

Recommended City Council Action

Staff recommends the following:

This rough draft Ordinance is being presented for early review only. No formal action is requested at this time.

Overview / Background

As staff continues to evaluate areas of City Code that are in need of review and updating, one area that has been on our list for an overhaul is our Animals chapter. The existing language has some deficiencies with regard to certain public safety protocols and current animal husbandry trends.

Staff has prepared the attached rough draft of an Ordinance that would repeal and replace Chapter 6 – Animals with new text. This draft is a work in progress, and it has been submitted to our City Attorney and Police Chief for their respective reviews. The new draft Ordinance:

- Establishes that use of an e-collar does not meet the definition of a dog being leashed or 'under restraint' at any time.
- Allows for right of entry by Police in response to belief, a report, or a complaint that a violation of the chapter has been committed.
- Declares it to be unlawful to keep livestock animals, venomous reptiles, or any other animals
 of which the keeping in captivity is prohibited by state or federal law (for example: no
 horses, no tigers or other large cats that would be in violation of the federal Big Cat Public
 Safety Act enacted in December 2022).
- Requires that both dogs <u>and</u> cats over six months of age have a current rabies vaccination.
- Allows kennel permits to be issued by the City Clerk versus requiring all kennel permits to be subject to City Council review, thereby making the kennel permit process less intimidating to encourage compliance.
- Adopts the provisions of Minn. Stats. 347.50 through 347.55 dealing with the regulation of dangerous dogs, utilizing the same language Wayzata currently uses in their code for ease of enforcement.
- Adds a new 'Chicken Permit' process as well as regulations for chicken ownership and facilities.

Once all consultant and staff reviews and updates of the draft language are complete, our intent would be to publish notice of a public hearing for the Council to consider Ordinance adoption at their September 19 regular meeting.

Supporting Information

Draft of Ordinance Amending Chapter 6 - Animals