



CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: 02/11/2025

REQUESTER: Jeanne Snider, Assistant City Attorney

PRESENTER: Jeanne Snider, Assistant City Attorney

ITEM TITLE: CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF ORDINANCE O-2425-23 UPON FIRST READING BY TITLE: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA, AMENDING ARTICLE 4-I, SECTION 4-101 ADDING DEFINITIONS FOR ABANDON, ANIMAL, COMMUNITY CAT, COMMUNITY CAT CAREGIVER, AND TRAP-NEUTER-RETURN (TNR) AND AMENDING DEFINITIONS FOR EXOTIC WILDLIFE AND NATIVE WILDLIFE; AMENDING ARTICLE 4-II, SECTION 4-202 AND 4-205 UPDATING LANGUAGE FOR ANIMAL WELFARE SUPERVISOR AND UPDATING LANGUAGE THROUGHOUT FOR CONSISTENCY; DELETING SECTION 4-205(H) DUPLICATIVE LANGUAGE RELATED TO THE TNR PROGRAM; REPEALING SECTIONS 4-211 THROUGH 4-221 PET LICENSE REQUIRED; AMENDING ARTICLE 4-III, SECTION 4-301(D) ADDING ANIMALS VENOMOUS TO HUMAN BEINGS; AMENDING SECTION 4-301(E) REQUIRING ACCREDITATION ASSOCIATION OF ZOOS AND AQUARIUMS (AZA) OR ZOOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA (ZAA) CERTIFIED FOR ZOOS; ADDING ARTICLE 4-V, SECTION 4-510 COMMUNITY CATS; AMENDING SECTION 4-501, ABANDONMENT OF CATS AND DOGS; AMENDING SECTION 503(C), CONFINEMENT OF DOGS AND CATS; ADDING SECTION 4-510, COMMUNITY CATS; AMENDING ARTICLE 4-VI, SECTION 4-601(A), CRUELTY TO ANIMALS; AND AMENDING SECTION 4-603, ANIMALS THAT ARE NUISANCES.

BACKGROUND:

The Norman Animal Welfare Center Staff proposed additions and amendments to Chapter 4 of the Norman City Code. Staff also proposed repealing Sec. 4-211 through 4-221 requiring pet licenses and other changes to reflect language consistent throughout Chapter 4.

DISCUSSION:

Staff proposed adding the definitions of abandon, animal, community cat, community cat caregiver and revised the definition of Exotic Wildlife and Native Wildlife and Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR). Language has been added that it is unlawful for any person to keep, maintain or allow

to be maintained any exotic wildlife or species, as defined, which is venomous to human beings and added zoos must be AZA or ZAA certified.

The word “willfully” will be added to Sec. 4-601 Cruelty to Animals. The words “dog or cat” will be amended to “any animal” in Sec. 4-501 Abandonment of Cats and Dogs. Sec. 4-510 Community Cats will be added to the Norman City Code.

Sec. 4-211 through 4-221 requiring the purchase of pet licenses will be repealed. Staff advised microchipping is a more effective in registering pets and returning pets to their owners.

Changes to reflect the language consistent throughout the ordinance such as amending Animal Welfare Shelter to Animal Welfare Center and including the Shelter Supervisor are recommended.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends Council approve the amendments listed above.