



Report on Animal Services-related items from 2/4/2010 LRC
Prepared by: Michael Hill, Public Health Director 2/10/2020

Two food program related items were deleted from the agenda by motions from LRC members. The following Animal Services related items were sent forward for consideration by the full council, following a vote of the LRC.

1. Discussion and action to provide direction regarding changes to Chapter 7 (Animals) of the City Code, to call for a differential (higher) animal registration fee for dogs and cats that have not been spayed or neutered; as proposed by the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee. We seek direction from the Council on developing an ordinance change to accomplish this.

Background: Many jurisdictions across the nation, including Texas have started to charge a higher registration fee for dogs and cats that are not spayed or neutered in an attempt to slow the growing pet over-population problem. The committee recommends, and the department agrees that moving the annual registration fee for an animal that is not spayed or neutered from the current \$10 up to \$50 is appropriate.

2. Discussion and action to provide direction regarding changes to Chapter 7 (Animals) of the City Code, to require that pet stores not sell dogs or cats that have not been spayed or neutered unless a permit for such animal has been obtained; as proposed by the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee. We seek direction from the Council on developing an ordinance change to accomplish this.

Background: By taking action to discourage the sale of dogs and cats capable of breeding, we would take a positive step in reducing the growing pet population in El Paso. The committee recommends, and the department agrees that a permit with a fee of \$150 per dog or cat should be required before a pet store in El Paso can sell an animal that is capable of breeding and bringing more animals into the community.

3. Discussion and action to provide direction regarding changes to Chapter 7 (Animals) of the City Code, to prohibit advertising dogs or cats for sale or adoption without displaying the city required litter permit number (Chapter 7.24.080); as proposed by the Animal

Mayor
John F. Cook

City Council

District 1
Ann Morgan Lilly

District 2
Susie Byrd

District 3
Emma Acosta

District 4
Carl L. Robinson

District 5
Rachel Quintana

District 6
Eddie Holguin Jr.

District 7
Steve Ortega

District 8
Beto O'Rourke

City Manager
Joyce A. Wilson



Welfare Advisory Committee. We seek direction from the Council on developing an ordinance change to accomplish this.

Background: City ordinance currently requires that a litter permit be obtained prior to breeding a litter of puppies or kittens. Current staffing levels do not allow us to verify the litter permit for all of the pet advertisements in local media. Other cities, including Albuquerque in our area, require that advertisements to sell dogs or cats less than six months of age must display the litter permit number within the ad. This will allow for greater ability to enforce the litter permit requirement by allowing Animal Services to review permit numbers within the advertisements rather than going through a laborious process of contacting the person who places each ad to see whether they have a permit.

Each year, we impound nearly 24,000 animals, of this number less than 4,000 are reclaimed by their owners or adopted by new owners. The remaining animals must be euthanized. Any action that we take to reduce the growing pet population will help to reduce the number of animals we are forced to dispose of. The Humane Society estimates that a single female dog and her offspring can produce up to 67,000 puppies in a six year period. Each dog that we get spayed or neutered takes that many pets out of our system over the course of years.



Mayor
John F. Cook

City Council

District 1
Ann Morgan Lilly

District 2
Susie Byrd

District 3
Emma Acosta

District 4
Carl L. Robinson

District 5
Rachel Quintana

District 6
Eddie Holguin Jr.

District 7
Steve Ortega

District 8
Beto O'Rourke

City Manager
Joyce A. Wilson