

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

June 26, 2014 3:00 - 5:00pm

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

Present: Brigid Wasson, Ellen Bauer, Sandi Potter, Jennifer Kirchner, Sheri Cardo (by phone), Brian Ness, Esther Molina and Becky Lunders (facilitator)

Topic	Discussion	Action/Decision
Updates on Ordinance Changes	There are a few things we still need to do to finalize proposed changes and the procedures that will help with implementation. The following areas got the most input at the Public Workshop.	
Pet Limits	<p>Brigid and Jennifer gave a report on the meeting with the wildlife groups, reminding us that the goal all along has been to reduce the feral cat population through trap/neuter/release. To address concerns raised about removing the cat limit, the group reviewed an approach used in San Antonio that allows excess animals by permit. This approach would not require the limit on cats to be changed in the ordinance but would provide a solution by allowing an avenue for people who are willing and able to foster animals to apply to have excess animals. Applications are reviewed on a case-by-case basis.</p> <p>The group also agreed to not pursue the requirement for licensing cats. Rather the group agreed on a voluntary and educational approach, encouraging cat owners to register their cats and ideally keep them indoors or in enclosed patios outdoors.</p>	<p>Brigid to send Ellen current application forms for pet fancier and kennels so they can be updated by program staff and be consistent with Excess Pet Permit form.</p> <p>Public Health Program Support and Animal Services staff will research the San Antonio Excess Animal permit process and try to identify whether another CA jurisdiction has implemented a similar approach.</p>
Barking Dogs	<p>County Counsel suggested that we consider the Orange County approach to dealing with barking dogs (which is the best practice we researched previously). We will need to do further research to understand the costs involved in implementing this approach.</p> <p>As a follow up to the Public Workshop, Brigid will work with County Counsel to develop a definition for nuisance barking and any other changes needed to the ordinance.</p> <p>Brigid noted that there is most often resolution when neighbors talk to one another, and the criminal process is lengthy and ineffective. Already Animal Services is improving its procedures with a letter to the owner and a letter to the complainant.</p>	<p>Brigid to define nuisance barking.</p> <p>Brigid to update proposed Barking Dog Procedure.</p>
Standard of Care	County Counsel has some suggestions and revisions for us on this, mostly on clarity of definitions.	Brigid will send next version of Standards of Care with the actual draft document to the workgroup when ready.

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	The Standards of Care are also being reviewed by REVMA for feedback.	
Accomplishments of the Workgroup	<p>While we have done a lot of work on the ordinance revision, the group noted that the current draft ordinance includes the following improvements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defined animal rescue • Modernization of verbiage in the ordinance • Addresses solutions in procedures to barking dogs and pet limits 	
Updated Timeline	<p>We revised the timeline for getting these changes to the Board of Supervisors for approval:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement changes to existing document to incorporate county counsel input and workgroup recommendations (v4) • Week of July 14: Hold internal meeting about proposed changes with PRMD and Animal Services staff • Develop next version (v5) • Mid-August: Hold Public Workshop #2 (with proposed ordinance). Be sure to include lots of outreach to get a good turnout • Sept: Send to Planning Commission • Oct-Dec: revisions, BOS, 1st reading, 2nd reading, approval 	<p>Brigid to make changes to existing document (v4)</p> <p>Sandi to set up PRMD/ Animal Services meeting</p> <p>Sandi to reserve hearing room for mid-August.</p>
Next Meeting	<p>Agenda Items for next meeting include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recap of meeting between PRMD staff and Animal Services staff on impact of proposed changes • Finalize changes and review version 5 of the ordinance change document • Plan content for Public Workshop • Review / Update Timeline <p>Also, outreach to those who have a concern about pet limits to come to the ordinance workgroup meeting in July.</p>	<p>Next meeting is Monday, July 28th, 2-4pm 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>