



Agenda Item Summary

File #: 23-00242

Agenda Date: 6/13/2023

Agenda Item Name:

Public Hearing to Update Alachua County Code Chapter 72 on Animals

Presenter:

Julie Johnson, Animal Resources & Care Director, 352-264-6890

Description:

Public Hearing to Update Animal Code Chapter 72

Recommended Action:

Hold the Public Hearing and adopt the proposed ordinance, as presented, and authorize the Chair to sign.

Prior Board Motions:

Request to Advertise for Public Hearing was held on 5/23/23.

Fiscal Note:

N/A.

Strategic Guide:

All Other Mandatory and Discretionary Services

Background:

Alachua County staff did a comprehensive review of Chapter 72 of the Alachua County Code titled "Animals" to ensure it is consistent with changes in State law and current County practices. A proposed draft ordinance was approved on May 10, 2023 by the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee and the Committee's input was received. The request to advertise a Public Hearing was held on May 23, 2023, with Board of County Commission's (Board) input received on further changes to the draft ordinance.

Since the draft ordinance was last presented to the Board, the following additional edits were made: New language was added in 72.03 that protecting animals is legitimate public interest and that the County adopts the Five Freedoms as a standard regarding animal welfare; Capitalization to several terms to reference terms with definitions; "Humanely Euthanized" was added to the definition of Human Euthanasia for clarity; the use of Director was modified to County Manager or designee for authorization if a dog can be safely confined at home during an investigation to allow flexibility if the Director is not available; Section 72.17 and Section 72.18 were reworded due to a request for clarity and to mirror State law; Section 72.27 was amended to say "Harbor" a stray animal rather than the

previous language of 'harbor, feed or keep'.

If this agenda item is approved, Alachua County Code Chapter 72 will be updated and Section 24.16 on the penalties for violation of the Animal Code will be amended. A public hearing is required to adopt this ordinance.