



Town of Sterling
Office of the Town Clerk
One Park St, Butterick Municipal Bldg.
Sterling, Massachusetts 01564
Tel 978-422-8111 ext 2307 or 2308

EXCERPT OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD
MONDAY, May 1, 2023
Chocksett Middle School 40 Boutelle Road

ARTICLE 35. CHAPTER 18 ANIMAL CONTROL BYLAWS

To see if the Town will vote to amend § 18-2 of the Town's General Bylaws, Animal Control, Definitions, relative to the terms: Euthanasia, Feral Cat, Neutered, Nuisance, and Spayed, with deletions shown in ~~striketrough~~ and additions shown in **bold/underline**, or take any action in relation thereto.

§ 18-2 Definitions.

EUTHANASIA

~~The putting to death of any animal in a humane manner.~~ **To take the life of an animal by the administration of barbiturates in a manner deemed acceptable by the American Veterinary Medical Association Guidelines on Euthanasia, or by gunshot in the case of an emergency.**

FERAL CAT

~~A cat which currently lives in the "wild" and fends for itself, sometimes previously domestic.~~

NEUTERED

~~Rendered permanently incapable of reproduction.~~ **Referring to a male animal that has had its ability to reproduce surgically altered by a veterinarian or referring to the procedure itself.**

NUISANCE

Repetitive, domestic animal behavior documented by the ACO to constitute an ongoing violation of § 18-6 of this bylaw and demonstrated by the animal(s) with any of the following actions(s):

- A. Frequently running at large; or
- B. Causing constant disturbance by excessive barking or other noise making; or
- C. Chasing vehicles or bicycles; or
- D. ~~Molesting,~~ **Threatening,** attacking, or interfering with ~~persons or other domestic animals on public property~~ **livestock and other domestic animals or persons, but such threat, attack, or interference was not a grossly disproportionate reaction under all the circumstances;** or
- E. Recurring deposits of dog waste; **or**
- F. **Causing damage to another's property.**

SPAYED

~~Rendered permanently incapable of reproduction.~~ **Referring to a female animal that has had its ability to reproduce surgically altered by a veterinarian or referring to the procedure itself.**

Passage requires majority vote.

Motion made that the Town vote to amend §18-2 of the Town's General Bylaws, Animal Control, Chapter § 18-2, Definitions, as presented in Article 35 of the Warrant.

Submitted by: Animal Control Board

Recommendations: Select Board Recommends Approval

Summary: The purpose of this article is to update the definition for Euthanasia in accordance with MGL, to update the definitions of Nuisance, Spay, and Neuter to more modern and socially acceptable terminology, and to eliminate the term Feral Cat, as it appears nowhere else in the Bylaws.

Motion passed by majority as declared by the Moderator

A True Copy Attest: _____
Kathleen K. Farrell, Town Clerk