

## Town Might Donate Cat License Ordinance Fees

**Money collected could go to local spay-neuter organization.**

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The city of Toledo, Ohio, which is considering what to do with tens of thousands of dollars in cat license ordinance fees it has collected throughout the years, might give the money to a cat spay and neuter agency.

Toledo stopped enforcing its cat license ordinance years ago, but the law's remained in effect for 16 years, accumulating a fund of about \$38,000. The City Council now is considering an ordinance that would give that money to Humane Ohio, a nonprofit agency that spays and neuters cats.

Toledo-Lucas County Health Commissioner David Grossman has recommended that the Council authorize the transfer of the funds to Humane Ohio because of its Operation Felix program, which charges cat owners for spay and neuter services on a sliding scale, based on their ability to pay.

The \$38,000 would subsidize about 1,450 cat surgeries, Humane Ohio board member Steve Serchuk told the Toledo Blade newspaper.

The cat license ordinance, passed in 1992, set a \$10 fee for registering each spayed or neutered cat, and a \$45 fee for each unspayed animal. Violators faced a possible misdemeanor citation.

"For the past eight to 10 years, it's been a difficult ordinance to enforce and the money's kind of been sitting there. We don't have the people to enforce it. We don't have a truck. We don't have facilities to hold cats," Grossman told the Toledo Blade.

Grossman estimates that 50,000 cats roam free in Toledo.

The Council has yet to schedule a vote on the matter.