

Proposed Chapter 5 Ordinance Change Requiring Spay/Neuter upon First Impoundment

Sec. 5-156. – Return of captured animal to owner.

(a) In addition to the issuance of a citation, the animal care officer may return an animal found at large to the known owner in lieu of impounding the animal.

(b) The owner may redeem an impounded animal during normal business hours by paying the impoundment fee, sterilization fees if any, boarding fees, and the pre-release rabies vaccination fee if required by law for the subject species and proof of valid current vaccination cannot be produced.

(c) Upon ~~On the first~~ impound, of an intact dog or ~~cat~~ found at large, the department shall conditionally release the dog or cat with the requirement that ~~require~~ the owner ~~to enter into an agreement to~~ sterilize the dog or ~~cat~~ within thirty (30) days from the date of the conditional release. ~~before releasing it back to its owner, unless the owner possesses or obtains a valid intact dog license for the dog. The following shall be exempt from this requirement: a dog or cat that qualifies for a certified medical exception from a city veterinarian, a dog or cat that is an exhibition or competition animal, or a dog that is a police or military service dog. Owners of exhibition or competition animals and police or military service dogs shall provide proof to the director or his designee. If an owner enters into a sterilization agreement, the~~ The owner shall provide proof of sterilization of the dog or ~~cat~~ to the department within thirty (30) days from the date of the conditional release. ~~agreement.~~

(d) It shall be unlawful for anyone to whom an animal has been conditionally released under this section to fail to have the animal sterilized and provide proof of sterilization to the department within thirty (30) days from the date of the conditional release.

~~(d) — On the second impound of a dog found at large, the intact dog license shall be revoked if applicable, and the owner shall agree to sterilize the dog, unless the dog qualifies for a certified medical exception from a city veterinarian, the dog is an exhibition or competition dog, or the dog is a police or military service dog. Owners of exhibition or competition dogs and police or military service dogs shall provide proof to the director or his designee. Under the sterilization agreement, the owner shall provide proof of sterilization of the dog to the department within thirty (30) days from the date of the agreement.~~

~~(e) — On the second impound of an intact cat found at large, the department shall sterilize the cat prior to releasing it back to its owner at the owner's expense, or require the owner of an intact cat to enter into an agreement to sterilize the cat before releasing it back to its owner, unless the cat qualifies for a certified medical exception from a city veterinarian, or the cat is an exhibition or competition cat. Owners of exhibition or competition cats shall provide proof to the director or his designee. If an owner enters into a sterilization agreement, the owner shall provide proof of sterilization of the cat to the department within thirty (30) days from the date of the agreement.~~

Proposed Chapter 5 Ordinance Change

Reduce required holding period for “Placement Assured” Pets

Sec. 5-158. Minimum time animals impounded; euthanasia authorized.

(a) Impounded ~~animals dogs and cats~~ shall be kept for not fewer than three (3) days, excluding the day the animal is impounded and any days the animal care services facility is not opened, and ~~thereafter~~ shall be subject to ~~adoption, rescue, foster or humane euthanization~~ humanely euthanized at the discretion of the director ~~thereafter~~. Notwithstanding the above, animals may be adopted, rescued or fostered after being held for not fewer than two (2) days excluding the day the animal is impounded and any days the animal care services facility is not opened.

(b) Animals may be adopted, rescued, fostered, or humanely euthanized prior to the time periods referenced above in the following circumstances:

(1) ~~In the case of owned animals, the city may dispose of any unclaimed animal before this three-day period if~~ The the owner of the animal releases ownership of the animal to the city.

(2) ~~If any impounded animal is determined by a licensed veterinarian or designee~~ determines an impounded animal is to be suffering from disease or injury such that the animal is in pain or is beyond reasonable medical help, the animal may be euthanized immediately. ~~In such a case, holding times otherwise specified in this Code will not apply.~~

(3) ~~Due to their immature immune system, any abandoned animal under four (4) months of age shall immediately become the property of the city upon delivery to the animal care services facility, for humane disposition, and may be offered for adoption or humanely euthanized at the discretion of the director.~~

Sec. 5-159. Unclaimed animals.

(a) Any animal not claimed by its owner after being held for not fewer than two (2) days excluding the day the animal is impounded and any days the animal care services facility is not opened ~~within the above stated three (3) days~~ shall become the property of the city, ~~and shall be subject to adoption, rescue, foster or humanely euthanized at the discretion of the director.~~ The selection of an animal for adoption or rescue during the reclamation period or thereafter shall not confer any ownership right or right of possession to the animal.

(b) The director may sell unclaimed livestock found running free of restraint by public auction to the highest bidder for cash after notice of the auction is posted on a public bulletin board where other public notices are posted for the city.