



MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and City Council

From: Danny Barton, Chief of Police

Date: April 27, 2021

Reference: Consider approval of an Ordinance of the City of Coppell, Texas, Amending the Code of Ordinances by amending Chapter 9 “General Regulations”, Article 9-1 “Animal Services”, Section 9-1-1 “Definitions” of the Code of Ordinances to add the definitions of “Tether”, “Tethering Device”, and “Properly Fitted”; Amending the Code of Ordinances by amending Chapter 9 ‘General Regulations’, Article 9-1 “Animal Services”, Section 9-1-3 “Running At Large” of the Code of Ordinances by replacing it in its entirety and replacing with a new section 9-1-3 “Running At Large/Restraint”; and authorizing the Mayor to sign.

Introduction: Over the past few years, Coppell Animal Services has received calls from concerned citizens regarding the way some residents tether dogs on their private property. These same residents have expressed a desire to consider a Tethering Ordinance for the City of Coppell.

Background: Staff has met and discussed a proposed animal tethering ordinance in previous work sessions. Numerous citizens voiced their concerns during the public comments at previous council meetings. The direction from council was to draft an ordinance much like the Dallas, Texas city ordinance related to tethered animals, specifically dogs. Council asked staff to proceed on an ordinance that requires the animal’s owner to be present during any tethering. Additionally, a time frame was also suggested that would allow an animal to be tethered in the event an owner needed to tether the animal to complete a temporary task.

This proposed amendment to City of Coppell Ordinance Chapter 9, Article 9-1, Section 9-1-3, Running at Large/Restraint.

This amendment requires the animal’s owner to be present if an animal is tethered and further restricts a temporary task exception to one hour within a 24-hour period. No animal may be tethered during extreme weather conditions.

A copy of the proposed ordinance is attached as an exhibit.

Legal: The proposed amendment to Chapter 9, Article 9-1 Section 9-1-3 was drafted by Bob Hager.

Fiscal Impact: None.