



Agenda Item:

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COUNCIL COMMUNICATION City Manager's Office

GENERAL INFORMATION

Agenda Date: 02/28/05
05-078

Communication No.:

Agenda Item Type: Ordinance
No.:

Roll Call

Submitted by: Diane Rauh, City Clerk

SUBJECT—

Waiver process to allow a fourth dog in a household.

SYNOPSIS—

The City Council directed staff to prepare an ordinance that would allow a fourth dog per household as long as that fourth dog was a small dog. Staff researched the American Kennel Club (AKC), American Veterinary Association, Iowa Veterinary Association, Westminster Kennel Club, American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), and the Des Moines Obedience Club. None of these organizations has established a definition of “small” dog. A search of the internet found sites that define “small” dog in a range from “not more than 12 pounds” to “not more than 25 pounds.” Animal Control Sgt. Scott Raudabaugh and City Veterinarian Dr. Jerry Schrader have recommend a weight not to exceed 20 pounds.

Animal owners requesting a waiver for the fourth dog will be provided a form from the City Clerk, who will administer the waiver process in conjunction with licensing. Waivers will be granted when all of the following conditions are met:

- The owner provides a current rabies vaccination certificate for the dog
- The owner provides proof that the dog has been spayed/neutered
- The animal weighs no more than 20 pounds, (a current weight statement from a Veterinarian will be required)
- The total number of dogs/cats per household does not exceed 6.

FISCAL IMPACT—

There are currently 82 known households in Des Moines that exceed the 3-dog limit. License fees will be collected for these additional dogs.

RECOMMENDATION—

Approval

BACKGROUND—

The City Council recently reviewed the ordinance regarding the 3-dog/3-cat limit per household. The ordinance was amended to allow 6 animals per household, with no more than 3 being dogs. Citizens then raised the issue of allowing a fourth dog.