to the other requirements of this subchapter, comply with the minimum standards of this section. Failure to meet these standards shall be grounds for denial or a permit or revocation of a permit. Any person who keeps or operates a kennel may, instead of license tax for each dog required by this subchapter, apply to the collection official for a kennel license for the keeping or operating of the kennel. Upon payment of the required kennel license tax and upon presentation of evidence that all dogs over 5 months of age are currently immunized against rabies, the collecting official shall issue a kennel license and a number of tags equal to the number of dogs authorized to be kept in the kennel.
- (c) Standards.
 - 1. Enclosures must be provided which shall allow adequate protection against weather extremes.
 - 2. Building temperature shall be maintained at a comfortable level for the animals kept therein. Adequate ventilation shall be maintained to promote health and odor control. Commercial animal establishments housing small breed dogs must house those dogs in indoor facilities minimally heated to 55 degrees F. Any questions concerning definition of breeds that are considered small breed in this procedure will be

defined by the County Health Department Veterinary Advisor.

3. Each animal shall have sufficient space to stand up, lie down and turn around without touching the sides or top of the cage or enclosure.
4. Cages, floors of buildings, runs and walls constructed using impervious materials to permit cleaning and sanitizing. Wood which animals can bite, chew, claw or anyway have contact with is not considered impervious. Unsealed wood or rusted metal is not considered impervious.
5. Runs shall provide an adequate exercise area and protection from the weather. Runs and side walls to a height of 4 feet shall have an impervious surface to allow for cleaning, disinfecting and odor control. Minimal exercise area of 10 feet by 15 feet must be provided for all breeds. Any questions concerning exercise area requirement for specific breeds will be reviewed by the Veterinary Advisor.
6. Cleaning and sanitizing of cages and runs must be done at a minimum once per day.
7. Persons wishing to operate a commercial kennel must meet the requirements of Health Codes concerned with the sale and care of dogs.
8. Air exchange at a minimum 4-12 times per hour, depending on condition of structure and breed of dogs, is needed to provide adequate ventilation. Any questions concerning adequate ventilation will be reviewed by the Veterinary Advisor.
9. Cages shall contain no more than 2 dogs with the exception of females with puppies or a litter of puppies up to 4 months of age.
10. Dog runs require solid floors with impervious surface. Side walls require impervious surface to 4 feet.
11. The food shall be free from contamination, wholesome, palatable and sufficient quantity and nutritive value to meet the normal daily requirements for the condition and size of animal.
12. All animals shall have potable water available at all times.
13. Every dog and regulated cat owned or kept in the County that is 5 months of age or older shall be vaccinated against rabies. Unvaccinated dogs and unvaccinated regulated cats acquired or moved into the County shall be vaccinated within 30 days after arrival, unless under 5 months of age as specified above. Every dog and regulated cat shall be revaccinated according to the recommendations of the vaccine used by the veterinarian administering such vaccinations. The certificate of vaccination shall bear the expected duration of the immunity of the vaccine used. No dog or cat license shall be issued unless evidence is presented that the dog or cat has a current rabies vaccination.
14. No dog or cat shall be accepted for boarding, grooming or training unless it has been vaccinated for distemper and rabies, and proof of such

vaccination has been furnished to the kennel operation (exemption to distemper or rabies vaccinations requirement upon written recommendation from owner's veterinarian). Any dog or cat accepted shall be in compliance with the rabies vaccination requirements of this chapter.

15. Any animal that appears to be ill shall be promptly examined by a veterinarian of the owner's choice, if known, or by the veterinarian employed by the licensee and a record kept of the examination and treatment.
16. If the animal dies while being boarded or while in training, the body shall be handled in 1 of the following ways:
 - Preserved by refrigeration or freezing until examined or returned to the owner. The body is to be held for at least 1 week after the time the owners are scheduled to return, after which time the body may be disposed of in compliance with this subchapter.
 - Submitted to a licensed veterinarian and a necropsy performed at kennel operator's expense, unless prior agreement for payment of such services by the owner. A copy of the necropsy report is to be given to the owner.
17. Animals shall not be group housed at any time, unless they are owned by the same person and are compatible.\
18. If the owners of animals do not appear or contact the kennel or cattery operator within 7 days of their stated return time, the operator has the right to relocate the animal.

Section 4. Section 11.31(10) is amended to read:

- (10) **ANIMAL BITES.** The owner of any dog, cat, ferret, or other animal which has bitten any person shall, upon demand of the Humane Officer or Health Department, produce and surrender up such dog, cat or other animal to such department to be held in quarantine for a minimum of 10 days or humanely euthanized pursuant to s. 11.31(15)(b), and, if appropriate, sent to the State Laboratory of Hygiene for rabies testing. During quarantine, the animal shall be securely confined and kept from contact with any other animal. The animal shall be examined by a licensed veterinarian or a trained rabies observer with veterinarian involvement at least 2 times during a 10-day isolation period: at least once within 24 hours of bite incident and before being released from the 10th day following the bite. All dog, cat, or other animal bites of humans shall be immediately reported to the local law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction in the location where the bite takes place, and to the County Health Department.
 - (a) If, at the time of the bite, the owner cannot show proof of the animal's current rabies vaccination, the animal is considered not to have a current rabies vaccination and must be ordered quarantined at a veterinary hospital or isolation facility of the owner's choice for a period of 10 days.

When proof is provided that the animal is current on rabies vaccination, the animal may be granted a home quarantine. The animal which does not have a current anti-rabies vaccination must be quarantined at a veterinary hospital or isolation facility of the owner's choice for a period of 10 days. Charges for boarding of such animal during the quarantine period shall be assumed by the owner of such animal. If the owner is unwilling or unable to arrange a veterinary clinic or isolation facility quarantine, the animal will be ordered impounded by the reporting officer and will be held at the designated County holding facility. No owner shall fail to produce and surrender any animal pursuant to this section.

- (b) An animal which has a current anti-rabies vaccination may, at the discretion of the Humane Officer or Health Department, be held in quarantine on the premises of the owner for a period of 10 days. Trained Rabies Observers, including Humane Officers, may conduct observations in lieu of the vet. Failure on the part of the owner to obey all conditions and directions of the Humane Officer or Health Department pertaining to the quarantine period, shall result in the immediate impoundment of the animal in a veterinary hospital for the remainder of the quarantine period. Charges for boarding such animal shall be paid by the owner prior to the animal's release. The owner shall return proof of release from quarantine within 7 days of end of quarantine to the Health Department.
- (c) The owner of any dog, cat or other animal which has contracted rabies, been subjected to same or is suspected of having rabies, shall immediately notify the Humane Officer, a law enforcement agency or Health Department. The owner shall produce and surrender such animal to such Department, to be held in quarantine at a veterinary hospital for a period needed by the veterinarian to determine if it is rabid or not. The owner shall assume the charge for boarding such animal during the quarantine period.
- (d) No person shall knowingly harbor or keep any animal infected with rabies, or any animal known to have been bitten by a rabid animal, or fail to report to the Humane Officer, law enforcement agency or Health Department the existence of an animal which they know to be so infected.
- (e) No person shall fail to produce and surrender any animal pursuant to this section. The Health Department shall have the authority to impound such animal.
- (f) No person, other than the Humane Officer, a law enforcement agency or licensed veterinarian, shall kill or cause to be killed, any animal suspected of being rabid. The animal suspected of being rabid shall be placed in quarantine and the diagnosis of rabies made by a licensed veterinarian. If a veterinarian does diagnose rabies in an animal in quarantine, then the animal shall be humanely euthanized, and the head of such animal sent to a laboratory for pathological examination and confirmation of the diagnosis.
- (g) No person shall own or have in his or her possession in the County any vicious animal. A determination of viciousness by another governmental

body with regards to a specific animal also constitutes a determination of viciousness within La Crosse County.

Section 5. Section 11.31(26) is amended to read:

(26) ENFORCEMENT.

- (a) Health Department to Enforce all regulations pertaining to dog licensing and rabies control. Inhumane treatment of animals shall be enforced by Humane Officers or law enforcement officers. Health Department and the Humane Officers shall be aided in the discharge of their duties by the Sheriff's Department and all law enforcement agencies. Records available in the County Clerk's office showing names and addresses of owners delinquent in paying the dog license tax shall be utilized in the enforcement of this section.
- (b) Duties. The Health Department shall enforce the provisions of this section and:
 - 1. Investigate all complaints made relative to dogs, cats and rabies.
 - 2. Seize and confine unlicensed and unvaccinated dogs and regulated cats. Enforce municipal animal license and rabies vaccination requirement.
 - 3. Be responsible for operation of a pound.
 - 4. Arrange for and oversee the humane euthanasia of all unwanted dogs and cats pursuant to Chapter 174, Wis. Stats.
 - 5. Maintain a record of all their official actions.
 - 6. Investigate and resolve complaints pertaining to dead animals.
 - 7. Humane Officers or law enforcement officers shall investigate complaints of inhumane treatment to animals under the supervision of the Health Department.
- (c) Inspection and Removal Authority. The Humane Officer, Health Officer, or Officer's designee shall have authority to obtain inspection warrants for residences or other locations where vicious animals are believed to be kept or harbored and shall further have authority to remove and impound such animals. A vicious animal within the meaning of this ordinance is hereby determined to be a human health hazard within the meaning of s. 254.59, Wis. Stats., or any amendments or changes to said statute.
- (d) The provision of ss. 173.23(3) and (4), Wis. Stats., and any amendments thereto, shall apply to the payment for cost and care and the euthanizing

of animals in the custody of the County or the Humane Officer. For purposes of this section, an animal is deemed an imminent threat to public health if the animal is a vicious animal. The County Health Department or its designee shall have authority to order an owner of a vicious animal to euthanize said animal or rehome to an isolation facility in La Crosse County. Proof of euthanasia or rehoming to an isolation facility must be provided to the County Health Department or its designee.

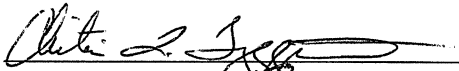
Section 6. Section 11.31(28) is created to read:


- (28) **COMMUNITY CAT MANAGEMENT.** La Crosse County recognizes the need for addressing issues presented by free roaming cats with no discernable owner. It is recognized that there are community care givers of cats and acknowledges that properly managed community cat colonies utilizing Trap, Neuter, Vaccinate and Return (TNVR) can humanely decrease numbers of free roaming cats in a defined area, along with nuisance behaviors, wildlife predation and public health concerns associated with them. Provisions under 11.31(28) do not apply to owned cats. Owned cat policies as outlined 11.31 shall remain in effect and be enforced.
- (a) Except as provided in Section 11.31(28)(f) and (g), community cat colonies may be permitted, and community cat caregivers may maintain and care for community cats by providing food, water, shelter, medical care and other forms of sustenance. Individuals, community cat caregivers, rescue organization, shelters and the animal control office shall be permitted to carry out TNVR and TNVR programs. A cat released in accordance with 11.31(28) shall not be considered abandoned per 11.31(17)(f). Likewise an ear tipped community cat is not required to meet cat licensing requirements of the township in which the colony may exist, if those ordinances differ from La Crosse County's.
1. All cats that are part of a community cat program must be sterilized, vaccinated against rabies and ear tipped; if these requirements are met, the community cat is exempt from licensing, stray, at-large and other provisions in 11.31 that apply to owned animals.
- (b) Community cat colony caregiver duties
1. Community cat colony caregivers shall take all appropriate and available steps to trap each community cat in the colony in order to have the cat sterilized, vaccinated for rabies, and ear tipped. The caregiver will monitor for new community cats that may join the colony. Caregivers may work as individuals or in collaboration with the TNVR programs or other animal care organizations.
 2. If medical care is needed, but unavailable or too expensive, the caregiver must not allow the cat to suffer.
 3. Food, if provided, must be in the proper quantity for the number of cats being managed and is to be supplied no less than once per day. Food must be maintained in proper feeding containers. Excess food must be removed so as to not attract other animals. Feeding is to be done during daylight hours.

4. Water, if supplied, must be clean, potable and free from debris and algae.
 5. If shelter is provided, it shall be unobtrusive, safe and of proper size for the cat(s).
- (c) Except as provided in 11.31(28)(d), if a cat with a tipped ear is admitted into any animal shelter, the animal shelter staff or volunteers may immediately return the cat to the location where it was trapped if the cat is otherwise healthy.
 - (d) If a cat that has a microchip or identification tag is admitted to any animal shelter, the cat must be held in accordance with 11.31(15) to allow for possible reunification with the owner. After the mandatory hold, they may proceed through the regular adoption process or animal shelter staff or volunteers may return the cat to the location where it was trapped after it has been sterilized, vaccinated for rabies and ear tipped if it is otherwise healthy.
 - (e) If a cat that does not have a tipped ear or a microchip or identification tag is impounded into any animal shelter, that cat shall be exempt from a mandatory hold period per 11.31(15) and if otherwise healthy may proceed through the regular adoption process or animal shelter staff or volunteers may return the cat to the location where it was trapped after it has been sterilized, vaccinated for rabies and ear tipped.
 - (f) The animal control office shall have the right to trap in a humane manner any cat that is deemed to be a threat to public health or safety. If a cat has bitten a human being, the cat shall be confined pursuant to 11.31(10). If a licensed veterinarian decides that the cat is too ill or injured or that it has an illness that presents a danger to the public health or safety or to itself, the cat may be humanely euthanized. After the mandatory quarantine, if the cat is found to be healthy and no other issues of public health or safety exist, the animal shelter staff or volunteers may return the cat to the location where it was trapped after it has been sterilized, vaccinated for rabies and ear tipped.
 - (g) The director of animal control shall have the right to declare that a colony is in a location that is hazardous to the health and safety of the public or the colony, or that the colony is a nuisance. Once a colony is declared a hazard or nuisance, any cat impounded shall not be released to the location where it was trapped unless the hazard or nuisance is remedied, and the cats have been approved for return by the director of animal control. Cats impounded pursuant to this section are subject to the disposition regulations listed in 11.31(28)(c), (d) and (e).

Section 7. This Ordinance shall take effect the day after passage and publication as required by law.

LA CROSSE COUNTY

By: 
Tina Tryggstad, County Board Chair

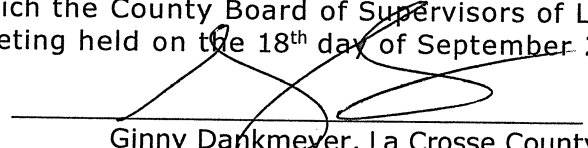
By: 
Ginny Dankmeyer, County Clerk

PASSED: September 18, 2025

PUBLISHED: September 25, 2025

STATE OF WISCONSIN
COUNTY OF LA CROSSE

I, Ginny Dankmeyer, County Clerk of La Crosse County do hereby certify that this document is a true and correct copy of the original ordinance required by law to be in my custody and which the County Board of Supervisors of La Crosse County adopted at a meeting held on the 18th day of September 2025.


Ginny Dankmeyer, La Crosse County Clerk