

The following report was furnished by one of our readers about the Kern Animal Control Commission, December 20, 2006 Agenda item:

F. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REFERRAL REGARDING DEVELOPMENT OF ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS AFFECTING FACILITIES WITH LARGE NUMBERS OF ANIMALS – Discuss further

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The ordinance for dealing with our current hoarding issue has been drafted. Workshops are now being planned for community involvement and once everyone can agree on exact specifics it will be sent to the BOS for approval. This is not likely to be approved anytime in the near future but at least it is now on paper.

Here are the specifics:

Any person with 6 or more dogs will be required to obtain a permit, specific to their need, whether that be rescue, breed, private, etc related. No limit on the amount of animals will be set but you MUST be properly zoned accordingly. Obtaining the permit will give KCAC authorization to inspect your property/facility at anytime they choose. Applying for a new permit will require an inspection before approval to insure there is no false info provided. Unsure if this requirement will effect those already established.

Definition changes are as follows:

7.04.130 Dog Fancier: has been changed to now read Non-Commercial Animal Establishment

Previous for Dog Fancier: means any person who owns or keeps within or adjoining a private residence four or more dogs for personal and noncommercial purposes, which are limited to hunting, tracking, exhibition in dog shows, obedience trials, field trials, dog sledding or to enhance or perpetuate a given breed and who has secured a permit for such activity.

Will now read Non Commercial Animal establishment instead of dog fancier and 4 or more dogs has now been changed to 6 or more dogs and/or cats for non commercial purposes which includes but is not limited to hunting, (etc as listed above) or to enhance, perpetuate or rescue a given breed and who has secured a permit for such activity.

7.04.150 Kennel: will now read Commercial Animal Establishment  
Currently kennel reads: kennel means any premises wherein any person engages in the business of boarding, breeding, buying, letting for hire, training for a fee or selling dogs or cats, except a facility operated by a humane society or a governmental agency or it's authorized agents for the purpose of impounding and caring for animals.

Will now read Commercial Animal establishment means any premises wherein any person engages in the business of boarding, breeding, buying, letting for hire, training for a fee or selling dogs or cats.

A Definition will be set up to now include: Rescue Organization

It will read as follows:

Rescue organization means a for profit or non-profit animal rescue organization exempt from taxation under the IRS section 501(c)3 or a collaboration of individuals associated with said organization with at least one of its purposes being the sale or placement of dogs or cats that have been removed from the animal shelter or that have been previously owned by any person other than the original breeder of the dog or cat.

7.04.090 Dog was: "Dog" means a domesticated animal of the canine type young animals(puppies) of this type are considered dogs.

will now read : "Dog" means domesticated animal of the canine type, young animals of this type are considered dogs over 4 months of age.

7.04.180 Shop, grooming previously read "Grooming shop" means a commercial establishment where animals are bathed, clipped, plucked or otherwise groomed.

It will now include this statement " A grooming facility that boards animals shall be known as a commercial animal establishment"

7.04.190 Shop pet previously read: Pet shop means any person, sole proprietorship, limited liability corporation (LLC) partnership or corporation whether operated separately or in conjunction with another business enterprise, except for a kennel that buys, gives away sells or takes on consignment any species of animal.

It will now say non-commercial or commercial animal establishment instead of "kennel".

Changed made to AC regulation chapters:

7.08.040 Permit in lieu of license previously read:

A person may apply for a permit to operate a kennel. The annual fee shall be in accordance with the fee schedule as established by the BOS. Said permit shall be in lieu of any dog license required and the permit holder shall be entitled to maintain any number of animals provided the permit holder complies with the provisions of this title and any and all laws relating to kennels and the treatment of animals.

Will now read: non-commercial animal establishment or commercial animal establishment as described herein instead of "kennel"

Also the number 4 addendum to this chapter previously read  
The permittee agrees that the director "may" at all reasonable times, inspect the permittee's premises and operations.

It will now read: The permittee agrees that the director "shall" at all reasonable times, inspect the permittee's premises, records and operations, but no fewer than two (2) times per year.

These addendums are now added and will read as follows:

7. Records of all animals at a commercial or non-commercial animal establishment shall be kept at the address specified in the permit application. The records shall include but are not limited to, The name and address of any and all owner(s) of the dog(s), cat(s) or other animal(s), date of transaction(when applicable), species/breed, specific identifying characteristics, gender, age and name of veterinarian.

8. A record shall be kept of communicable disease immunizations for each animal, including rabies, recording the date on which immunization was given or the exp. date. These records shall be retained for a period of 30 days after the animal leaves the establishment.

9. The above records shall be available to any inspector employed by the County of Kern ACD, State Dept of AG or USDA at all reasonable times as mutually agreed or during business hours.

7.08.110 Animal Care requirements: Every person within the county who owns any domesticated animal or who owns, conducts, manages or operates any facility to this chapter shall comply with each of the following:

A: previously read: Housing facilities for animals shall be structurally sound and shall be maintained in good repair to protect the animals from injury, to contain the animals and to restrict the entrance of other animals.

It will now read: Housing facilities/primary enclosures for all animals shall be structurally sound and shall be maintained in good repair, to protect animals from injury, to contain the animals and to keep other animals or predators out of any enclosure where animals are kept.

F: previously read: Whenever an animal is left unattended at a kennel, pet shop, or grooming shop, the telephone number of KCAC or the name, address and phone number shall be posted in a conspicuous place at the front of the property.

It will now read: the word kennel will be replaced non commercial or commercial animal establishment.

K: previously read: Every building or enclosure wherein animals are maintained shall be constructed of material easily cleaned and shall be properly ventilated to prevent drafts and to remove odors. Heating and cooling shall be provided ad required, according to the physical need of the animals with sufficient light to allow observation of animals and sanitation.

It will now read: Every housing facility/primary enclosure wherein animals are maintained shall be water resistant, constructed of durable materials that are easily cleaned and shall be properly ventilated to prevent drafts, remove odors and such that they can be routinely maintained to allow animals to stay dry, clean and to provide convenient access to clean food and water. Heating and cooling shall be provided ad required, according to the physical need

of the animals with sufficient light to allow observation of animals and sanitation.

M: previously read: All animal rooms, cages, kennels and runs shall be of sufficient size to provide adequate and proper accommodations for the animals kept, therein.

It will now include this statement: with flooring that is constructed to prevent injury to the animal's feet and legs.

O: Previously read: All persons shall provide proper shelters and protection from the weather for all animals at all times.

It will now include this statement:

This includes but is not limited to, shelter that shall be water resistant, constructed of durable materials, shade to protect pets from the direct rays of the sun and prevent overheating with care given to proportion of animal and positioning to provide maximum protection. Flooring or platforms raised off the ground, of suitable size to accommodate the animal and allow for retention of body heat. When animals housed outdoors when the mean temp is 45 degrees F or below or is 80 degrees or above, animals shall so be acclimated.

7.08.380 Animals creating a nuisance will now read:

A: The keeping or harboring of any animal or fowl, whether licensed or not by habitual howling, yelping, barking, other noise or smell which is offensive to the senses, is injurious to health, disturbs or annoys an entire community or neighborhood, or any considerable number of people, so as to interfere with the enjoyment of life or property is unlawful and is a public nuisance and each day that such act is continued constitutes a separate offense. It is unlawful to suffer or permit any animal or fowl to trespass on private or public property so as to damage or destroy any property or thing of value, or so as to commit any other act dangerous to public health or safety and any animal or fowl committing such act is a public nuisance.

19.04.047 Animal Shelter will now read:

Animal Shelter, Public:

Animal shelter or public animal shelter means a facility operated by a humane society or governmental agency or its authorized agents for the purpose of impounding or caring for animals.