



Lompoc City Council Agenda Item

City Council Meeting Date: September 19, 2006

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

FROM: Gary P. Keefe, City Administrator
(g_keefe@ci.lompoc.ca.us)

SUBJECT: PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF LOMPOC CITY CODE TO REQUIRE SPAYING/NEUTERING OF DOGS WITHIN THE CITY AND TO STRENGTHEN REGULATION OF DANGEROUS ANIMALS

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council receive this report to supplement the staff report of September 5, 2006; hear public testimony; waive reading in full and introduce Ordinance No. 1534(06) to require sterilization of dogs kept within the City and to strengthen the regulation of dangerous animals; approve any related ancillary requirements; and give other appropriate direction to staff; or direct staff to take alternative action.

BACKGROUND:

On September 5, 2006, the City Administrator recommended to Council that Chapter 6 of the Lompoc City Code be amended to attempt to deal with pet overpopulation within the City that results in shelter overcrowding, neglect of animals, and, sometimes, potentially dangerous or dangerous behavior by poorly socialized or untrained animals.

On September 5, Council reviewed a proposed ordinance and, after lengthy discussion, advised staff to return with an ordinance requiring spaying or neutering of all dogs within the City, subject to certain exemptions from this mandatory requirement. Councilmembers suggested certain City Code changes to respond more effectively to dangerous animal behavior and to promote owner/keeper responsibility for pet behavior. Council then requested that the public be given additional time to comment on the proposals prior to final action.

DISCUSSION:

The attached ordinance has been redrafted to respond to Council's comments and suggestions. If approved, after Council receives comments from the public, the proposed Ordinance No. 1543 will clarify certain definitions of terms used in the City's

animal control ordinance, expand the definitions of “dangerous animal” and “potentially dangerous animal”, require that identity and insurance information be provided to dog bite victims, mandate the spaying/neutering of all dogs kept within the City (subject to certain exemptions), and specify the penalties for violations of animal control regulations.

Based on Council’s deliberations on September 5, 2006, staff recommends that the existing licensing fees established by Santa Barbara County be retained at \$17 for a sterilized dog and \$39 for an unsterilized dog, which are consistent with the fees charged throughout Santa Barbara County.

SUMMARY:

Staff requests that the Council consider the proposals and recommendations contained in this report, as well as public input, and introduce Ordinance No. 1534 or direct staff to carry out such other actions as Council may decide.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary P. Keefe
City Administrator

Attachments:

1. [September 19, 2006 Draft Ordinance No. 1534\(06\)](#)
2. [September 5, 2006 Agenda Packet](#)