

BRIEFING PAPER
City of Spokane
Plan Commission
Wednesday, November 18, 2015

Subject

Suggested changes to Spokane Municipal Code (SMC) 17C.310 Animal Keeping regarding noisy animals.

Background

Regional Animal Protection Services included the adoption of a regional ordinance for uniform enforcement of laws and public policy. The City of Spokane adopted this regional ordinance – Spokane County Code (SCC) Chapter 5.04 with the exception of certain sections pertaining to potentially dangerous and dangerous dogs. Additional language will be added to SMC 17.C.310.010 A (2) Noisy Animals as this section currently does not delineate between dogs and other animals. Language which regulated animal noise was removed when the reference to SCC 5.04 was adopted. The adoption of this section would restore the ability to regulate animal noise. The regional ordinance under SCC 5.04 provides a separate section that regulates barking dogs. Language will also be updated to provide clarification on what consists of a violation of this ordinance.

Impact

No changes to animal keeping of animals except dogs and cats. Barking dog enforcement is regulated separately from other animals according to the regional ordinance. Noisy animals except for dogs are regulated in SMC. Additionally, language has been clarified so it is clear to the public what constitutes a violation.

Action

Recommend a public hearing and forward the proposed changes to the City Council for consideration

Funding

No funding is required. Enforcement is included in the current inter-local agreement and the MOU regarding Urban Farm Animals with Spokane County Regional Animal Protection Service (SCRAPS).