

PUBLIC SAFETY AND HEALTH COMMITTEE REPORT
Wednesday, August 3, 2011 8:15 AM – 9:15 AM
Council Chambers, 140 West Pine Street, Missoula, Montana

Members Present: Dave Strohmaier, Pam Walzer, Bob Jaffe, Jon Wilkins, Lynn Hellegaard, Ed Childers

Members Not Present:, Cynthia Wolken, Renee Mitchell, Dick Haines

Other Present: Jim Nugent, Ed Franceschina, Marty Rehbein, Derek Goldman, Laura O'Conner, Jackie Walker

I. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

1. Approve minutes from [July 27, 2011](#). Minutes approved unanimously.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

III. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

IV. REGULAR AGENDA ITEM

1. Consider an ordinance amending Title 6 Missoula Municipal Code entitled "Animals" repealing Chapters 6.02, 6.04, 6.09, 6.12, 6.16, 6.20 and 6.22, enacting Chapter 6.07 entitled "Animal Ordinance" and renaming Chapter 6.08 entitled "Dogs and Pet Shops" to "Pet Shops, Pet Sales and Boarding Kennels" to generally amend, recodify and update the city's regulations pertaining to animals, increase license fees and increase fines pertaining to violations. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Marty Rehbein) (Referred to committee: 06/27/11)

Ed Franceschina provided an overview of proposed changes to the animal ordinance regarding cats.

Pam Walzer described her concerns regarding cats spraying property.

Ed Franceschina responded that spraying could be added to the proposed changes to the ordinance.

Dave Strohmaier inquired about prohibiting cats from leaving an owner's property.

Ed Franceschina responded that prohibiting cats from leaving an owner's property would be extremely difficult to enforce. He discussed providing live traps to the public.

Ed Childers asked why Animal Control is even involved with cats if they do not have the resources to enforce the cat section of the ordinance.

Ed Franceschina agreed that Animal Control has a difficult time enforcing the cat section of the ordinance. He discussed the history of the cat section of the animal ordinance.

Jon Wilkins expressed his concerns about trapping and the lack of Animal Control monitoring of traps provided to citizens. He provided examples outlining his concerns. He feels that the traps should be monitored in some manner by Animal Control. He described his personal experiences with cats.

Bob Jaffe feels that the changes to the ordinance will at least give people some recourse when contending with a nuisance cat. He discussed the possibility of licensing cats.

Ed Franceschina discussed cat licensing programs. He stated that Animal Control would require additional resources to implement such a program. He described some of the issues regarding a cat licensing program.

Pam Walzer feels that reasonable regulation is needed.

Jon Wilkins advocated placing identifying tags on cats.

Dave Strohmaier raised the issue of cats and their impact on wildlife.

Ed Franceschina discussed the issue in regards to the ordinance.

Jackie Walker discussed her issues with free roaming cats spraying, defecating, and otherwise creating a nuisance for her.

Derek Goldman indicated his support for the proposed changes to the ordinance. He described some of the issues he has experienced in regards to free roaming cats. He feels that the proposed changes will allow for better enforcement.

Ed Childers expressed concerns about the ability to enforce the ordinance.

Laura O'Conner clarified that the local Humane Society does not have a position regarding cats being inside or outside. She expressed her concerns about live trapping and the fate of the trapped cats.

Bob Jaffe asked how Derek Goldman's issues would be resolved under the proposed changes to the ordinance.

Ed Franceschina outlined how the process would work.

Bob Jaffe asked for clarification.

Ed Franceschina feels that educating the public is important. He discussed the difficulties regarding the training of cats. He pointed out the wording in the ordinance that refers to education.

Dave Strohmaier would like to explore adding the wording 'native wildlife' to the changes.

Marty Rehbein asked for clarification on the possible wildlife wording in regards to birds.

Derek Goldman feels that including wildlife in the wording would be beneficial. He described a personal experience where he resolved his cat issue with the cat owner, and he did not need to involve Animal Control.

Dave Strohmaier asked Laura O'Conner for her thoughts regarding the training of cats.

Laura O'Conner responded that cats love to be trained. She discussed neutering and fencing as possible options.

Pam Walzer referred to the upcoming committee meeting agenda. She would like to see the draft disseminated to the public before the next committee meeting

Marty Rehbein stated that she would not be able to do that until early next week due to staffing shortages.

Pam Walzer summarized her draft regarding the keeping of bees.

V. HELD AND ON-GOING AGENDA ITEMS

1. Police Department Update – Ongoing in Committee. (Mark Muir)
2. Fire Department Update – Ongoing in Committee (Mike Painter)

3. Health Department Update – Ongoing in Committee. (Ellen Leahy)
4. Eat Smart Coalition information. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Jason Wiener) (Referred to committee: 07/11/11)

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 AM. Submitted by Gregg Schonbachler.