



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

First Reading for the City Council Meeting of February 28, 2023
Second Reading for the City Council Meeting of March 7, 2023

DATE: February 21, 2023

TO: Peter Zaroni, City Manager

THRU: Constance Sanchez, Chief Financial Officer
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Ordinance amending Chapter 6 of the Code of Ordinances
Governing Care and Treatment of Animals

CAPTION:

Ordinance amending Chapter 6 of the Code of Ordinances regarding Animal Care and Control by adding and clarifying definitions, creating and revising sections including an Intact animal permit, pet shop prohibitions, length of stay, updates to the Dangerous and Aggressive dog owner requirements and fee schedule; providing for severance, publication, penalty not to exceed \$500 and establishing an effective date of the new laws.

SUMMARY:

The Chapter 6 Ordinances were adopted on March 25, 1981 with updates adopted by City Council on December 14, 2014 and again on May 25, 2021. The revisions presented in this agenda item have been presented to and approved by the Corpus Christi Animal Care Services (CCACS) Advisory Board on November 22, 2022. Additional consultation and approvals were conducted with the Corpus Christi City Attorney's Office.

BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS:

This revision provides an update to the current Code of Ordinances regarding animal care in the City of Corpus Christi. Additions, updates, and changes are being proposed in order to bring the ordinances up to current animal welfare standards and practices which will allow the City to continue to provide essential services through its animal control program. Revisions to Ordinances and new fee schedule will take effect on October 1, 2023.

Highlights of the revised ordinances include:

- Define "Animal Rescue Organization" which means a non-profit organization incorporated under the law of any state and exempt from federal taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the federal Internal Revenue Code, as amended, and whose principal purpose is the prevention of cruelty to animals and whose principal activity is to rescue sick, injured, abused, neglected, unwanted, abandoned, orphaned, lost, or displaced animals and to

adopt them to good homes. "Animal rescue organization" shall not include any entity that breeds animals or that (1) is located on the same premises as; (2) has any personnel in common with; (3) obtains, in exchange for payment or any other form of compensation, dogs or cats from; or (4) facilitates the sale of dogs or cats obtained from a person that breeds animals.

- This definition supports an update to Section 6-57 Pet Shop Requirement and Prohibitions.
- Define "Intact Animal" which means an unaltered or unsterilized animal.
 - This definition supports the created Section 6-59 Intact Permit
- Define "Offer for sale" which means to display or proffer for acceptance by another person.
 - This definition supports an update to Section 6-57 Pet Shop Requirement and Prohibitions.
- Definition changes to prohibited animals for clarification purposes:
 - Added: Family Pythonidae (pythons) as its own class of prohibition.
- Define "Sell" which means to exchange for consideration, adopt out, barter, auction, trade, lease or otherwise transfer.
 - This definition supports an update to Section 6-57 Pet Shop Requirement and Prohibitions.
- Update to Section 6-17. Fee Schedule
 - Addition of Intact Animal Permit fee
 - Addition of Dangerous/Aggressive Dogs collar, leashes, signs fee.
- Update to Section 6-17. Local rabies control authority.
 - Expansion that ACS manager may designate a LRCA in their absence.
- Update to Section 6-34 Requirement of Dangerous Dog Owners:
 - Addition to current city ordinance outlining collars, leash, and signs must be purchased from CCACS.
 - Requirement of dangerous dog leash changed from 6ft to 3ft in length.
- Update to Section 6-39 Aggressive dogs: levels defined.
 - Changed from Director to ACS manager shall have discretionary authority to refrain from classifying dogs as aggressive.
- Update to Section 6-40 Investigation, seizure, confinement, and designation of aggressive dogs.
 - Changes from Director to ACS manager shall have the discretion to increase or decrease a classified dog's restrictions based upon relevant circumstances.
- Update to Section 6-42. Regulation of aggressive dogs.
 - Change from Director to ACS manager "may require" language for regulations.
 - Expansion of required aggressive dog collar requirements and for it to be purchased from department with authorization to charge to owner.
- Update to Section 6-57. Pet shop requirement and prohibitions.
 - Added: It shall be a violation of this chapter for a pet shop to sell or offer for sale a dog or cat.
 - Added: A pet shop may provide space for the display of dogs or cats available for adoption only if such animals are displayed and made available for adoption through Corpus Christi Animal Care Services, or an animal rescue organization

that has a current and approved memorandum of understanding with Corpus Christi Animal Care Services.

- Update to Section 6-103. Impoundment
 - Addition of the following “In cases deemed necessary by the Animal Care Services Manager and/or the Animal Care Services On-Site Veterinarian, or the Animal Care Services Supervisor, an impounded animal without microchip or registration may be immediately transferred to the care of an Animal Rescue Organization when space, adequate medical care, or other resources are unavailable.”
- Update to Section 6-126. Rabies impoundment and quarantine
 - Added and clarified language for approved authorities to clear from and attest to the health of a animal after quarantine.
- New Section 6-59. Intact Pet Permit. This new section states that a person commits an offense if they own, keep, harbor, or have custody of any dog or cat over six months of age that is intact unless such dog or cat is subject to a valid intact pet permit in accordance with this section. Within this section it outlines; offenses, the application process, considerations for application of the permit, appeal process for denial, the issuance and maintenance of permit, and defenses.

These ordinance revisions will help ensure that the City of Corpus Christi has effective codes in place pertaining to animal care and welfare.

ALTERNATIVES:

Rejection of the proposed revisions will result in maintaining current ordinances without the necessary protections for animal care and welfare.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There is an anticipated increase in revenue for FY 24 coinciding with the addition of the Intact Permit requirement and charges for Dangerous/Aggressive dog regulation.

FUNDING DETAIL:

Not applicable.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommend authorization of the changes, which have been reviewed and are supported by the ACS Advisory Board.

LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

1. Clean version of Chapter 6 Revisions
2. Redline version of the Chapter 6 Revision
3. City Council PowerPoint presentation.