



Dane County Humane Society Board of Directors Position Statement Free Roaming Domestic Cats

Approved June 16, 2020

Free Roaming Domestic Cats - Definition

The Dane County Humane Society (DCHS) strongly opposes any domestic cat being classified by the state of Wisconsin as “unprotected”.

DCHS does not believe that shooting cats is an effective or humane method of controlling feral cat populations. Although DCHS recommends that all cat owners keep their cats inside, and that they abide by local animal ordinances, it is common for some people to let their cats roam outside, or for owned cats to accidentally become lost or stray. Also, many cats accidentally get access to the outdoors.

It cannot always be determined in the field if a cat is owned. Not all signs of ownership are visible (i.e. collars). Many domestic cats are micro-chipped; however, this is not a visible identification indicator. Therefore, DCHS feels that stray cats should be assumed owned and handled as stipulated by the local animal ordinances when free roaming. (See also Companion Animals at Large position statement).