

**Sonoma County Animal Services Partnership
Animal Ordinance Review Workgroup – Meeting Notes**

January 23, 2014 3:00 - 5:00pm

Sonoma County PRMD Conference Room, 2550 Ventura Ave, Santa Rosa

Present: Brigid Wasson, Darryl Roberts, Ellen Bauer, Mark Penn, Mickey Zeldes, Sandi Potter, Sheri Cardo, Jennifer Kirchner, Brian Ness, Jane Eagle and Becky Lunders (facilitator)

Topic	Discussion	Action/Decision
Draft Ordinance	Brigid presented a DRAFT version of the ordinance with suggested changes based on the research the group has done over the past several months. The group reviewed the changes and discussed what else needed to be provided before the draft can be sent to County Counsel for input. Below are some of the topics discussed by the workgroup:	<p>*** Please provide input by 1/31 to Brigid as she develops the next version of the draft. Please provide research, language and citation of source for anything you propose.</p> <p>Brigid will send DRAFT ordinance with proposed changes to County Counsel for input and recommendations.</p> <p>In the meantime, Sandi, Brigid and Ellen will meet to begin the process of planning a public workshop(s), and updating the work plan and timeline for presenting it to the Board of Supervisor’s for approval.</p> <p>Sandi will work to see that any zoning issues go to the Planning Commission before it goes to the Board of Supervisors.</p>
Standards of Care	Darryl presented the revised Standards of Care. We will need to cross-check and possibly move around items between the main ordinance and the standards of care (what is law and what is standard of care?). There was discussion around citations for standards of care and whether they are state, county or city, and who gets the citation funds. Does this need to be in the code?	<p>*** Please provide feedback and input to Darryl by 1/31!</p> <p>At next meeting we will look at Standards of Care brochure and checklist assembled by Darryl as part of the education effort on this element.</p>
Assistance Dogs	Nothing to change in the ordinance, but proposal is to no longer give free licenses to service dogs. Instead, may propose that all people would be able to apply for a reduced license fee based on hardship.	
Dog Bites & Breed-specific	<p>Much discussion about dog bites and breeds. Brigid provided statistics that in Sonoma County most dog bites are from altered males and only a small percentage of bites are from Pit Bulls. Currently, the breed-specific law is not reducing bites.</p> <p>In Rohnert Park, Mickey shared that at-large dogs get an administrative citation (a fine, but no court appearance).</p>	<p>No change in the existing at-large dog spay/neuter law. Remove breed-specific spay/neuter law.</p>

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Barking Dogs	<p>Brigid shared that there are 500 complaints per year. 60% are resolved after the 1st call; and only 20 calls were not resolved.</p> <p>Sandi explored how barking dogs are dealt with in the noise element of the Sonoma County General Plan and found that it relates only to kennels and commercial operations.</p>	<p>The strategy for this is to change the procedure and protocol for how ACC deals with barking dog calls. First priority is to update the letter that is sent out to barking dog owners.</p> <p>Eventually, we want the Communications & Outreach Workgroup to take on Barking Dog education as a project.</p>
Pet Limit	<p>There was discussion about the pet limit law. The current proposal is to remove pet limit for cats but to keep the current limit for dogs until the Board of Supervisors directs PRMD for further study of the environmental impacts of increasing the limit on dogs. Jane raised the question that the pet limit law may be unconstitutional (4th amendment)</p>	<p>The group recommends we push forward with the revision to the ordinance with removal of cat limits. Then in the staff report ask the Board of Supervisors to consider in the future the idea of relaxing the pet limit for dogs and directing PRMD to assess CEQA or other impacts.</p>
Next meeting	<p>Agenda Items for next meeting include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status of DRAFT ordinance and revisions • Look at Standards of Care checklist and brochure template • Determine calendar for moving it forward 	<p>Next meeting is February 27, from 3:00 to 5:00 at the PRMD front conference room. The PRMD office is located at the County Campus: Permit and Resource Management Department, 2550 Ventura Ave., Santa Rosa</p>