

**CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS
AGENDA ITEM
DEPARTMENT HEAD'S SUMMARY FORM**

DEPARTMENT: Mayor and Council

AGENDA DATE: 01/17/2024

CONTACT PERSON NAME AND PHONE NUMBER:

Rep. Chris Canales, 915-212-0008

DISTRICT(S) AFFECTED: All Districts

STRATEGIC GOAL:

Goal 8 – Nurture & Promote a Healthy, Sustainable Community

SUBJECT:

**APPROVE a resolution / ordinance / lease to do what? OR AUTHORIZE the City Manager to do what?
Be descriptive of what we want Council to approve. Include \$ amount if applicable.**

Discussion and action directing the City Manager and City Attorney to develop an amendment to Title 7 to ban surgical procedures on domestic animals with no medical necessity, including aesthetic procedures such as cosmetic caudectomy (commonly known as “tail docking”) and cosmetic otoplasty (commonly known as “ear cropping”) as well as other elective functional alterations for owner convenience such as onychectomy (also known as partial digital amputation or commonly “declawing”) and ventriculocordectomy (also known as devocalization or commonly “debarking” or “demeowing”);

and further directing that this amendment shall be constructed so as not to ban procedures such as spay/neuter or minor ear clipping related to a sanctioned Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) program;

and further directing that proposed amendments be presented to the Animal Shelter Advisory Committee for their recommendation, and that staff return to the City Council with a draft amendment and recommendations within 90 days.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION:

Discussion of the what, why, where, when, and how to enable Council to have reasonably complete description of the contemplated action. This should include attachment of bid tabulation, or ordinance or resolution if appropriate. What are the benefits to the City of this action? What are the citizen concerns?

The proposed amendment aims to ban surgical procedures in domestic animals with no medical necessity. This includes aesthetic procedures such as tail docking and ear cropping, as well as other elective functional alterations for owner convenience procedures like onychectomy (partial digital amputation or commonly “declawing”) and ventriculocordectomy (also known as devocalization or commonly “debarking” or “demeowing”).

The primary motivation behind this proposal is to prioritize the well-being and ethical treatment of domestic animals within the city. Banning unnecessary surgical procedures aligns with contemporary standards of animal welfare and veterinary medicine, promoting responsible pet ownership and humane treatment. The primary benefit is the promotion of humane treatment of animals within the city limits. This aligns with the values of a compassionate and responsible community.

To implement this proposal, the City Manager and City Attorney will collaborate to draft the necessary amendments to Title 7. Subsequently, the proposed amendments will be presented to the Animal Shelter Advisory Committee (ASAC) for their recommendation. The involvement of the Animal Shelter Advisory

Committee provides a platform for additional input and recommendations. The goal is to deliver a final draft along with recommendations from City staff and the ASAC back to the City Council for consideration within 90 days.

For full clarity, this amendment shall be constructed so as not to ban procedures such as spay/neuter or minor ear clipping related to a sanctioned Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) program.

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION:

Has the Council previously considered this item or a closely related one?

N/A

AMOUNT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:

How will this item be funded? Has the item been budgeted? If so, identify funding source by account numbers and description of account. Does it require a budget transfer?

N/A

*****REQUIRED AUTHORIZATION*****

DEPARTMENT HEAD:
