
Animal Shelter Advisory Committee

DEPARTMENT: Animal Services
FROM: Lisa Duello, Neighborhood Services Director
MEETING: August 9, 2022

SUBJECT:

Receive a report and hold discussion regarding the new adopted tethering ordinance. (*Staff Contact: Lisa Duello, Neighborhood Services Director*)

SUMMARY:

City Council approved the final reading of this ordinance by a unanimous vote at the August 1, 2022 regular Council meeting.

The council approved an ordinance that amended Section 6-1 (Definitions) and 6-9 (Care and Humane Treatment of Animals) of Chapter 6, (Animal Care and Control) of the Burleson Code of Ordinances by adding definitions for Adequate shelter, Harness, Cruelly treated, Adverse weather conditions, and Properly fitted, and by modifying the manner and location a dog or other animal may be tied or tethered; making this ordinance cumulative of prior ordinances; providing a severability clause; providing for the violation of this ordinance; providing a penalty clause; and providing for an effective date.

Texas legislature recently passed Senate Bill 5 (attached) unattended Dogs res in the 87th legislative session, third special session – the Safe Outdoor Dogs Act to protect unattended dogs restrained outdoors, effective January 18, 2022.

How Senate Bill 5 protects dogs and improves public safety:

- Defines adequate shelter to protect dogs from exposure to extreme temperature, standing water and ensures the dog can stand, turn around and lie down.
- Requires access to drinkable water
- Prohibits the use of chain restraints which cause pain and injuries.
- Strikes the 24- hour waiting period so animal services and law enforcement can take immediate action for dogs in distress.

Staff is proposing to update the City of Burleson Code of Ordinance, Chapter 6, Animal Care and Control, Section 6-9 -Care and Humane Treatment of Animals, to be concurrent with state Law.

The changes involve adding/modifying definitions for the following terms:

- Adequate Shelter
- Adverse weather conditions
- Harness
- Cruelly treated
- Properly fitted

Additional changes include removing all references to the use of chains and renumbering relevant sections to concur with State Law.

OPTIONS:

N/A – informational only

RECOMMENDATION:

There is no action required of the committee; this item is informational only and for general discussion.

PRIOR ACTION/INPUT (Council, Boards, Citizens):

N/A

FISCAL IMPACT:

N/A

STAFF CONTACT:

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