



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

First Reading Ordinance for the City Council Meeting of October 29, 2013
Second Reading Ordinance for the City Council Meeting of November 12, 2013

DATE: October 15, 2013
TO: Ronald L. Olson, City Manager
FROM: Floyd Simpson, Chief of Police
floyds@cctexas.com
886-2604

Ordinance designating the City as designated caretaker of impounded animals

CAPTION: Ordinance amending section 6-1(a) “definitions” by adding the definition of designated caretaker; amending section 6-103(g)(1) “Dispositions of animals” of the Corpus Christi Code by designating the City as designated caretaker of impounded animals; providing an effective date; providing for severance; and providing for publication.

PURPOSE: Vaccination of animals on intake into the shelter is critical to avoid disastrous outbreaks of disease.

BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS:

Failure to vaccinate upon intake is poor shelter management. The standard of care requires vaccination prior to or immediately upon impound in order to prevent the spread of disease. According to a recent article in the UC Davis Veterinary Medicine Journal, Chicago animal control lost hundreds of dogs to canine distemper, a problem that was largely corrected by switching to vaccination upon intake. Some might say that over-vaccination of an owned-animal that has already been vaccinated might be risky. However according to the article, the risk of an unvaccinated animal contracting and spreading a potentially fatal illness in most shelters is much greater than the risk of the actual vaccination itself.

In August 2013, the Texas State Board of Veterinary Medicine established new criteria requiring that an animal shelter may no longer vaccinate upon intake unless the Veterinarian has a personal relationship with the animal or the City Ordinance specify that vaccinations are to be facilitated on intake of an animal. It is not possible for our in-house vet, Dr. Melissa Draper, DVM to see each animal upon intake, due to short staffing and her surgery schedule. Animal Care Services is requesting this ordinance be initiated in order to keep the spread of disease under control.

ALTERNATIVES:

None

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

None

CONFORMITY TO CITY POLICY:

Conforms to all city policies.

EMERGENCY / NON-EMERGENCY:

Non-emergency

DEPARTMENTAL CLEARANCES:

Legal

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Operating Revenue Capital X Not applicable

Fiscal Year: 2013-2014	Project to Date Expenditures (CIP only)	Current Year	Future Years	TOTALS
Line Item Budget				
Encumbered / Expended Amount				
This item				
BALANCE				

Fund(s):

Comments:

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends passing the ordinance.

LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

Ordinance.