

**CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
INTERDEPARTMENTAL MEMORANDUM
SAN ANTONIO METROPOLITAN HEALTH DISTRICT**

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Fernando A. Guerra, M.D., M.P.H., Director of Health

THROUGH: Terry M. Brechtel, City Manager

COPIES: Frances A. Gonzalez, Assistant to the City Manager; City Attorney's Office; Office of Management and Budget; Project; File

SUBJECT: AMENDING MULTIPLE SECTIONS OF CHAPTER FIVE OF THE CITY CODE

DATE: September 25, 2003

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This ordinance will amend multiple sections of Chapter 5 of the City Code of the City of San Antonio dealing with vaccination against rabies in order to take into account recent changes to state law and adding an additional requirement for the owners of dangerous animals.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

It is the policy of the City of San Antonio to require owners of dogs, cats and domestic ferrets to have their animals vaccinated against rabies in order to protect the public health of residents and visitors. The Animal Care Services Facility of the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District provides rabies vaccinations for dogs, cats and domestic ferrets. Currently, a vaccine is used that is effective for only one year. However, a new vaccine is available that will protect dogs and cats for three years. The Texas Department of Health recently established a rule allowing rabies vaccinations at three-year intervals for dogs and cats, as an alternative to the one-year immunization. The City desires to incorporate these changes in state law into the City Code.

The City is also adding in the City Code an additional requirement for the owners of dangerous animals. Currently there are nine (9) requirements that must be met before an animal that has been declared dangerous can be released to the owner by the city veterinarian. The addition of a tenth (10) requirement will require the owner to allow an annual inspection of the residence where the animal is kept to ensure continued compliance with all section requirements.

POLICY ANALYSIS

The changes proposed in this ordinance related to the new rabies vaccine follow the past City practice of updating the City Code to reflect changes in state laws. In addition, the modification to the requirements for dangerous animal strengthens City efforts to protect the public.

FISCAL IMPACT

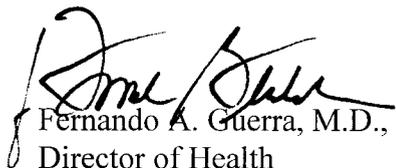
Acceptance of this ordinance will place no demands on the City General Fund.

COORDINATION

The City Attorney's Office and the Office of Management and Budget have reviewed the changes contained in this ordinance.

SUPPLEMENTARY COMMENTS

Provisions of the Ethics Ordinance do not apply.


Fernando A. Guerra, M.D., M.P.H.
Director of Health


Frances A. Gonzalez
Assistant to the City Manager

APPROVED:


Terry M. Brechtel
City Manager