



# STAFF REPORT

**MEETING DATE:** February 25, 2025

**TITLE:**

Consider and act on the first reading of Ordinance No. 2025-17, amending Code of Ordinances Chapter 2 “Animal Control”, Article 2.02 “Vaccination and Licensing of Dogs and Cats” and Article 2.04 “Impoundment”, removing Section 2.02.004 “License Tag and Collar.”; amending Section 2.02.008 “Licensing and Fees” to “Pet Registration Requirement” and removing subsection (a)-(c); removing Section 2.04.006 “Confinement of Female Dogs and Cats during estrus”; move to include on the March 11, 2025, consent agenda for a second reading.

**AGENDA ITEM SUBMITTED BY:**

Submitted by: Robert McBain, Animal Control/Code Compliance

**BACKGROUND/HISTORY:**

In 2005 the City of Bastrop adopted Article 2.02 Vaccination and Licensing of Dogs and Cats. The purpose of this ordinance was to assist the city in locating the owners of lost pets to keep them from going to the dog pound and being euthanized. In 2008 there was an amendment to section 2.02.008 Licensing and fees which created a fee structure that was designed to promote animals being spayed and neutered. Since this ordinance was enacted in 2005, the technology has advanced significantly with Microchips. Microchips are now readily available at the veterinary clinics, animal shelters and Save an Angel where pet owners can have the microchips implanted in their pets. Also, with the microchip there is a tag included that goes on the pets collar that includes the microchip number and manufacturer company which allows anyone to call and reunite the animal with its owner. This modern approach offers a more reliable method of reuniting lost pets with their owners.

There are many options for the citizens to get their pet implanted with a microchip with various prices located in Bastrop such as all veterinarian clinics, Bastrop Animal Shelter and Save an Angel.

**PROPOSED CHANGE:**

The proposed change is to simplify the ordinance by removing Section 2.02.004 Licensing tag and collar and Section 2.04.006 Confinement of female dogs and cats during estrus. With this change we are also amending Section 2.02.008 Licensing and Fees to reflect the following:

**Sec. 2.02.008 Pet Registration Requirement**

In accordance with the city ordinance, all residents of the city are required to have their dog(s) and cat(s), aged four months and older, implanted with a microchip. The microchip must be registered with the owner’s current information. For newly acquired pets owners must ensure their dog(s) and cat(s) are microchipped within 30 days of ownership or 30 days of locating to the city.

This change will allow the funds and time spent for citizens on registering and paying the registering fees to obtain a microchip for their pets which will assist in reuniting the pet with their owner. Instead of focusing on registering the pets, city staff will now have the time to educate the pet owner of the necessity of microchipping their pet and other requirements of animal control.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

None.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Consider and act on approving Ordinance 2025-17 amending the Code of Ordinances Chapter 2 "Animal Control", Article 2.02 "Vaccination and Licensing of Dogs and Cats" and Article 2.04 "Impoundment", removing Section 2.02.004 "License Tag and Collar."; amending Section 2.02.008 "Licensing and Fees" to "Pet Registration Requirement" and removing subsection (a)-(c); removing Section 2.04.006 "Confinement of Female Dogs and Cats during estrus as presented.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Existing Ordinance
2. Ordinance 2025-17