



Comprehensive Safety Measures for Loose and Dangerous Dogs

Item #2

COUNCIL CONSIDERATION REQUEST

Submitted May 2, 2024, by Council District 7

Background

- San Antonio is experiencing a high number of roaming and stray animals.
- Irresponsible pet ownership and a lack of knowledge of the law is the primary reason for roaming pets.
- Spaying or neutering (sterilization) is an effective tactic to reducing overpopulation of pets.

Request

- The CCR requests:
 - 1) Increase fines for repeat owners for roaming dog violations
 - 2) Sterilization of owned pets found free of restraint
 - 3) Implement a pseudonym program to protect the identity of people filing Dangerous dog affidavits

CURRENT EFFORTS



Animal Care Services (ACS)

- Pet owners are issued sterilization agreements if their animal is free of restraint and/or for bite cases.
- Pet owner has 30 days to get their pet altered, per Chapter 5 Code.
- ACS is charged with issuing civil and criminal citations to pet owners that do not complete their sterilization agreement.
- ACS funds over 40,000 free or low-cost spay and neuter surgeries onsite and through partner agencies.
- Historically ACS has not completed surgeries of owned animals onsite, and lacks the capacity to complete a significant number of additional surgeries onsite.

CURRENT EFFORTS



Fines

- Chapter 5 Code minimum fines are:
 - \$100 first offense
 - \$200 second offense
 - \$300 third offense

Dangerous Dog Process

- City laws on dangerous and aggressive dogs are taken directly from State law.
- ACS receives and investigates approximately 300 sworn statements (affidavits) from the public for dangerous and aggressive dogs annually.
- ACS provides outreach and education on how to file a dangerous dog affidavits.
- A pseudonym can be used with the State form (affidavit).
- Once appealed to an appellate court the actual name must be disclosed.

Staff Recommendation



- Staff recommends this CCR go to the Public Safety Committee for review.