

Proposed Revisions to Rockville's Animal Control Ordinance



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COUNCILMEMBER JULIE PALAKOVICH CARR

Public Outreach



- Town Hall
- Animal Matters Board
- Environment Commission
- Recreation and Park Advisory Board
- Emails and letters from residents

Animal Cruelty



- Strengthens requirements for outdoor pet shelters
- New restrictions on tethering animals
 - More consistent with Montgomery County regulations

Exotic Animals



- Prohibits the keeping of dangerous exotic animals as pets, such as bears, lions, tigers, primates, wolves, poisonous snakes
 - New: exemption for exotic animals used as service animals limited to capuchin monkeys.
- Removes the existing City requirement for the permitting of non-dangerous exotic animals (e.g. rabbits, birds, fish, turtles, lizards, etc.)
- Requires owners to notify the police if their exotic pet escapes and poses a threat

Off-Leash Dog Areas



- New: would allow City to designate an area(s) on public property for off-leash dog exercise and play
 - Further community input would be sought on locations
- Proposed by a resident
- Endorsed by the Recreation and Park Advisory Board

Trap-Neuter-Return



- There are already many feral cats in Rockville. The question is how to best manage them.
- Goal is less feral cats.
- Research shows that TNR is effective at reducing feral cat populations
 - Efforts in East Rockville

Licensing



- Ensures compliance with rabies vaccination requirement
- Jurisdictions that require licensing of cats:
 - Montgomery County
 - Gaithersburg
 - Frederick, Howard, and Prince George's Counties
 - Baltimore
 - Bowie
 - College Park
 - Laurel
- New: Dogs, cats, and ferrets must wear a license when off the property of the owner unless microchipped.

Goats



- Would allow the City to use goats to remove invasive and undesirable plants from public property
- Used successfully throughout the DC-metropolitan area
- Accomplished through a contract with an external service provider
- Healthier for people and more environmentally friendly than pesticides

Backyard Hens



- Would allow up to five hens to be kept at a single-family home. No roosters.
- Chickens would not be allowed to roam free—must have an outdoor enclosure in addition to coop.
- Setbacks from property line and neighboring houses.
 - Not all homes in Rockville would be able to keep chickens.
 - New: coops must be located in the backyard.
- Coop would be required to be kept clean.
- New: chickens younger than 8 weeks of age cannot be imported into the City.

Public Input



- Public hearing on February 9, 2015
- Send comments via email to mayorandcouncil@rockvillemd.gov