Proposed Amendments to Animal Ordinance

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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.
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?