



Item Brief

Meeting Date

August 26, 2025

Agenda Item

Discuss and consider action: Ordinance No. 2025-36: N. Flowers

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF BURNET, TEXAS, AMENDING CITY OF BURNET CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 14 (ENTITLED "ANIMALS") BY AMENDING SECTIONS 14-1 (ENTITLED "DEFINITIONS") AND 14-31 (ENTITLED "IDENTIFICATION FOR ANIMALS") AND DELETING SECTIONS 14-164 (ENTITLED "LICENSE REQUIRED") AND 14-165 (ENTITLED "REVOCATION OF LICENSE, NOTICE OF HEARING AND APPEALS"); PROVIDING FOR PENALTY NOT TO EXCEED \$500.00 PER VIOLATION; PROVIDING CUMULATIVE, REPEALER AND SEVERABILITY CLAUSES; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

Information

The City of Burnet is responsible for animal control and the reunification of lost or stray pets with their owners. Currently, many residents are unaware of, or fail to comply with, existing animal registration requirements. As a result, a significant number of animals brought to the City's shelter lack readily identifiable information, making reunification difficult.

To improve efficiency and ensure responsible ownership, staff recommends revising the Code of Ordinances to replace outdated licensing requirements with modern microchip identification standards.

This ordinance updates Chapter 14 of the City's Code of Ordinances by adding definitions related to microchipping and clarifying that all other existing definitions remain unchanged. It requires that all dogs and cats four months of age or older be microchipped, with an exception for ear-tipped community cats under an approved TNR program. Owners must also register their pets' microchip information in a nationally recognized recovery database and keep their contact information current. The ordinance further establishes identification requirements for other animals, such as tagging or tattooing livestock, while exempting small domestic pets and aquatic species. It provides defenses for nonresidents and new residents within their first 30 days, authorizes the City Manager to adopt administrative rules, and enforces compliance through the City's general penalty provisions.

Fiscal Impact

The microchips have been purchased and there is no fiscal impact.

Recommendation

Staff recommends approval of Ordinance No. 2025-36 as presented.