



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

ORDINANCE COMMITTEE AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: May 17, 2022

TO: Ordinance Committee

FROM: City Attorney's Office

SUBJECT: An Ordinance Amending Title 6 Of The Municipal Code Pertaining To Animal Control

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Ordinance Committee consider proposed amendments to Title 6 of the Municipal Code pertaining to animal control and forward the ordinance to City Council for introduction and adoption.

DISCUSSION:

On April 19th the Ordinance Committee reviewed amendments to Title 6 of the Santa Barbara Municipal Code which pertains to the regulation of animals within the City. At that meeting, the Ordinance Committee accepted all the recommendations presented by staff and requested additional amendments posed by members of the public.

Below are the additional amendments incorporated into Title 6 apart from those presented at the April 19th meeting. The ordinance will then incorporate all amendments made.

- Include under the definition of a dangerous dog instances when a dog kills or inflicts a severe injury to another animal, when the killed or injured animal is properly contained on the property of its guardian or is being walked on leash by its guardian or is being physically controlled by its guardian.
- Mandating that dogs which have been determined to be dangerous or vicious, or that respond with aggression in the presence of other dogs, not be permitted in off-leash dog areas.
- Requiring a guardian of an animal that either demonstrates symptoms of rabies, or acts in a manner which would lead to a reasonable suspicion that it may have rabies to immediately notify the Police Department. An Animal Control Officer can

then require an examination by a veterinarian. The animal will be required to be kept isolated in a pound, or in a veterinary hospital, or in at-home quarantine, if the Officer determines that it is appropriate.

- In the event that an animal is impounded and the guardian does not have evidence of rabies vaccination and a dog license, the animal will be released to the guardian, if they pay all outstanding fees. They then have 14 days, after the release of the animal, to provide evidence of rabies vaccination and licensing to the Animal Control Officer. Failure to provide the required proof of vaccination and licensing will result in the seizure of the animal by Animal Control.
- Elimination of the Municipal Code section that requires the destruction of impounded animals.
- Requiring the guardians of dogs that have been determined to be dangerous to post notice on their property indicating that a dangerous dog resides there.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

This action does not have a budget/financial impact on the City.

ATTACHMENT(S): Draft Animal Control Ordinance

PREPARED BY: John Doimas, Assistant City Attorney

SUBMITTED BY: Ariel Calonne, City Attorney

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office