

Board of Health

November 22, 2024

Mayor Buffaloe and City Council
City of Columbia
701 East Broadway
Columbia, MO 65201

Dear Mayor Buffaloe and Councilmembers:

On November 14, 2024 the Board of Health discussed Chapter 5- Animals and Fowl of the City Code. Section 5-60 states: “No person shall, at any time, keep, harbor or own, at one location within the city, more than a total of four (4) dogs or cats over the age of six (6) months. This provision shall not apply to a lawfully operated commercial kennel, a kennel maintained in connection with a small animal hospital, the city pound or persons in their role as registered caretakers of feral cats.” As it is written the Code does not allow for the Health Department Director to approve a variance from or a waiver to compliance with this section. Further review of Chapter 5 identified other sections that were out of date and/or needed updates/edits.

The Board unanimously agreed to request that the City Council consider directing the Board of Health to review Chapter 5- Animals and Fowl of the City Code. The Board would review Chapter 5 and discuss any recommended edits during its monthly Board meeting. These meetings will include a period for comments from the public. Upon completion of its review, the Board will submit recommendations to Council for consideration. We appreciate your consideration of this request.

Sincerely

Jonathan Heidt, MD
Chair