



MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and City Council

From: Shelley Lutz, Animal Services Manager
Andy Quittner, City Attorney

Date: March 2, 2017

Subject: Ordinance modernizing and adding consistency to Animal Ordinance

The Ordinance under consideration modernizes animal services practices, particularly shelter operation through, among other changes, the addition of a clear period for picking up an animal that has been impounded; a time period after which the ownership of an unredeemed animal is deemed to rest in the City. This is important as it gives the animal services facility the opportunity to keep the facility under maximum capacity by placing more animals out for adoption.

The Ordinance also will permit, consistent with state law and best practices, certain medications to be administered by shelter management, thereby increasing safety for all the animals that may stay in the shelter.

The Ordinance creates a new category, "vicious dogs," for dogs that attack other domestic animals. In the past such dogs have been treated as dangerous dogs; however, this creates potential legal issues as dangerous dogs are specifically defined by state law (and only include bites causing serious injury to people).

Finally, the Ordinance changes wording for the Animal Services Manager for the purposes of the purpose of the Animal Services Advisory Committee making the manager a permanent part of that Committee.

Staff recommends adoption of the Ordinance.