



## Shakopee City Council October 21, 2025

5.1

**Agenda Item:** Modification of Home Occupancies to Allow Dog Boarding and Daycare  
**Prepared by:** Michael Kerski, Planning and Development Director  
**Reviewed by:** Michael Kerski

---

**Action to be considered:**

Recommend approval of the Ordinance

**Motion Type:**

Simple Majority

**Background:**

The City Council has received multiple complaints regarding dog boarding and daycare operations occurring within single-family residential neighborhoods. These activities are being conducted by homeowners who advertise and manage their services through online platforms such as Rover and similar apps. A recent review identified more than 1,000 homes within the community that are actively listed for such services.

In response to these concerns, the City Council held two workshops to discuss issues related to in-home boarding and daycare operations, including the number of dogs on-site, pick-up and drop-off activity, and overall neighborhood impacts. Input was also received from several residents currently operating these businesses.

Councilmembers expressed concern about the number of dogs being cared for in residential areas, particularly when the total exceeds the number of pets owned by the resident. Following these discussions, the Council directed staff and the City Attorney to prepare amendments to the City's **home occupation regulations** to address this issue.

The proposed ordinance revisions would establish clear standards and process to regulate in-home dog boarding and daycare operations, ensuring consistency with neighborhood character and public safety. Here are the highlights of the proposed regulations:

Home businesses that temporarily care for dogs not owned by the resident must:

- **Obtain and annually renew a permit**, subject to city inspection.
- Require a permit **even if no compensation is received** (e.g., via apps like Rover).
- Limit care to **a maximum of 4 non-owner dogs** at a time.
- Restrict outdoor activity to **fenced rear yards**.
- Notify landlords if the home is rented; HOA rules still apply.
- **No unattended outdoor dogs** (except via video monitoring or personal presence).
- **Continuous barking over 3 minutes** counts as a violation.
- **Drop-off/pick-up hours**: 7:00 a.m.–9:00 p.m.
- **Overnight boarding allowed**, up to **180 days per year**.
- Provide **off-street parking** for clients; **no street stacking** allowed.
- Keep **proof of vaccinations** for all boarded dogs (rabies, distemper, Bordetella).
- Maintain **records** of all non-owner dogs, available for city review.
- **No boarding of sick or aggressive dogs**.
- **Commercial kennels or large-scale operations** are prohibited in single-family zones.
- **Breeding or selling dogs** as part of the business is prohibited.

The Planning Commission recommended one additional change to the Ordinance, adding under letter i that requires dogs being dropped off and picked up must be leashed and under the owner's control. This was a result of discussion and public comment.

**Recommendation:**

Recommend the city council Ordinance O2025-021, Amending Section 151.007(G) of the Shakopee City Code relating to Home Occupation Permits for Dog Daycare.

**Budget Impact:**

Staff will be recommending a \$75 annual fee to be charged for this home occupation when the fee table is amended.

**Attachments:**

[O2025-021\\_dog\\_daycare.docx](#)