



Chapter 6 Animals Proposed Updates

**Nikki Sassenus
Animal Services**



Background

- Chapter 6 provides framework and polices for the regulation of the care and control of animals within City limits
- Last updated November 2020 (Ord. No. 20-2235)
- Proposed changes reviewed by Animal Shelter Advisory Committee at November 28, 2023, meeting
- Updates requested bring Chapter 6 in line with industry standards and best practices to ensure community health and safety



Proposed Updates and Changes

- **General updating throughout**

- Updated definitions and verbiage to industry standards (ex. "Animal Control Officer" to "Animal Services Officer")
- Removed definitions that were redundant or no longer used (Ex. Feral Cat Caretaker)
- Added definitions (ex. "Appropriate shelter")
- Rewording of some areas for clarification



•**Sec. 6-9 Animal nuisances**

- Added (4), (4)a, and 4(b)
- Makes it unlawful for any person to be the owner of an animal that has been impounded 3 or more times or proven to be at large 3 or more times
- (a)Allows animal to be declared a nuisance and (b) requires animal to be removed from city limits within 30 days of notification; provides appeal process
- Helps to prevent repeat offenders that do not mitigate situation and helps protect the animal from the dangers of running at large



- **Sec. 6-14 Registering of cats and dogs**

- (a) Updated to microchipping requirement, brings in line with industry standards
- (b) Allows for microchipping of all animals upon intake
- (c) Allows Animal Services to offer microchipping services to the public for a nominal fee, to be set by Council



Sec. 6-29 Wild animals

- Added section to address nuisance issues, protect wildlife
- Allows for an exemption for licensed rehabilitators or educational purposes

Sec. 6-30 Prohibited animal permit and impoundment

- Updated to make Animal Shelter Advisory Committee the granting body for permits



- **Reduced hold periods from 96 hours to 72 hours**

- For strays, protective custody, impounds
- Brings in line with industry standards
- Reduces overall length of stay for animals
- Sec. 6-15, 6-16, 6-17, 6-18, 6-24



Feral Cats

- Currently, Article III Sec 6.40-48- addresses registering, oversight, and enforcement of feral cat colonies.
- No current registered colonies; restrictive, outdated practice
- Removing entire section, replacing with Sec. 6-25.
- New section provides a method for addressing nuisance feral cats



Article II. Dangerous Dog

- Updated to bring in line with Chapter 822 Subchapter D. Dangerous Dogs in the Texas Health and Safety Code
- Added Sec 6-39.3 Animals deemed dangerous by other jurisdictions
 - Bans the bringing of dogs deemed dangerous by other jurisdiction bodies into the city



Article III. Humane Trapping

- Added to regulate the placement of traps
- Requires the use of humane traps, prohibits use of traps that cause injury or death
- Provides for humane treatment of all animals trapped
- Aimed at reducing unnecessary trapping of healthy wildlife



Sec. 6-33 Commerce in Live Animals

- Added to address health and safety concerns
- Prohibits the sale or display of live animals on a roadside or public area
- Prohibits a retail pet store from selling dogs or cats
- Does not apply to the display for adoption of animals by animal welfare organizations



Sec. 1-12 General penalty

- Added (a)(5) to update penalty from two hundred dollars (\$200.00) to five hundred dollars (\$500.00)



Next Steps

- Draft reviewed by Animal Shelter Advisory Committee at November 28, 2023, meeting
- Requesting feedback from Council on proposed changes



Questions?

**Nikki Sassenus
Animal Services**

