OP 61.17:  Texas Tech University Feral Cat Colony

DATE: August 7, 2017

PURPOSE: The purpose of this Operating Policy/Procedure (OP) is to establish guidelines for the successful control and management of the Texas Tech University (TTU) feral cat colony.

REVIEW: This OP will be reviewed in August of odd-numbered years by the Associate Vice President for Research (Research Integrity), the Texas Tech Chief of Police, and the Assistant Vice President for Operations with substantive revisions forwarded to the Vice President for Administration & Finance and Chief Financial Officer.

POLICY/PROCEDURE

1. General Purpose

   The intent of this policy is to outline and establish guidelines for the successful control and management of the TTU feral cat colony. A committee of campus delegates will oversee the management of the colony.

   Feral cat colonies are found in most communities worldwide, and this includes the TTU campus. This OP establishes the university’s plan to manage, control, and sustain a healthy, non-threatening, co-habitation of the feral cat population and the campus community.

2. Committee Appointment and Composition

   The Feral Cat Management Committee (FCMC) will be comprised of five members. The Assistant Vice President for Operations (AVPO) will chair the committee. The AVPO will appoint one delegate from the TTU community, the Lubbock community, the TTU student body, the Assistant Vice President for Research (Environmental Health and Safety), or the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center. The current president of the Texas Tech University Feral Cat Coalition (TTUFCC) will sit on the committee with up to two co-sponsors of record.

3. Committee Operations

   a. The AVPO will set a meeting each semester (fall, spring, and summer) to review the status, needs, and requirements of the TTU campus, campus community, and the feral cat population.

   b. All communications with any individuals or groups regarding the feral cat colony, including the TTUFCC, the Lubbock community, or any other entity, will be through the president of the TTUFCC.
c. If eligible, the TTU feral cat population must be registered as feral cat colonies with Lubbock Animal Services. A copy of record must be filed with the AVPO.

d. The TTUFCC must be a registered TTU Student Government Association organization.

4. **Feeding Stations** (see attachment)

a. All feeding stations (the station itself and the locations) must be approved by the FCMC and will be the responsibility of the TTUFCC. Approved feeding station locations are:

   (1) Petroleum Engineering building
   (2) Mechanical Engineering building
   (3) Civil Engineering building
   (4) Art building
   (5) Housing Services building
   (6) Administrative Support Center
   (7) Exercise & Sport Sciences building
   (8) English & Philosophy building

b. All stations must have a sign (provided at no charge by the TTU Operations Division) securely attached to the station designating it as an approved TTU feral cat feeding station.

c. All stations must be kept clean, presentable, and covered, provide access for the cats, and be replaced when broken or showing signs of normal wear and tear (e.g., faded color, broken lid or base, cracked/split cover, etc.).

d. Procedures for feeding stations located in non-approved areas:

   (1) The TTUFCC president and co-sponsors of record will be notified and given a 24-hour period to correct the violation.
   (2) If the violation is not corrected within 24 hours, the Operations Division will pick up and dispose of the feeding station.
   (3) Repeat offenses will be dealt with to the extent allowable by the Texas state law and the TTU operating policies.

e. Any form of food placed on the ground or within ground cover or left in any other areas not allowed by this policy will be confiscated and disposed of.

f. Feeding stations are allowed only in the FCMC-approved locations.

g. Feeding stations will not be allowed within 300 feet of the following locations:

   (1) Residence and/or dining hall(s)
   (2) Human Sciences Cottage
   (3) Child Development Research Center
   (4) Animal and Food Sciences
   (5) The Burkhart Center
   (6) Student Union Building
(7) Any location routinely frequented by children, under USDA regulations, or any area deemed unacceptable because of review or accreditation status (e.g., near Animal and Food Sciences where accreditation could be affected by the presence of cats).

5. **Winter Shelters** (see attachment)

(a) Winter shelters may be provided only during the winter months and within FCMC-approved locations. Approved winter shelters locations are:

1. Petroleum Engineering building
2. Mechanical Engineering building
3. Civil Engineering building
4. Art building
5. Housing Services building
6. Administrative Support Center
7. Exercise & Sports Sciences building
8. English & Philosophy building

(b) Shelters must be kept clean, presentable, and covered, provide access for the cats, and be replaced when broken or showing signs of normal wear and tear (e.g., faded color, broken lid or base, cracked/split cover, etc.).

(c) Procedures for winter shelters located in non-approved areas:

1. The TTUFCC president and co-sponsors of record will be notified and given a 24-hour period to correct the violation.
2. If the violation is not corrected within 24 hours, the Operations Division will pick up and dispose of the shelter.
3. Repeat offenses will be dealt with to the extent allowable by the Texas state law and the TTU Operating Policies.

(d) All shelters must have a sign (provided at no charge by the Texas Tech University Operations Division) securely attached to the station designating it is an approved TTU feral cat winter shelter.

(e) Any other form of shelter materials placed on the ground or within ground cover or left in any other areas not allowed by this policy will be confiscated and disposed of.

6. Feeding stations or winter shelters provided by students, staff, or faculty that have not been approved or coordinated through FCMC are prohibited. It will be the responsibility of the TTUFCC, to the best of its ability, to encourage those individuals to follow the provisions of this OP. If any individual does not follow the provisions of this OP, TTU may act to enforce these provisions to the extent allowed by Texas state law and the TTU operating policies.

7. **Safety and Care of TTU Feral Cats**

   a. For the safety of the cats and the university community, cats are not allowed within, under, or on top of TTU buildings. This includes mechanical rooms, the tunnel system, crawl spaces, cellars, basements, or attics. If a cat(s) is identified within a prohibited area, it is the
responsibility of the TTUFCC president or one of the TTUFCC co-sponsors to coordinate with the Operations Division to trap and remove any identified cat(s). If, after being contacted by the Operations Division, the TTUFCC president is not able or willing to trap and relocate the cat(s) within 24 hours, the Operations Division has the right to safely, humanely, and professionally trap and relocate the animals.

b. It is the goal of the TTUFCC and TTU to trap, spay or neuter, and vaccinate all feral cats on campus. Any cat showing signs of nursing or taking care of a litter may be excluded from this requirement.

c. It is the responsibility of the TTUFCC to maintain accurate information on the feral cat population to include, but not be limited to, the total number of animals, their locations, and the number and identity of spayed, neutered, and vaccinated cats. This information must be provided to the assistant vice president for operations and the Assistant Vice President for Research (Environmental Health and Safety) in September, December, and May of each year. In support of this requirement, the Operations Division will purchase, maintain, and loan to the TTUFCC president two wildlife cameras. These cameras will be used for the sole purpose of monitoring the feral cat population and their activities.

d. It is the responsibility of the TTUFCC to trap, spay/neuter, tip ears, and vaccinate five cats per semester (fall, spring, and summer) and place those animals for adoption or return them to an approved habitat on campus. This information (picture and vet record) must be filed with the assistant vice president of operations in September, December, and May of each year.

e. TTUFCC will be responsible for trapping and placing for adoption, once weaned, all litters of kittens located on campus. If the TTUFCC fails to respond or is unable to respond to this charge within 48 hours, the Operations Division will have the right to trap and relocate the kittens or place them for adoption.

f. In the event of an aggressive, diseased, or injured cat, the Operations Division and/or the Texas Tech Police Department has the responsibility to the feral cat and campus population to use any and all means necessary in controlling a situation.

Attachment: TTU-Approved Feral Cat Feeding/Winter Stations