

## Legislation Details (With Text)

<b>File #:</b>	21-172	<b>Name:</b>	
<b>Type:</b>	Presentation	<b>Status:</b>	Individual Item Ready
<b>File created:</b>	2/8/2021	<b>In control:</b>	City Council
<b>On agenda:</b>	2/22/2021	<b>Final action:</b>	
<b>Title:</b>	Presentation on proposed amendments to Chapter 6, Animals, related to tethering, keeping of rabbits, and general standards of pet care, as recommended by the Animal Services Advisory Board.		
<b>Sponsors:</b>			
<b>Indexes:</b>			
<b>Code sections:</b>			
<b>Attachments:</b>	1. Draft Animal Amendments		

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
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Presenter

*Christopher J. Looney, AICP, Planning and Development Services Director*  
*clooney@nbtexas.org*

**SUBJECT:**

Presentation on proposed amendments to Chapter 6, Animals, related to tethering, keeping of rabbits, and general standards of pet care, as recommended by the Animal Services Advisory Board.

**BACKGROUND / RATIONALE:**

**Council District:** All

**Staff Contact:** Bryan Ruiz, Neighborhood Services Manager  
(830) 221-4073  
bruiz@nbtexas.org

Chapter 6 of the City's Code of Ordinances includes standards for the care and treatment of pets and animals in New Braunfels. State of Texas statutes include minimal standards that the City of New Braunfels codified initially in 1961. Amendments over the years have built upon those minimum state standards to meet the community's local desires and goals for animal care. The Animal Services Advisory Board (ASAB) has considered a collection of additional amendments over the last year:

**Tethering**

In response to calls for service, Animal Control staff periodically encounter instances of dogs being chained or tied up at the bare minimum of three feet. Such a limited tether length not only limits a dog's radius of movement, but sometimes puts shade, shelter and even food and water out of reach. Amendments were drafted to provide standards for tethering to ensure a pet's health and safety.

**Rabbits**

Historically, New Braunfels' rules have been very limiting on rabbit ownership. Both rabbits and

chickens are the most feasible animals for 4H programs; as such, several years ago, the City adopted more flexible rules for chickens. Additionally, when owners release their pet rabbits to the Humane Society's Animal Shelter, the shelter cannot adopt them out due to the current regulations. The proposed amendments are intended to provide added flexibility for rabbit ownership.

### **General Care**

After instances of concern from the public regarding observed owner treatment of pets, staff received requests from citizens to examine the ordinances for opportunities to strengthen the rules. Staff researched ordinances in other Texas cities, and worked with the ASAB to develop some amendments that clarify requirements associated with food, water, shelter, and inclement weather.

### **ADDRESSES A NEED/ISSUE IN A CITY PLAN OR COUNCIL PRIORITY:**

<b>Envision New Braunfels Comprehensive Plan</b>	<b>Action 3.6:</b> Pro-actively provide a regulatory environment that remains business and resident friendly. <b>Action 3.35:</b> Support local non-profits whose mission includes Envision New Braunfels goals.
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### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

N/A

### **COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:**

The Animal Services Advisory Board considered and recommended approval of these consolidated amendments at their meetings in 2020 and 2021.

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

No action is required at this time. This is an initial briefing; consideration of a first reading will be on a forthcoming City Council agenda.