



Bernalillo County Animal Control and Protection



Facts about the Proposed Changes in the Animal Care Ordinance

The changes for the Animal Control Ordinance – Chapter 6 are based on recommendations provided by the Animal Control Officers, with the intent to strengthen and close loopholes in the current ordinance.

Current changes affecting all Animal Owners:

- All dogs, cats, and ferrets would be required to have a microchip in addition to the rabies vaccination and license. The fees for the license would increase to \$5.00 for sterilized animals and \$20.00 for unsterilized animals. A three year license is also being proposed with the recommended fees of \$12.00 for a sterilized animal and \$50.00 for an unsterilized animal.

Current changes affecting most Permit Holders:

- All permit fees would be increased.
- Records will be required and available for inspection: including inventory, disposition, disease control, and inoculations of animals.
- Inspections will no longer be on an annual basis, but will be expanded to an as needed basis.
- Sales of dogs and cats will be from the permit holders residence and will no longer be allowed along the roadside or from a commercial business.

Current changes affecting Violators:

- The language for animal cruelty has been expanded to include acts of negligence including providing basic or emergency medical attention, maintaining an animal in an enclosed environment without provisions to prevent pain or suffering, and performing ear-cropping, de barking, or tail docking on an animal or otherwise endangering an animal's well-being (excluding procedures completed by a veterinarian).
- The language for fighting animals has been expanded to include possession of fighting paraphernalia, use of bait animals, and training or condition of animals.
- Owners of animals biting a person may be mandated to quarantine the animal at a boarding facility for the full length of quarantine period and be responsible for boarding fees if ordered by an Animal Control Officer.

Current changes directly affecting Officers:

- Procedure complaints will now include a perjury statement (filing false reports).
- New language has been written to outline procedures for seizure of animals and livestock whose life is endangered due to violations of the ordinance.
- Language has been expanded concerning Interference of Animal Control Officer in the performance of their duties to include concealing identity and interfering with or tampering with animal control equipment
- Language has been added to include impounding of livestock and final disposition of impounded livestock confiscated for violations of the ordinance (such as running at large).

This is only a summary of major changes. For a full copy of the proposed revisions visit www.bernco.gov and click on "Residents – Animal Licensing" or stop by the Bernalillo County Animal Control and Protection Office at 1136 Gatewood Avenue SW (314-0280).

Public Hearings are being scheduled in various Commissioner's District's. Meeting dates will be posted on the Animal Control Website found at www.bernco.gov.