

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

September 30, 2026

RE: Repeal Ordinance 2026-15, Support TNR Instead

Dear Mayor Centers, Vice Mayor Hall, and Members of the Franklin City Council,

Alley Cat Allies is reaching out to express our deep concerns about Ordinance 2026-15, which is a feeding ban of community cats on public property in the City of Franklin. Banning the feeding of cats outdoors is cruel, does not achieve its intended goal, and ultimately creates barriers to Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR), the only humane, effective approach to community cats.

We strongly recommend repealing this outdated, harmful measure. Instead, Alley Cat Allies urges the city to support a TNR program for community cats—unowned cats who live outdoors.

Founded in 1990, Alley Cat Allies is the leader of the global movement to protect and improve the lives of cats. As the leading advocacy organization for cats, we work with lawmakers, shelters, and the public toward humane, nonlethal, and effective laws and policies that serve the best interests of cats and the communities in which they live. We offer our expertise and resources to the City of Franklin.

Feeding Bans Are Ineffective and Incompatible with TNR

Cutting off access to food sources to which cats have become accustomed is cruel and causes suffering, but it does not mean the cats will simply go away. Instead, these cats will roam further to find other food sources that are a byproduct of human habitation and activity. As a result, cats become more visible in the community, leading to increased calls to animal control.

Since they are complaint-driven, feeding bans are also very difficult to enforce. They are punitive and tend to direct resources toward administrative tasks like enforcement and away from incentive-based programs that encourage sterilization. Ultimately, ineffective ordinances and policies, like feeding bans, are a waste of taxpayer dollars.

Furthermore, restricting where caregivers can feed interferes with TNR because organized and strategic feeding is a necessary part of the process. To effectively trap cats, TNR advocates will set traps in areas where cats already spend time, leveraging cats' feeding schedule to know where they will be and when. Restrictions on feeding are inherently restrictions to successful TNR.

Please Repeal Franklin's Feeding Ban

A feeding ban is not a humane, reasonable, or effective approach to community cats. Instead, it discourages well-meaning people from improving their community by caring for cats and participating in TNR because they fear legal consequences. We urge you not to penalize the



compassionate constituents of Franklin for caring for the community cats who have laid claim to an area on public property.

Alley Cat Allies offers support in policies that humanely and effectively address any problems or concerns you have. We are happy to provide any other information that would be helpful, and hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,

Maggie Slezak, *Research and Community Change Manager*
Alley Cat Allies