

City of Mesquite, Texas

Legislation Text

File #: 18-3372, **Version:** 1

An ordinance amending Chapter 4 of the City Code amending regulations regarding animals subject to impoundment, adding provisions related to the tethering and containment of dogs and inclement weather requirements.

Staff presented proposed recommendations to the City Council on March 19, 2018, and a Public Input Meeting was held on March 22, 2018, to gather additional input from residents. The proposed amendments reflect the feedback and information gathered.

The proposed changes include the following:

- Section 4-1 - Amend Section 4-1 by amending the definition of “owner” and adding definitions for “shelter” and “tether.
- Amend by adding a new Section 4-14 - Addition of inclement weather requirements and restrictions regarding keeping animals outdoors during these conditions.
- Sec. 4-51 - Amend the section by deleting Section 4-51(a) in its entirety and adding a new Section 4-51 (a). This section establishes the requirement for a dog to be under the control of an owner by means of a leash of sufficient strength and length to control the actions of the dog, otherwise it must be confined within the boundaries of the property, inside a building or tethered as prescribed in this chapter.
- Amend by adding new Sections 4-57 and 4-58
 - Allows for attended tethering and defines requirements.
 - Established guidelines for outdoor containment and kennel specifications.
- Amend Section 4-101 - Adds the ability for Staff to impound an animal if violations exist, in regards to tethering or confining the animal.
- Establishes fine amount, not to exceed \$500.00.

Staff presented background information and options regarding tethering to both City Council as a Pre-Meeting item on March 19, 2018, and presented the same information to residents during a public hearing on March 22, 2018. The proposed language contained in the ordinance is based on feedback gathered during both meetings. It should be noted that public support of amending the rules regarding tethering was split of those that spoke during the public hearing.

Recommended/Desired Action

Staff recommends approval of the ordinance.

Attachment(s)

Ordinance

Drafter

Raymond Rivas

Head of Department
Raymond Rivas