

City of Spring Lake Park Staff Report



Agenda Date		Status	
October 19, 2026			
Requestor		Agenda Section	
Moran		Discussion	
Agenda Item:			
Review Draft Animal Ordinance			
Executive Summary			
The City Council is being asked to review a draft ordinance which comprehensively updates the City's animal regulations and establishes a licensing framework to permit the keeping of backyard chickens, quail, and honeybees on residential properties. The proposed ordinance establishes limits on the number of birds and honeybee colonies, minimum setback and maintenance requirements, educational requirements, neighborhood notification procedures, and enforcement provisions intended to protect public health, safety, and neighboring property owners. The ordinance also modernizes existing animal control regulations and amends the City's fee schedule to establish licensing fees and administrative penalties.			
Background			
The City Council has previously discussed allowing residents to keep backyard chickens and honeybees within the City. Currently, the City's public nuisance ordinance generally prohibits the keeping of poultry, livestock, and honeybees. Rather than simply creating exceptions to the existing ordinance, staff has prepared a comprehensive revision of Chapter 9.12 to modernize the City's animal regulations and establish consistent licensing and enforcement procedures. The proposed ordinance includes the following principal changes: <i>General Animal Regulations:</i> Updates requirements relating to animals running at large, animal noise, waste disposal, humane treatment, animal control and impoundment, rabies prevention, and dangerous dogs. Annual dog licensing would be retained, while cat licenses would be perpetual, requiring only a one-time purchase. <i>Multiple Pet Locations:</i> Establishes an annual licensing requirement for residential properties maintaining four or more dogs or cats, or any combination thereof, over six			

months of age. The ordinance establishes minimum care and sanitation standards and procedures for addressing nuisance conditions and violations.

- *Backyard Chickens and Quail:* Permits up to four chickens or quail, in any combination, on properties containing detached single-family dwellings. Roosters would be prohibited. Residents would be required to obtain an annual license, complete an approved educational course, and submit a site plan identifying the proposed coop and run. Coops and runs must be located in rear yards, at least 10 feet from property lines and 25 feet from neighboring dwellings. The ordinance also establishes requirements for sanitation, predator protection, containment, and maintenance. On-site slaughtering would be prohibited.
- *Honeybees:* Permits up to two honeybee colonies on properties containing detached single-family dwellings. Residents would be required to obtain an annual license, complete an approved educational course, and submit a site plan. Hives must be located in rear yards, at least 10 feet from property lines and 25 feet from public pedestrian walkways. Flyway barriers would be required when hives are located less than 16 feet from a property line. Additional provisions address water availability, colony management, swarm prevention, and corrective action for problem colonies.
- *Neighborhood Notification:* Initial applications for chickens, quail, or honeybees would require mailed notification to immediately abutting property owners and occupants, providing at least 10 calendar days for comments. Neighbor approval would not be required, and comments would be considered only as they relate to compliance with applicable City regulations.
- *Licensing and Enforcement:* Licenses would be issued administratively by the City Administrator or designee rather than requiring individual City Council approval. Initial inspections would be required, with subsequent inspections authorized under specified circumstances. The ordinance establishes procedures for corrective orders, license suspension or revocation, and administrative appeals. Annual licenses would expire December 31, with renewal applications due December 1.

The ordinance also amends the City's public nuisance regulations to recognize chickens, quail, and honeybees lawfully kept under the new provisions while preserving the City's ability to address nuisance conditions.

Board/Commission Review

The proposed ordinance has not been referred to a City board or commission for formal review. As the ordinance principally addresses animal licensing, public health, nuisance prevention, and enforcement rather than amendments to the City's zoning regulations, staff is presenting the ordinance directly to the City Council for consideration.

Financial Impact

The proposed ordinance establishes an initial license fee of \$100, including the first year, and an annual renewal fee of \$50 for multiple pet locations, domesticated birds, and

beekeeping. These fees are intended to help offset the City's costs associated with application review, neighborhood notification, inspections, and administration.

The ordinance also establishes a \$100 administrative citation for failure to obtain a required license and updates other animal-related administrative penalties.

Implementation will require staff time to develop licensing applications, establish educational requirements, conduct inspections, and administer neighborhood notifications. The overall financial impact will depend upon the number of applications received and the level of enforcement activity required. Staff anticipates administering the ordinance with existing personnel.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the City Council review and discuss proposed Ordinance No. 513 and provide feedback on the proposed regulatory framework, including any desired revisions to the licensing requirements, restrictions on chickens, quail, and honeybees, neighborhood notification procedures, and enforcement provisions. Based on the City Council's direction, staff will incorporate the requested changes and schedule the ordinance for formal consideration and possible adoption at a future City Council meeting.

Attachments

1. Draft of Ordinance No. 513, Animal Regulations