

BCC 2-21-17 #35

Bachteler, James J

From: Walsh, J Doyle
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2017 2:40 PM
To: Mikahkid2@aol.com
Subject: RE: Animal Ordinance Revision

Good afternoon Ms. Smith - thank you for your email. The Board appreciates your comments and input. The final public hearing for this item is scheduled for February 21st at 6pm. Your comments have been added to the official record. If you need any further assistance please let me know. Thanks again for reaching out,

-Doyle

Jordan Doyle Walsh
Office of Commissioner Janet C. Long
Chair, Pinellas Board of County Commissioners
Phone: 727-464-3365

RECEIVED
BOARD OF
2017 FEB 20 AM 7:55
PINELLAS COUNTY FLORIDA

From: Mikahkid2@aol.com [mailto:Mikahkid2@aol.com]
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2017 8:47 AM
To: Justice, Charlie <cjustice@co.pinellas.fl.us>; Long, Janet C <JanetCLong@co.pinellas.fl.us>; Gerard, Pat <pgerard@co.pinellas.fl.us>; Seel, Karen <kseel@co.pinellas.fl.us>; Morrioni, John <jmorrioni@co.pinellas.fl.us>; Welch, Kenneth <kwelch@co.pinellas.fl.us>; Eggers, Dave <deggers@co.pinellas.fl.us>
Cc: Bennett, John A <JABennett@co.pinellas.fl.us>; Brightwell, Doug <dbrightwell@co.pinellas.fl.us>; mikahkid2@aol.com
Subject: Animal Ordinance Revision

Florida Association Of Kennel Clubs

February 17, 2017

Pinellas County Commissioners
315 Court Street
Clearwater, FL 33768

EXPOSED
CONCERN

Sent via email: All Commissioners, Assistant County Administrator, Animal Services Director

Dear Honorable Commissioners:

Thank you for allowing the Florida Association of Kennel Clubs (FAKC) to be part of the process with your animal ordinance revision. It has established a valuable working relationship. Progress has been made; however, there are still areas of concern.

An Animal Advisory Board/Committee should be established. It could consist of an appointee by each commissioner, a representative from animal services, the humane society of Pinellas County, a veterinarian and a knowledgeable person in good standing from the purebred dog and cat community.

Exemption of humane organizations and/or rescue groups is not in the best interest of the public or the animals. It allows them to operate with no oversight, to keep dogs in conditions not regulated and to sell unhealthy and sometimes

dangerous dogs to the public. None of which would be tolerated by the public for purebred dog/cat breeders or pet stores. The same requirements should apply to humane organizations to protect the public and consumers as well as the health of the animals.

The following are suggestions by FAKC for the Feb. 7, 2017 ordinance revision. Some of these suggestions include current language as well as new language.

Page 2 - At-Large Generally, at-large defines an animal not contained on an owner's premises. Not so with your definition "on the Owner's premises which is not within the unobstructed sight and in the control of the owner". FAKC **cannot** support this definition.

Page 3 - Hobby Breeder - "nationally recognized" is problematic as some types of legitimate dog clubs are not nationally recognized.

Page 3 Kennel - Using the term "training" in this definition is inappropriate. By so doing, you have put dog training and/or agility clubs in violation of your ordinance. Many of these clubs offer "free" obedience classes to people who have purchased a dog from a shelter thus making that owner more responsible and the dog a better behaved family pet. A training entity/facility which houses animals would be a better fit for your definition.

Page 7 "Point of sale certificate" - Again, request clarification on what this certificate is and its required information. FAKC cannot support such an unknown.

Page 10 - Sec. 14-35 (e) - "any" needs to be corrected to read "an" animal.

Page 13 - Sec. 14-46 Enforcement (d) - Giving authority to non-county government employees not trained in accordance with State law is unacceptable. Especially, when using taxpayer funds.

Page 13 - Sec. 14-47 - Giving such wide spread authority to the Director goes against the very foundation our country was founded on. Especially concerned regarding vaccination programs, population control programs that State law already covers.

Page 14 - Sec. 14-48 Impoundment (a) - FAKC will only support using state or county employees duly trained by state requirements. Humane organizations tend to have a negative attitude regarding purebred dog breeders.

Page 17 - Sterilization (b) - FAKC **cannot** support this. Mandatory sterilization for two impoundments in a two year period is excessive. Educating the pet owner in better confinement techniques would better serve the community.

Page 18 - Sec. 14-61 (4) - Exception is made for breakaway collars for cats; however, there is no exception for dogs. Wearing a collar at all times, especially without supervision, can result in injury and/or strangulation. It also can be damaging to the coat for dogs being shown. Allowing permanent identification such as a micro-chip or tattoo would be a solution to this requirement.

Page 27 - Sec. 14-67 Hearings (f) - Only the owner is required to post a statutory fee (deposit); the County should also be required to post a fee as it will discourage weak claims. The hearing officer may be the director of the health department or its designee. As an employee of the county, they are not disinterested parties, especially if these hearings are duties paid by the county for their employment and, therefore, it will not cost the county anything if they lose.

Inspections - Hobby breeders should be exempted from inspections except when animal services receives a legitimate complaint.

The continued eroding of the right to own and/or breed dogs is always an issue. Thank you for allowing FAKC to share our concerns.

Sincerely,
Susan Smith, President
352-848-1016
Mikahkid2@aol.com

Bachteler, James J

From: Walsh, J Doyle
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 8:50 AM
To: Karen Jahnig
Subject: RE: County breeder ordinance changes

Good morning Ms. Jahnig - thank you for your email. The Board appreciates your comments and input. The final public hearing for this item is scheduled for February 21st at 6pm. Your comments have been added to the official record. If you need any further assistance please let me know. Thanks again for reaching out,

-Doyle

Jordan Doyle Walsh
Office of Commissioner Janet C. Long
Chair, Pinellas Board of County Commissioners
Phone: 727-464-3365

-----Original Message-----

From: Karen Jahnig [mailto:kjahnig@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 19, 2017 11:57 PM
To: Long, Janet C <JanetCLong@co.pinellas.fl.us>
Subject: County breeder ordinance changes

Dear Commissioner,
Please delete the words "or training for a fee" from the kennel definition in the county breeder ordinance.
Karen Jahnig
Saint Pete Beach

Sent from my iPhone

Bachteler, James J

BCC 2-21-17 #35

From: Walsh, J Doyle
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 2:53 PM
To: pvs@akc.org
Subject: RE: Online Customer Service Contact Us Form Submission Result #8978539

Good afternoon- thank you for your email. The Board appreciates your comments and input. The final public hearing for this item is scheduled for February 21st at 6pm. Your comments have been added to the official record. If you need any further assistance please let me know. Thanks again for reaching out,

-Doyle

Jordan Doyle Walsh
Office of Commissioner Janet C. Long
Chair, Pinellas Board of County Commissioners
Phone: 727-464-3365

CONCERN

From: form_engine@fs30.formsite.com [mailto:form_engine@fs30.formsit
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 11:53 AM
To: Long, Janet C <JanetCLong@co.pinellas.fl.us>
Subject: Online Customer Service Contact Us Form Submission Result #8978539

This information is the result of a Pinellas Online Customer Service form submission from the Pinellas County web site.

Direction of inquiry * Commissioner Janet C. Long - District 1 (2017 Chair)
Commissioner Pat Gerard- District 2
Commissioner Charlie Justice - District 3
Commissioner Dave Eggers- District 4
Commissioner Karen Williams Seel - District 5
Commissioner John Morroni - District 6
County Administrator

Subject * AKC's Strong Concerns with Proposed Animal Ordinance

Message * February 17, 2017

Chairman Janet C. Long
Members of the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners
315 Court Street
Clearwater, FL 33756

RE: AKC's Strong Concerns with Proposed Animal Ordinance

Dear Chairman Long and Commission Members,

On behalf of responsible dog owners, exhibitors, and breeders in your community, the American Kennel Club respectfully writes to express strong concerns regarding a proposed ordinance that would impose intrusive and unnecessary regulations on breeders, reduce oversight of "rescue" groups, and potentially

criminalize the responsible actions of dog owners who compete in dog shows, trials and other events with their dogs.

These concerns include, but are not limited to:

- The proposed ordinance would define a person who sells one litter of cats or dogs per year as “pet dealer” and require compliance with kennel and breeder permitting requirements and payment of significant fees. The proposal further provides that inspections of “pet dealers” shall be conducted without notice, and the inspector shall, at a minimum, be given access to and the opportunity to inspect and photograph the animals, premises and records. This would include the private residence of a dog owner who is designated as a “pet dealer” under this overreaching definition.

The AKC supports reasonable and enforceable laws that protect the welfare and health of dogs and do not restrict the rights of breeders and owners who meet their responsibilities. The AKC opposes the concept of breeding permits.

We recommend striking all county breeder permitting requirements and instead enforcing strict compliance with Florida Statute 828.29 and state animal cruelty and neglect statutes. This will reduce the cost to county taxpayers for administration and enforcement of duplicative measures that apply only to breeders. It will also help ensure that dogs in the care of persons other than breeders will not be subjected to lower standards of care, and will enable animal code enforcement officers to more effectively spend their time enforcing necessary leash laws, animal cruelty and neglect laws, animal fighting laws, and other measures that protect all dogs in the community.

- Under this proposal, standards for animal care and sanitation for “pet dealers” and “kennels” would be established by the Department of Animal Services with no stakeholder input or community oversight.

- The proposed ordinance would reduce oversight of “rescue groups” by striking a section of existing law which requires that records of animals taken in by such groups must be made available for inspection by the Department of Animal Services at the impounding agency, at any time, upon the department's request. This reduction in oversight is potentially problematic for pets in the care of such organizations and for owners of lost pets that come under the control of such groups.

- The proposed ordinance seeks to strike a reasonable section of existing law that requires that animals confined outdoors at events such as a dog show or field trial shall be provided sufficient water to maintain normal hydration. Instead, it could make it a violation if a dog in these and other circumstances were not provided continuous access to water should a dog be unsupervised at any time. This change would negatively and unreasonably impact owners and handlers of dogs that are, for short time periods, outdoors without continuous access to water, but were otherwise provided water at sufficient intervals for the dogs to remain well-hydrated.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at 919-816-3645 or pvs@akc.org if you have questions or we may be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Patty Van Sicklen
Legislative Analyst

Your Name	American Kennel Club
Your Street Address	8051 Arco Corporate Drive, Suite 100
City/Unincorporated County	Raleigh, NC
Zip Code	37217
Your Phone Number	919-816-3645
Your Email Address *	pvs@akc.org

Bachteler, James J

From: Walsh, J Doyle
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 2:54 PM
To: Patty Van Sicklen
Subject: RE: AKC's Strong Concerns with Proposed Animal Ordinance

Good afternoon- thank you for your email. The Board appreciates your comments and input. The final public hearing for this item is scheduled for February 21st at 6pm. Your comments have been added to the official record. If you need any further assistance please let me know. Thanks again for reaching out,

-Doyle

Jordan Doyle Walsh

Office of Commissioner Janet C. Long
Chair, Pinellas Board of County Commissioners
Phone: 727-464-3365

From: Patty Van Sicklen [mailto:Patty.Van.Sicklen@akc.org]
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 11:42 AM
To: Long, Janet C <JanetCLong@co.pinellas.fl.us>; Welch, Kenneth <kwelch@co.pinellas.fl.us>; Gerard, Pat <pgerard@co.pinellas.fl.us>; Justice, Charlie <cjustice@co.pinellas.fl.us>; Eggers, Dave <deggers@co.pinellas.fl.us>; Seel, Karen <kseel@co.pinellas.fl.us>; Morrioni, John <jmorrioni@co.pinellas.fl.us>
Subject: AKC's Strong Concerns with Proposed Animal Ordinance

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Please do not hesitate to contact me at 919-816-3645 or pvs@akc.org if you have questions or we may be of assistance.

Patty Van Sicklen
Legislative Analyst



8051 Arco Corporate Drive, Raleigh, NC 27617
t: 919-816-3645 | e: pvs@akc.org
Visit our website: www.akc.org
Follow us on: [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)

TEXT OF ATTACHED LETTER:

February 17, 2017

Chairman Janet C. Long
Members of the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners
315 Court Street

Clearwater, FL 33756

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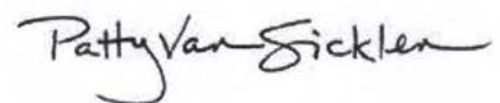
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Please do not hesitate to contact me at 919-816-3645 or pvs@akc.org if you have questions or we may be of assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patty Van Sicklen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "P" and a long, sweeping underline.

Patty Van Sicklen
Legislative Analyst