



MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and City Council

From: Andy Quittner, City Attorney

Date: March 2, 2017

Subject: Ordinance Revising Prohibited Animals and Surrender to Animal Services Code and Adjust a couple of related fees.

In preparation of the opening of the new Animal Services Facility, staff has reviewed policies, procedures, and current issues to bring city code up to date to better serve the public and the new facility. Two issues are included in this Ordinance.

First, a group held a reptile show at the KC Hall in the city. This show included reptiles, some of which are venomous, that are not allowed to be held or owned within the City limits. Some of these animals pose a double threat to the area. Not only are they poisonous, but they are not indigenous to Texas and have few natural predators. Breeding, and potential release (both accidental and purposeful) could upset natural habitats and create a danger to the City's residents and visitors. The proposed Ordinance change would prohibit such exhibitions as well as make it clear that owning and breeding such animals is not allowed within the City.

The second change establishes a clear policy that the new facility exists to serve the residents of the City. Since the County has its own facility the City does not accept animals from them (and are not usually requested to do so). The problem is that the County does not, as a general rule, pick up stray cats. It is not unusual for persons, including third parties (such as rescues and other shelters) to bring in cats to the shelter for surrender. In most cases the animals came from outside the City limits (and are those that are not desired, for one reason or another) by the third parties. Although the new facility is much larger than the older one, city staff still has limited time and resources. City staff recommends that time and resources be spent first and primarily on city residents. The proposed section will limit surrenders to those that come from within the city's corporate limits.

A few changes to the fee schedule are requested, for clarity and cost (*e.g.* removing heartworm treatment)