



**BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
YAKIMA, WASHINGTON
AGENDA STATEMENT**

Item No. 9.A.
For Meeting of: November 18, 2025

ITEM TITLE: Ordinance amending Yakima Municipal Code Chapter 6.20 Animal Control

SUBMITTED BY: Cynthia Martinez, Senior Assistant City Attorney

SUMMARY EXPLANATION:

Attached for your consideration is an ordinance passing the proposed Yakima Municipal Code Chapter 6.20 revisions.

The following changes have been made to Chapter 6.20:

- Adds definitions for Abandons, Criminal Negligence, Potentially Dangerous Dog, Tether, Unprovoked, Verified Complaint, updates the Strengthen dangerous dog definition;
- Changes definitions for Dangerous Dog and Minimum Care;
- Remove levels of animal behavior;
- Adopts RCW 16.52.207 - Animal Cruelty in the Second Degree which has a greater penalty than the former abuse of animals;
- Clarifies the pet owner's responsibility when an animal is seized for Animal Cruelty;
- Clarifies Abandonment of Animals;
- Adopts RCW 9.08.070 - Taking, concealing, injuring, killing etc. pet animals;
- Adds codes dealing with declaration of Potentially Dangerous Dogs, consequences when a dog is declared potentially dangerous and duty to notify animal control of status;
- Prohibits feeding a feral or roaming cat on public property;
- Update the impound notice;
- Adds stipulation to facts as part of a diversion agreement as a prior offense for Problem Pet Owner declaration; and
- Other minor housekeeping changes.

Earlier this year Council discussed the usefulness of dog licensing. Council questioned whether it made sense to ask people to license their dog when so few in the community comply with the requirement and there is little enforcement. However, the Animal Control officers felt there was value in requiring a license. As part of the licensing process, a person identifies themselves as the owner of a certain dog, which makes their job easier when trying to locate an owner. An owner is also required to provide proof or certify their dog has been vaccinated, which is good for the animal community at large. When Animal Control responds to a call for service, Animal Control does enforce the licensing requirement.

Kennewick and Richland removed their licensing requirements and encouraged chipping. The shelter in Benton County reported that only 5% of dogs are chipped and many of the chips are out of date.

ITEM BUDGETED:

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 24-25:

RECOMMENDATION: Pass Ordinance.

ATTACHMENTS:

[Ord-Ch 6.20 - Animal Control_redline.pdf](#)

[Ord-Ch 6.20 - Animal Control_Final.docx](#)