

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

September 16, 2026

Mayor Barton, Vice Mayor Uecker, and Ripon City Council Members
City of Ripon
259 N Wilma Avenue
Ripon, CA 95366

RE: Amendment Considerations – Ordinance No. 939

Dear Mayor Barton, Vice Mayor Uecker, and Ripon City Council,

Alley Cat Allies would like to express appreciation for the recent decision to table the proposed feeding ban, Ordinance 939. The September 8th meeting made it clear that constituents of Ripon, and citizens from surrounding communities, are compassionate toward and dedicated to protecting the cat community members of Ripon.

We are aware the council is working on amendments to address concerns and feedback from community members. We encourage the council to support Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) and collaborate with the individuals and organizations who are carrying out TNR efforts on addressing concerns or needs in Ripon related to community cats. Alley Cat Allies offers our expert guidance to ensure the path forward is humane.

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.

Feeding Bans: Cruel to Cats, Difficult to Enforce

While we are glad Ordinance 939 did not move forward as written, Alley Cat Allies remains concerned with the council's adamancy that a feeding ban will not impact TNR efforts. Organized feeding is a necessary part of the TNR process, as trapping becomes impossible without food. Community cats are strongly bonded to their outdoor homes, and they will not disappear just because caring individuals can no longer feed them. When a stable food source is removed, cats will roam further to find other food sources, most of which are a byproduct of human habitation and activity, like garbage.

Feeding bans are also punitive and direct resources toward administrative tasks and away from incentive-based programs that encourage sterilization. Ultimately, ineffective ordinances, like feeding bans, are cruel to cats and waste taxpayer dollars.

Alley Cat Allies urges the council to reject any proposed amendments aimed at prohibiting or restricting the feeding of cats on public property.



Mandatory Registration Causes TNR Programs to Fail

Alley Cat Allies is aware that the council may consider an amendment related to registration. We strongly oppose and discourage any amendments which would require caregivers to register with the city. Registration causes caregivers to become apprehensive and often discourages overall participation in TNR due to fear of public harassment or ambiguous enforcement.

When caregivers are intimidated out of providing care to community cats by registration requirements, the city will run into the same challenges as outlined above, and cat populations will rapidly increase.

Alley Cat Allies urges the council to reject any proposed amendments related to caregiver, cat colony, or TNR registration.

Council's Concerns Regarding Trash from Cat Feeding

During last Tuesday's meeting, the council discussed the goal of addressing litter in public areas, particularly items related to cat feeding practices such as wet food cans. While we acknowledge and understand your frustration, a feeding ban, in any shape or form, is not a judicious approach. Prohibiting the feeding of cats is simply an immoderate and incongruous response to the concern of litter.

As several community members also mentioned, the city already has laws devoted to confronting trash left out in public. Section 8.16.070 states that "it is unlawful, and a public nuisance, for any Person to throw or deposit any...tin cans, litter, rubbish, garbage,...or any other substance, upon any parkways, sidewalks, streets or any public property." Similarly, section 9.23.040 (B) prohibits littering within City Parks. Therefore, another ordinance handling litter on public property is overzealous and redundant.

Instead, Alley Cat Allies encourages the council to collaborate with organizations and individuals in the community doing TNR to develop an appropriate strategy. We have resources available to educate and promote best practices related to the care and feeding of community cats. Our recommendations can help guide compassionate conversations with caregivers. [Alley Cat Allies | Best Practices: Community Cat Colony Care](#)

Our team of experts would be happy to meet to discuss a humane path forward and to assist with drafting a TNR ordinance for the City of Ripon. We can also provide more information and resources at your request. Thank you again for tabling Ordinance 939, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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