



# *VILLAGE OF COLONIE*

## **VILLAGE HALL**

2 THUNDER ROAD  
COLONIE, NY 12205

(518) 869-7562 FAX (518) 464-0389

**JAMES M. RUBINO**

MAYOR

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**FRANK A. PREVRATIL**  
DEPUTY MAYOR

**PATTY SCHWARZ LOCKART**

TRUSTEE

**JASON M. DEPAULO**

TRUSTEE

**MARK P. STEVENS**

TRUSTEE

**JAMIE L. BLOT**

VILLAGE CLERK

## **NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

### **LOCAL LAW #5 OF 2025 “CHANGES TO THE VILLAGE OF COLONIE CODE”**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE**, that there has been duly presented before the Board of Trustees of the Village of Colonie, a need for a public hearing for

**LOCAL LAW #5 OF 2025 “CHANGES TO THE VILLAGE OF COLONIE CODE” a local law amending the Village of Colonie code as follows: Chapter 68 “Animals: adding Article IV: Cats**

**Note: the legislative intent of this local law is to address both outdoor and feral cats**

**PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE**, that a public hearing will be duly held on August 18, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. at such hearing, all persons will be given an opportunity to be heard.

### **BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES:**

Jamie L. Blot  
Village Clerk

Dated: August 4, 2025



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## **VILLAGE OF COLONIE LOCAL LAW #5 OF 2025 “AMENDMENTS TO THE VILLAGE OF COLONIE CODE”**

A local law amending the Village of Colonie code as follows:

Chapter 68 Animals  
Add

Article IV: Cats

### **Section 1. Legislative Intent.**

The Village of Colonie recognizes that both outdoor and feral cats are often the focus of compassionate care by well-intentioned residents. While these efforts are appreciated, unmanaged populations of feral and free-roaming cats can lead to unintended consequences, including overpopulation, unsanitary conditions, public health concerns, and disruptions to nearby properties.

This Local Law is intended to establish fair and humane guidelines that promote responsible care, minimize nuisance conditions, and reduce the overpopulation of outdoor and feral cats through sterilization and sound management practices. The Village is committed to addressing these issues with sensitivity and respect for those who care about animal welfare, while ensuring the health, safety, and quality of life of the broader community.

Nothing in this Local Law shall be construed to permit or encourage cruelty, abuse, or harm to any cat. The purpose of this law is not to euthanize or otherwise destroy feral cats as a method of population control, but rather to support humane solutions such as Trap-Neuter-Return, responsible feeding practices, and the prevention of conditions that create nuisance or public health hazards.

This law is enacted pursuant to the Village’s municipal home rule powers, in full compliance with the New York State Agriculture and Markets Law and Public Health Law.

### **Section 2. Definitions.**

All terms used in this chapter shall have the meanings set forth below regardless of any inconsistent provisions elsewhere in the Village Code.

- (a) “Outdoor Cat” means any cat that is permitted by its owner or caretaker to spend time outdoors without continuous supervision or physical restraint.

- (b) “Feral Cat” means a cat that is born in the wild or has reverted to a wild state and exhibits behavior consistent with little or no human socialization. Feral cats are typically fearful of people and may live in colonies, often relying on outdoor food sources and shelter.
- (c) “Caretaker” means any person who provides food, water, or other basic sustenance to a cat they do not legally own, including to stray or feral cats, without assuming legal ownership or full responsibility for the animal. Caretakers are typically persons who feed cats that remain free-roaming and are not socialized household pets.
- (d) “Responsible Party” means any person who owns a cat, or who has accepted legal custody or control of a cat, including through keeping, harboring, or sheltering the cat on a regular basis as a household pet. Responsible Parties are considered the primary custodian of the cat, as distinct from a Caretaker who feeds a feral or free-roaming cat without claiming ownership.
- (e) “Nuisance” means behavior by cats that results in property damage, strong odors, habitual trespass, or the creation of unsanitary conditions.
- (f) “Sterilization” means surgical spay or neuter, or another approved method of rendering a cat permanently unable to reproduce.
- (g) “Code Enforcement Officer” means any official designated by the Village to enforce this Local Law.

### **Section 3. Outdoor Cat Limit.**

No person shall own, keep or harbor for more than four (4) outdoor cats at a single dwelling unit or property, whether owned or unowned, without written approval from the Village. Any person who exceeds this limit must submit a cat management plan and receive conditional authorization, subject to inspection and compliance with sterilization, sanitation, and nuisance-prevention standards.

### **Section 4. Sterilization Requirement.**

Each Responsible Party for an outdoor cat shall ensure that the cat is sterilized and vaccinated for rabies, unless medically exempt by a licensed veterinarian.

### **Section 5. Abandonment Prohibited.**

No person shall intentionally release, dump, or abandon any cat onto public or private property in the Village for the purpose of discarding, relinquishing, or evading responsibility for the animal. For the purposes of this Local Law, the return of a sterilized and vaccinated feral cat to its original colony location as part of an organized and humane Trap-Neuter-Return process shall not be considered abandonment.

### **Section 6. Trap-Neuter-Return and Movement Restrictions.**

The Village of Colonie encourages humane Trap-Neuter-Return as the preferred method of managing feral cat populations. Private individuals and approved rescue organizations may conduct Trap-Neuter-Return. Trap-Neuter-Return participants shall use humane trapping methods, ensure that cats are sterilized and vaccinated by a licensed veterinarian. Returned cats must be released only to their original colony location. Relocation, transfer, or release of feral cats to any other location within or outside the Village is prohibited without prior written approval of the Village.

### **Section 7. Obligations for Caretakers.**

Any person who regularly provides food, water, or other basic sustenance to one or more stray or feral cats they do not own, shall be deemed a Caretaker for those cats under this Local Law. Caretakers are not required to sterilize feral cats but are encouraged to participate in a Trap-Neuter-Return program. Caretakers must ensure that feeding activities are conducted in a manner that avoids nuisance conditions and limits congregation and trespass onto neighboring properties. All feeding areas must be kept clean, with uneaten food promptly removed, and the location of feeding stations may be subject to review and modification by the Village to reduce impacts on the surrounding area.

No more than four (4) feral cats may regularly fed or sheltered at any one property, unless the Village grants written authorization for a larger managed colony under specific conditions. Exceeding this limit without such authorization shall be deemed a violation of this Local Law.

If repeated complaints or observations indicate that feral cat activity at a property exceeds acceptable limits or creates a nuisance, the Village may issue a Notice to Remedy requiring reduction in the number of cats, relocation of feeding areas, or cessation of feeding activities.

### **Section 8. Code Enforcement Authority.**

The Code Enforcement Officer is authorized to investigate complaints, inspect properties, and enforce this Local Law. The Officer may issue Notices to Remedy with a compliance deadline of fifteen (15) days, direct remedial actions including reduction in cat populations or sanitation improvements, and impose fines for violations.

The Code Enforcement Officer shall have discretion to determine the most appropriate course of action, which may include requiring the reduction of cat populations, relocation or removal of feeding stations, mandatory cleanup of unsanitary conditions, or coordination with animal control or public health authorities. In cases where suspected hoarding, animal cruelty, or abandonment is observed, the Officer is authorized to refer the matter to the Albany County Department of Health, the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, or other appropriate state or nonprofit animal welfare agencies for investigation or assistance.

The Officer may also work with rescue organizations to facilitate humane Trap-Neuter-Return programs or structured management plans for feral cat colonies, provided such programs comply with the provisions of this Local Law. The Village may adopt administrative forms, procedures, and agreements to support enforcement and colony oversight.

Any person receiving a Notice to Remedy must take the steps identified therein, which may include demonstrating proof of sterilization or vaccination, reducing the number of cats to four (4) or

fewer, relocating or removing feeding stations, or submitting a cat management plan acceptable to the Village. Failure to comply within the stated time period shall constitute a separate violation for each day the condition remains uncorrected.

#### **Section 9. Effective Date.**

Any person who violates this Local Law shall be subject to a civil fine of up to one hundred dollars (\$100) for a first offense, and up to two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) for each subsequent offense. Each day a violation continues beyond the compliance deadline shall constitute a separate offense. In addition to fines, the Village may seek injunctive relief, including but not limited to court orders requiring sterilization, limiting the number of outdoor or feral cats, or halting feeding where appropriate.

#### **Section 10. Severability and Compliance with State Law.**

If any provision of this Local Law, or its application, is held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity shall not affect the remaining provisions. This Local Law shall be interpreted and enforced in a manner consistent with New York State Agriculture and Markets Law, Public Health Law, and all other applicable laws. Nothing herein shall be construed to permit or require any act inconsistent with state law governing animal welfare, cruelty prevention, or rabies control.

#### **Section 11. Effective Date.**

This Local Law shall take effect upon filing with the New York State Secretary of State.

**BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES:**

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Jamie L. Blot  
Village Clerk

**DATED:** this 18<sup>th</sup> day of August 2025.