



Date: Tuesday, August 8, 2023

Honorable Mayor and Council Members

Author and title: Alison Herzog, Animal Shelter Manager

Title: **Municipal Code Update for Animal Impoundment Periods**

Approved By: Jen Callaway, Town Manager

Recommended Action: Introducing Ordinance 2023-08, to update periods of impoundment for animals.

Discussion:

Section 8.01.090 of the Truckee Municipal Code establishes periods of impoundment for animals in various circumstances but has not been updated since the 1990s. The intention of updating the code is to clarify hold times and reflect current best practices.

The hold times represent minimum holds and Animal Services may hold the animal for extended periods. Animal Services staff are at the animal shelter and able to receive and redeem pets 365 days a year. Animal Services' goal is to reunite people and pets and maintain the human animal bond. Efforts are made for animals to have the shortest length of stay at the shelter as possible. Length of stay is increasingly recognized as a critical factor in shelter management, with implications for animal health, well-being, sheltering costs, and ultimately a shelter's capacity to save lives. Prolonged length of stay increases the likelihood of illness, confinement-related stress, and behavioral disorders. Longer shelter stays increase the odds of continued behavioral deterioration.

Animals are provided prompt and necessary medical care and efforts are made to obtain foster care for orphaned animals. Animals that are irredeemably suffering may be humanely euthanized without a hold time per F&A C. § 17006.

Owners who are arrested or in the hospital are provided the option for friends or family members to redeem their pet. In circumstances where owners will not be able to care for their pet long term, they may surrender the pet to the shelter for adoption.

The Truckee Animal Shelter has an incredibly high live release rate of 99% and does not euthanize for time or space.

Priority:

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Enhanced Communication
Infrastructure Investment

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Climate and Greenhouse Gas Reduction
Emergency and Wildfire Preparedness

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Housing
Core Service

Fiscal Impact:

Reduced cost associated with shorter length of stay at animal shelter.

Public Communication:

Attachments: ORDINANCE 2023-08