

# MEMO

**To: Bloomington Common Council**  
**From: Virgil Sauder, Director of Animal Care and Control**  
**Date: 7/28/23**  
**Re: Animal Control Commission's Recommended Updates to Title 7 of the Municipal Code**

The City of Bloomington Animal Control Commission (ACC) is recommending changes to the Municipal Code. The changes update the dangerous animal ordinance, add a deer feeding ban, increase the amount of some fees, and update the appeals section. The updates to the dangerous animal ordinance are intended to make regulations easier to understand and reflect current understanding of canine behavior. The added feeding ban adds language recommended by the Deer Task Force in 2012 and supported by Council and the ACC as a first step in addressing deer conflicts. The increased fees for adoptions and surrender fees are intended to offset the increase in costs. The update to the appeals sections conforms to state law.

## **Summary of Major Changes by Section**

### **7.01.010 Definitions:**

Change from "Potentially Dangerous Levels 1,2,3" and "Vicious" to "Potentially dangerous", "Dangerous", and "Vicious" - this streamlines the process to make it more accessible to individuals. Also, it gives the Animal Control Commission some flexibility between adjacent levels based on the situation, such as in the case of a dog severely injuring another large dog being a higher level than a dog severely injuring or killing a chicken.

### **7.26 Potentially Dangerous, Dangerous, and Vicious**

Changing requirements for Potentially Dangerous Levels 1, 2, 3 and Vicious to Potentially Dangerous, Dangerous, and Vicious. Requiring a microchip for any declaration to assist in future identification of an offending dog. Requiring muzzling in public for Dangerous and Vicious Dogs.

### **7.40.030 Deer Feeding ban**

Added language to prohibit the feeding of deer.

#### **7.54.010 Surrender Fees**

Increasing fees to surrender animals from outside of Monroe County due to increased cost of care.

#### **7.54.080 Adoption Fees**

Changing set fees to a “not to exceed amount” for cats, dogs and rabbits to allow for increases based on rising medical costs needed to prepare animals for spay/neuter. Fee changes will continue to be reviewed by the Animal Control Commission. These fees were originally set to cover the following: cost of spay/neuter, microchip, intake vaccines and wormer. At that time the services cost \$75. The current shelter cost for these services is \$95 per cat and \$130 per dog.

#### **7.56.060 Habitual Offender**

Providing the Animal Control Commission the added ability to require individuals declared Habitual Offenders to take a responsible pet owner course.

#### **7.56.070 Appeals**

Changes the timeframe for an appeal of a decision by the Animal Control Commission to the Monroe County Circuit Court.