

Proposed Amendments to Animal Ordinance

Brandon Scott Bennett, Code Compliance Director

Tim Morton, DVM, JD, Assistant Director of Code Compliance

March 20, 2018

Purpose

Periodically review animal care and control ordinances to ensure:

- **Compliance** with associated rules and laws
- **Relevant content** for changing policies, development standards and cultural practices
- **Opportunities** for improved/more efficient customer service and service delivery are vetted

Process

- **Review of current ordinance by Law and Code Compliance Departments**
- **Consultation with other City and Government Agencies** including the Animal Shelter Advisory Committee
- **6 Public Meetings** advertised in City Calendar, City News and direct contact with stakeholders and previous attendees
- Draft Ordinance Changes
- **Public Meeting to review Draft Ordinance**

Microchip Rather Than City License

- Current: City requires annual pet licenses and administers database and compliance. In FY2017, **only 2.6% of estimated pets were licensed.**
- Proposed: **Require registered microchip or tattoo** so pet ownership data is still available.
- Benefits: Allow reassignment of staff to health, safety, livability and animal welfare efforts while **ownership database is maintained by third parties at no cost to the City.**



Multifamily Pet Requirements

- Current: Requires landlords to verify current pet license.
- Proposed: Require landlords to verify microchip, rabies vaccination and intact pet status or permit.
- Benefits: **Consistent with proposed animal ordinance.**



Dangerous Dog Ordinance

- Current: Dangerous Dog **includes dogs attacking domestic animals.**
- Proposed: Dangerous Dog **limited to dogs attacking humans.**
- Benefits: **Consistent with State law and simplified process.** Dogs attacking animals addressed as Aggressive Dog.



Aggressive Dog Ordinance

- Current: Dangerous Dog includes dogs attacking domestic animals
- Proposed: **Aggressive Dog to address dogs attacking domestic animals.**
- Benefits: **Consistent with State law.** More restrictions for Dangerous Dog attacking humans. New criminal violation for known Aggressive Dog attack.



Quarantine of Animals

Current:	Shelter or Veterinary quarantine for most incidents.
Proposed:	Allow home quarantine consistent with State Law.
Benefits:	Consistent with State law and simplified process.



Educate the Offender Program

- Current: **Dismissal limited** to no City license, no displayed rabies tag, animal at-large and accumulation of feces.
- Proposed: **Include dismissal of most first time, non-cruelty/dangerous animal violations.**
- Benefits: Reduce burden on Court, allow for better compliance and better educated pet owners.



Pet Waste Pickup

- Current: **Duty on owner's property, streets and parks only.**
- Proposed: **Duty to clean up pet waste in all public areas and on private property.**
- Benefits: **Less pet waste in public areas** and avenue for City and private property owners to address irresponsible pet owners that allow their pets/fail to clean up waste from pets.



Pet Reclaim Fees

- Current: Director has **limited authority** to reduce reclaim fees for financial reasons.
- Proposed: Allow Director to reduce or waive reclaim fees in return for verified future compliance with ordinances, attending Responsible Pet Ownership Class, City volunteer registration, pet sterilization, vaccination and microchipping.
- Benefits: **Increased opportunity for pet/family successful reunion and live release rate.**



Intact Pet Fees

- Current: Intact Pet Permit is \$50. All non-permitted impounded animals must be sterilized. **No exception for valuable show or performance dogs.**
- Proposed: **Allow owner to obtain an intact pet permit for impounded pet with a fee of \$500** to cover additional administrative, verification and enforcement costs.
- Benefits: Sterilization of all reclaimed animals unless owner agrees to increased intact pet permit fee and future compliance with city ordinances.



Under Immediate Control

- Current: Dogs must kept restrained but **no leash or specific control required.**
- Proposed: **Require immediate control of a dog by a leash or through voice, gesture or other means**
- **Except Residential Zones** where a leash would be required
 - Except Special Events and Parks where agreements, administrative rules and other ordinances set requirements
- Benefits: Require dogs be maintained **under control** so as not to be a nuisance to others while **allowing obedient dogs to safely accompany responsible owners in outdoor activities.**

Multi-Pet Permit

- Current: **All** Multi-pet applications **require a hearing.**
- Proposed: Administrative approval of non-contested applications **after notification of neighbors.**
- Benefits: **More efficient process** for uncontested multi-pet permits



Retail Sale of Dogs and Cats

- Current: No roadside sales of dogs and cats but silent on retail sales.
- Proposed: **Prohibit retail sale of dogs and cats** other than where the cat or dog was born (for example, at the home of the breeder). **Exemption for non-profit/rescue groups, dog shows, etc.**
- Benefits: **Encourage adoption of dogs and cats rather than purchase through pet stores and puppy mills.**

Feral Cat TNR Program

Current: Trap Neuter Release (TNR) ordinance **only applies to feral cats.**

Proposed: **Apply TNR program to all impounded stray cats.**

Benefits: Removes requirement that staff differentiate between feral and stray cats. **Increase release of all healthy cats after sterilization.**



Recommended Actions

- Post, distribute solicit feedback on draft ordinance for **30 additional days**.
- **Present final to City Council** for approval in late April or early May 2018.
- Upon adoption, **implement a broad based public education campaign**.



Questions?

