



COMMUNITY CATS, AGGRESSIVE DOGS, AND WILD ANIMALS

OR-23-008

April 4, 2023

Background

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- April 20, 2021, City Council directed staff to work with the Animal Advisory Committee to review and develop an amendment to Chapter 6 for community cat regulations
- A subcommittee was formed but little progress was made and several members resigned
- Staff drafted an amendment and presented it the Animal Advisory Committee on January 12 and February 9, 2023
 - ▣ Ordinance simplifies governance of community cat colonies but requires responsible management of colonies
 - ▣ Still has the ability to enforce any nuisance issues
 - ▣ Committee recommended approval with changes

Committee Changes

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- ▣ Change references from feral cats to community cats
- ▣ Allow a community cat colony caregiver thirty days to address any unwanted presence on a neighboring property
- ▣ No longer prohibit colonies within ½ mile of a school, church, or playground
 - Any unwanted presence would be addressed as nuisance issues
- ▣ Allow appeals regarding community cats to be made to the Assistant City Manager
- ▣ Outline how community cats are treated at the shelter
 - Allow a cat to be returned to a colony one time after it is impounded on another person's private property
 - Have a microchip placed in the community cat while it is in possession of the shelter to allow it to be tracked for future encounters
 - Allow a cat to be released to an alternate colony if it does not meet the criteria to be returned to the original colony

Community Cats

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- Consensus was not reached by the committee on limiting the number of cats in a residential colony to six cats at any given time
- Staff feels this limitation will alleviate some of the nuisance concerns that frequently occur when community cat colonies are established in residential areas
- Frequently receive complaints about nuisances and property damage when large numbers of community cats are fed in residential areas
- A two-year stay was placed on enforcement of the community cat ordinance leaving many unresolved nuisance issues in residential neighborhoods

Administrative Amendments

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- ▣ Aggressive Dogs

- Change compliance timeline from 10 to 15 days in accordance with State Law

- ▣ Wild Animals

- Clarify that is unlawful to breed wild animals within the City Limits

Alternatives

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- ❑ Do not approve the amendments to the ordinance
- ❑ Make changes to the proposed amendments to the ordinance
 - ▣ Remove the limit on the number of community cats allowed in a colony located in a residential area
- ❑ Approve the amendments to the ordinance as written

Recommendation

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- ❑ On February 9, 2023 the Animal Advisory Committee recommended approval of the majority of the ordinance amendments
 - ▣ The committee did not reach a consensus on limiting the number of community cats in a residential area
- ❑ Staff recommends the City Council adopt the ordinance as written