

Executive Report

Proposed changes to

Animal Control Ordinance Chapter 3, “Animals and Fowl”

The proposed changes to Chapter 3, “Animals and Fowl”, allows for a clean-up of out dated language, as well as allows the animal control department to operate more efficiently.

Section 3-1 Definitions:

Vicious Animal:

- **Current:** The current Chapter 3 ordinances contained a definition of a vicious animal that is not easily enforced. Since the majority of our vicious animal situations fell under the Dangerous Dog definition, our Dangerous Dog section is the section most often enforced.
- **Proposed changes:** Proposed changes to Chapter 3 deleted the entire definition of Vicious Animal to remove any confusion between the two definitions.

Assistance Animal changed to Service Animal:

- **Current:** The current definition reads as an “Assistance Animal”
- **Proposed changes:** The proposal is to change the wording to read as “Service Animal” to coincide with common terminology within the industry.

Rescue Group:

- **Current:** The current definition references the requirement to be “registered with the city” as a rescue group.
- **Proposed changes:** The proposed change will remove the need to be pre-registered with the city.

Section 3-5 Registration License:

- **Current:** The current ordinance only allowed for a one-year registration tag.
- **Proposed changes:** Under the proposed changes, the ordinance would allow for a multi-year registration tag (1, 2 and 3 year) at pro-rated prices.

Section 3-9 Redemption of Animal:

- **Current:** The current ordinance does not require that an impounded animal be microchipped prior to redemption.
- **Proposed changes:** The proposed change adds the requirement that all impounded dogs, cats and ferrets will be microchipped prior to being released to the owner. Many animals have been impounded multiple times. Microchipping will give us more of an opportunity to quickly return them to the owners, many times while still in the field. The microchip will be a one-time charge of \$10.00.

Section 3-11 Adoption of Dogs and Cats and Ferrets

Rescue Groups:

- **Current:** The current ordinance requires rescue groups to be pre-registered with the shelter. They were required to supply documentation such as the following:
 1. Written request on letterhead annually verifying affiliation
 2. List of names and phone numbers of qualified people
 3. Valid Federal Tax ID number and 501(c)3 status annually
 4. Agree to sign a contract that each animal will be vaccinated for rabies and sterilized.
- **Proposed changes:** The changes removed the need for some documentation and will now only require to:
 1. Provide a list updated annually with names and phone numbers of qualified people.
 2. Provide a copy of the organization's current bylaws and a valid Federal Tax ID number along with its current 501(c)3 supporting a non-profit status.The animals will already be vaccinated for rabies and sterilized prior to release.
- **Current:** The current ordinance only allowed rescue groups to pull animals that were in danger of being humanely euthanized.
- **Proposed changes:** The proposed changes will allow rescue groups to pull any animal deemed available for rescue by the animal control authority. This will allow for animals with special needs to be pulled by rescue groups.
- **Current:** The current ordinance stipulates that adoption or reclaim fees do not apply to the rescue of impounded animals scheduled for euthanasia.
- **Proposed changes:** The proposed changes will allow rescue groups to rescue all animals deemed available without having to pay adoption or reclaim fees. It removed the reference to only those animals scheduled for euthanasia.

Section 3-12 Animal Quarantine

- **Current:** The current ordinance required that a licensed veterinarian observe the quarantined animal on the first and last day of the quarantine period.
- **Proposed changes:** The proposed change to the ordinance removes the need for a licensed veterinarian, since the local rabies control authority (Animal Control) already has the authority and already observes the animal on both the first and last days of the quarantine period.

Section 3-16 Dangerous Dog

- **Current:** The current ordinance requires that two (2) color hard copy photographs (one frontal view and one side view) be provided by the owner.
- **Proposed changes:** The proposed changes will allow for the submission of high-resolution digital photographs instead of the requirement for hard copy photographs.
- **Current:** Within the current ordinance there are two references to a dog being “destroyed”.
- **Proposed changes:** The proposed changes will remove the word “destroyed” and the wording replaced to read as “humanely euthanized”.

Section 3-20 Animal Care

- **Current:** The current ordinance reads that only a licensed veterinarian shall crop a dog’s ears.
- **Proposed changes:** The proposed changes will add docking a dog’s tail. The new ordinance will read that only a licensed veterinarian shall crop a dog’s ears or dock a dog’s tail. Many organizations, including the American Veterinary Medical Association, oppose ear cropping and tail docking solely for cosmetic purposes and can have adverse effects. Both procedures should only be performed under the care of a licensed veterinarian.

- **Current:** The current ordinance regarding an animal confined in a parked or standing vehicle consists of two distinct stipulations. The first is very subjective, “It shall be unlawful for a person to confine an animal in a parked or standing vehicle in such a way as to endanger the animal’s health, safety, or welfare.” The second stipulation is very specific covering length of time confined to the vehicle, as well as ambient outside air temperature.
- **Proposed changes:** The proposed ordinance changes took the current ordinance and divided it up into distinct sub-sections.
 1. (d) It shall be unlawful for a person to confine an animal in a parked or standing vehicle in such a way as to endanger the animal’s health, safety, or welfare.
 2. (e) It shall be unlawful for a person to confine an animal in a parked vehicle for a period of five (5) or more minutes when the ambient outside temperature measures above eighty-five (85) degrees Fahrenheit or below thirty-five (35) degrees Fahrenheit.

By dividing the current ordinance into two sub-sections, it allows the officers to enforce situations involving an animal in distress that fall outside the 85/35 degree Fahrenheit standards and length of time in the vehicle.