



Department Source: Public Health and Human Services

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: May 21, 2018

Re: An ordinance amending Chapter 5 of the City Code related to animals and tethering.

Executive Summary

At Council's request, staff has drafted legislation to define the conditions under which an animal may be tethered. In preparing this amendment, staff reviewed ordinances from other municipalities, consulted with a local anti-tethering advocate and the Prosecuting Attorney, and presented the proposed changes to the Board of Health. Based on the feedback received, we believe the proposed changes will result in an ordinance that allows some tethering while protecting animals. These proposed changes will allow for improved enforcement of the code by Animal Control Officers.

Discussion

Key changes to the ordinance include the following:

- Animals may not be tethered as the primary method of restraint;
- Animals may not be tethered for a period longer than thirty (30) minutes unless provided with adequate food, water and shelter;
- Animals may not be tethered unless supervised by a competent person physically present on the property;
- The type of tethers and harnesses to be used are defined;
- No dog under six months of age may be tethered;
- The maximum reach of the tethered animal can be no closer than 10 feet from a sidewalk or property line;

In addition to the changes related to tethering, staff also proposes minor changes to eliminate the gender-specific language throughout Chapter 5. These changes were recommended by the Human Rights Commission.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: None

Long-Term Impact: None

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

[Strategic Plan Impacts:](#)

Primary Impact: Public Safety, Secondary Impact: Not Applicable, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable



City of Columbia

701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Not Applicable, Secondary Impact: Not applicable, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Legislative History

Date	Action
2011	Code Section Amendment
2-19-18	Council Report

Suggested Council Action

Should the Council agree with staff recommendations, an affirmative vote is in order.