



CITY OF ALPINE
ANIMAL ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
April 14, 2026 – 5:30 PM

City Council Chambers, 803 W. Holland Avenue, Alpine, Texas 79830

1. **CALL TO ORDER.**

2. **DETERMINATION OF QUORUM**

3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS.**

Each person in attendance who desires to speak to the Board on an item on the agenda shall speak during this section. Public comments may be made regarding agenda items only. Attendees must be physically present in order to address the Board. Comments by proxy are not allowed. Public Comments are limited to 3 minutes per person. Unused time may not be yielded to other attendees.

4. **PUBLIC HEARINGS.**

At this time, the Chair will invite members of the public to address each item listed in this section. Comments made during this section are limited to the topic of each public hearing. Attendees must be physically present in order to address the Board. Comments by proxy are not allowed. Public Comments are limited to 3 minutes per person. Unused time may not be yielded to other attendees. If more than one public hearing is being held, each person will be allowed to speak during each topic.

5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

A. January 13, 2026 Meeting Minutes. (G. Calderon, City Secretary)

6. **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

A. Presentation and discussion regarding the Big Bend Pets 2025 Community Cat Program results, including program outcomes, fiscal impact, and cost savings associated with Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) and Return-to-Field (RTF) strategies. (J. Stewart, Animal Services)

B. Discussion and possible recommendation regarding proposed revisions to Section 10-58 (Animal protection) and Section 10-59 (Animals in vehicles), including provisions related to animals left unattended in vehicles, humane transport requirements, and enforcement authority. (J. Stewart, Animal Services)

C. Discussion and possible recommendation regarding proposed revisions to Section 10-85 (Application for permit for livestock and fowl), including application requirements, site documentation, and sanitation standards. (J. Stewart, Animal Services)

D. Discussion and possible recommendation regarding proposed revisions to Section 10-93 (Permit required for exotic animals), including permitting authority, public safety considerations, and coordination with state regulatory requirements. (J. Stewart, Animal Services)

E. Discussion and possible recommendation regarding proposed revisions to Section 10-117 (Running at large prohibited), including enforcement procedures, identification requirements, and animal services protocols for impoundment and owner notification. (J. Stewart, Animal Services)

- F. Discussion and possible recommendation regarding proposed revisions to Section 10-119 (Redemption of impounded animals), including redemption timelines, adoption requirements, spay/neuter provisions, and shelter operations. (J. Stewart, Animal Services)
- G. Discussion and possible recommendation regarding proposed revisions to Section 10-221 (Permits for kennels, breeders, and animal-related businesses), including permitting thresholds, inspection requirements, public hearing procedures, and operational standards. (J. Stewart, Animal Services)
7. **ACTION ITEMS.**
Action items are to be accompanied by a brief statement of facts, including where funds are coming from, if applicable. (Action items limited to 10 per meeting).
- A. Approve a recommendation to the City Council to implement Ordinance 2026-06-01, an Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Alpine, Texas, Amending Chapter 10 – Animals of the Alpine Code of Ordinances; Amending Section 10-1 – Definitions to Include Terms Describing Human-Wildlife Interactions; Amending Section 10-10 – Human-Wildlife Interactions; Repealing Section 10-11 – Hunting; Establishing Regulations Concerning Human-Wildlife Interactions; Providing for the Establishment of up to a \$500 Penalty per Occurrence for Violations of the Ordinance; and Providing for the Following: Findings of Fact, Enactment, Repealer, Penalty, Savings, Severability, Proper Notice and Meeting, and Effective Date Clauses. (J. Etchison, Chair)
8. **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**
9. **ADJOURN.**

CERTIFICATION

I, Geoffrey R. Calderon, do hereby certify that this notice was posted at City Hall, in a convenient and readily accessible place to the general public, and on the City website at www.cityofalpine.com/agenda pursuant to Section 551.043, Texas Government Code. The said notice was posted by 2 P.M. on April 8, 2026, and remained so posted for at least 3 business days preceding the scheduled time of the said meeting.

WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL

this 8 day of April, 2026.



Geoffrey R. Calderon, TRMC
City Secretary & Chief Governance Officer



ANIMAL ADVISORY BOARD AGENDA ITEM REPORT

April 14, 2026

Agenda Item No. 5A

Department: Administration

Sponsor: Geoffrey R. Calderon, City Secretary

Memo Prepared By: Alexandra Tackett, Deputy City Secretary

Staff Recommendation: Approve



AGENDA ITEM

January 13, 2026 Meeting Minutes. (G. Calderon, City Secretary)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

None

SUPPORTING MATERIALS

1. 1-13-26 Animal Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

Expenditure Required: N/A
Savings Anticipation: N/A
Current Budget FY 2025-2026: N/A
Additional Funding: N/A

APPROVERS

Alexandra Tackett, Deputy City Secretary
Geoffrey R. Calderon, City Secretary

City Of Alpine
ANIMAL ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, January 13, 2026 – 6:00 PM
Minutes

1. **CALL TO ORDER.**

James Etchison, Chair of the Board, called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

2. **DETERMINATION OF QUORUM**

Board Members Present:

Place 1, Judy Stokes
Place 2 Nancy Burton
Place 3 Pat McCall
Place 4 Lauren Spear
Place 5, Vice-Chair James Etchison
Place 6 Dr. Mary Dodson
Place 7 Mary Ann Vega
Animal Services Supervisor, Jennifer Stewart
Councilor Eva Martinez

City Staff and Stakeholders Present:

Geoffrey R. Calderon, City Secretary

Not Present: None

Others Present: No other attendees

3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS.**

Each person in attendance who desires to speak to the Board on an item on the agenda shall speak during this section. Public comments may be made regarding agenda items only. Attendees must be physically present in order to address the Board. Comments by proxy are not allowed. Public Comments are limited to 3 minutes per person. Unused time may not be yielded to other attendees.

4. **PUBLIC HEARINGS.**

At this time, the Chair will invite members of the public to address each item listed in this section. Comments made during this section are limited to the topic of each public hearing. Attendees must be physically present in order to address the Board. Comments by proxy are not allowed. Public Comments are limited to 3 minutes per person. Unused time may not be yielded to other attendees. If more than one public hearing is being held, each person will be allowed to speak during each topic.

5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

- A. Approval of February 11, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes (G. Calderon, Interim City Manager)
- B. Approval of April 8, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes (G. Calderon, Interim City Manager)

On a motion by Judy Stoke and seconded by Mary Ann Vega to approve, the board unanimously adopted the motion.

6. **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- A. Discussion and possible direction regarding a proposed ordinance regulating human-wildlife interactions within the City of Alpine, prompted by an increase in reported encounters involving wildlife such as bears, mountain lions, javelina, and bobcats. The discussion will include a review of a draft ordinance addressing feeding, harassment, possession, waste management, enforcement mechanisms, penalties, exceptions under state and federal law, and public education efforts, as well as coordination with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Brewster County Emergency Management, and local first responders. (J. Etchison, Chair)

7. **ACTION ITEMS.**

Action items are to be accompanied by a brief statement of facts, including where funds are coming from, if applicable. (Action items limited to 10 per meeting).

8. **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

9. **ADJOURN.**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. (6:24 P.M.)

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Officer of the Board

Geoffrey R. Calderon, TRMC
City Secretary & Chief Governance Officer

CERTIFICATION

I, Geoffrey R. Calderon, do hereby certify that this notice was posted at City Hall, in a convenient and readily accessible place to the general public, and on the City website at www.cityofalpine.com/agenda pursuant to Section 551.043, Texas Government Code. The said notice was posted by 5 P.M. on January 7, 2026, and remained so posted for at least 3 business days preceding the scheduled time of the said meeting.

**WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL
this 7 day of January 2026.**



Geoffrey R. Calderon, TRMC
City Secretary & Chief Governance Officer



ANIMAL ADVISORY BOARD AGENDA ITEM REPORT

April 14, 2026

Agenda Item No. 6A

Department: Animal Services

Sponsor: Jennifer Stewart, Animal Services Supervisor

Memo Prepared By: Alexandra Tackett, Deputy City Secretary

Staff Recommendation: None



AGENDA ITEM

Presentation and discussion regarding the Big Bend Pets 2025 Community Cat Program results, including program outcomes, fiscal impact, and cost savings associated with Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) and Return-to-Field (RTF) strategies. (J. Stewart, Animal Services)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

None

SUPPORTING MATERIALS

1. Big Bend Pets 2025 Report

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

Expenditure Required: N/A
Savings Anticipation: N/A
Current Budget FY 2025-2026: N/A
Additional Funding: N/A

APPROVERS

Alexandra Tackett, Deputy City Secretary
Geoffrey R. Calderon, City Secretary



Big Bend Pets

2025 Community Cat Program Results

Report to City Council

In 2025, the community cat program processed **112 cats** through humane trapping and sterilization. The results demonstrate a **cost-effective, non-lethal strategy** that reduces shelter intake, lowers long-term municipal expenditures, and stabilizes free-roaming cat populations.

Program Outcomes

- **88 cats (78.6%)** were sterilized and **returned to their colonies**, preventing future litters and reducing ongoing calls for service related to nuisance behaviors.
- **15 cats (13.4%)** were managed through **Return to Field (RTF)**, a proven shelter-diversion strategy.
 - RTF routes community cats directly to spay/neuter and vaccination instead of shelter intake.
 - This approach avoids the high costs of processing, housing, feeding, daily care, and potential euthanasia.
 - Cats are returned to their neighborhoods under the care of established colony caretakers, improving public health outcomes and accountability.

Overall, 92% of cats were returned to their environment through TNR or RTF, significantly reducing the number of animals requiring costly shelter resources.

Additional Outcomes

- **3 cats** were placed as acclimated barn cats, avoiding shelter costs while providing working-cat solutions.
- **1 cat** was rehomed.
- **2 cats** were transferred to shelter partners for appropriate care.
- **1 cat (0.9%)** resulted in deceased status, reflecting strong veterinary protocols and a high standard of care.

Summary of Results

Outcome	Count
Released (TNR)	88
Return to Field (RTF)	15
Barn Cat Placement	3
Shelter Transfer	2

Outcome	Count
Transport	2
Rehomed	1
Deceased	1
Total	112

Fiscal Impact and Cost Savings

- **Reduced shelter intake:** Every cat diverted through TNR or RTF eliminates intake, housing, and daily care costs that can range from **hundreds to thousands of dollars per animal**. (See last page)
- **Lower euthanasia-related expenses:** Non-lethal management avoids medical, staffing, and disposal costs associated with euthanasia along with the emotional impact on employees.
- **Decreased repeat calls for service:** Sterilized cats exhibit fewer nuisance behaviors, reducing ongoing animal control and code enforcement demands.
- **Long-term population control:** Each sterilized cat prevents dozens of future births, avoiding exponential cost growth tied to unmanaged populations.
- **Efficient use of partnerships:** Veterinary and community partnerships leverage resources without requiring major capital investment from the city.

Why This Matters to the City

- **Humane and fiscally responsible:** Aligns animal welfare with responsible public spending.
- **Scalable without new facilities:** Expansion can occur through increased trapping and partnerships rather than costly shelter expansion.
- **Community-supported:** Residents benefit from stable, managed colonies and reduced neighborhood conflicts.

Conclusion: The 2025 results confirm that the community cat program is effective, humane, and cost-efficient. By emphasizing TNR and RTF, the city reduces shelter overcrowding, limits long-term expenditures, and achieves sustainable population control. Continued support and strategic expansion will further amplify these fiscal and community benefits.

Estimated Cost Savings Per Cat

Municipal sheltering and animal control costs vary, but industry-standard estimates show significant savings when cats are managed through TNR and Return to Field (RTF) rather than traditional shelter intake.

Average Municipal Costs (Per Cat)

Service Type	Estimated Cost
Traditional shelter intake (field response, intake processing, housing, daily care, staffing)	\$300–\$600
Extended shelter stay or euthanasia pathway	\$700–\$1,200+
TNR or RTF (spay/neuter, vaccination, return)	\$135–\$150

Estimated Net Savings

- Savings per cat diverted through TNR or RTF: \$225–\$1,000 per cat
- Savings increase over time as sterilized cats prevent future litters and repeat intakes.

2025 Program Impact (Estimated)

- 103 cats returned to the community through TNR or RTF
- **Estimated direct municipal savings: \$23,000–\$103,000 in 2025 alone**
- Additional long-term savings preventing hundreds of future kittens that would otherwise require city services.

Why This Matters

- *TNR and RTF cost a fraction of shelter-based management*
- *Each sterilized cat eliminates recurring expenses tied to:*
 - *Repeated calls for service*
 - *Shelter intake and housing*
 - *Kitten care and medical treatment*
- *These programs provide population control without ongoing budget growth*

Key Takeaway for Council

TNR and RTF are not only humane—they are the most cost-effective option available for managing community cats.

Every cat successfully diverted from shelter intake represents immediate savings and long-term budget protection.

ANIMAL ADVISORY BOARD AGENDA ITEM REPORT

April 14, 2026

Agenda Item No. 6B

Department: Animal Services

Sponsor: Jennifer Stewart, Animal Services Supervisor

Memo Prepared By: Alexandra Tackett, Deputy City Secretary

Staff Recommendation: None



AGENDA ITEM

Discussion and possible recommendation regarding proposed revisions to Section 10-58 (Animal protection) and Section 10-59 (Animals in vehicles), including provisions related to animals left unattended in vehicles, humane transport requirements, and enforcement authority. (J. Stewart, Animal Services)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

None

SUPPORTING MATERIALS

1. Ordinance 10-58 and 59 Revisions

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

Expenditure Required: N/A
Savings Anticipation: N/A
Current Budget FY 2025-2026: N/A
Additional Funding: N/A

APPROVERS

Alexandra Tackett, Deputy City Secretary
Geoffrey R. Calderon, City Secretary

Sec. 10-58. Animal protection.

~~A person commits an offense if he intentionally, knowingly, recklessly or with criminal negligence leaves an animal unattended in any standing or parked vehicle in such a way as to endanger the animal's physical health, safety or immediate welfare.~~

~~In the event that a person is found guilty of this offense, the municipal court shall, in addition to any fine and court costs assessed, assess any and all fees and expenses incurred pursuant to the provisions set out in this chapter.~~

~~In the event that an animal is left unattended in any standing or parked vehicle in such a way as to endanger the animal's physical health, safety or immediate welfare, an animal control officer or police officer shall make a reasonable attempt to locate the owner or person in control of the vehicle. In the event that the owner of the vehicle cannot be located after reasonable attempt, an animal control officer or police officer is authorized to use reasonable force and measures to remove the animal from the vehicle to secure the animal's physical health and safety. An animal removed from a vehicle under these circumstances shall be taken to the city animal shelter, or to a veterinarian if the animal is determined to be in physical distress, and a written notice shall be attached to the vehicle by the animal control officer or police officer advising that of the telephone number and address of the location from which the animal may be claimed. The city shall have no responsibility for any damage sustained to a vehicle in the course of securing the safety of an animal under this section.~~

Sec. 10-59. Animals in vehicles.

(a) A person commits an offense if he they intentionally, knowingly, recklessly or with criminal negligence transports an animal in a motor vehicle, trailer or other conveyance in a cruel, inhumane or unsafe manner or fails to effectively and humanely restrain the animal so as to prevent the animal from jumping from or being thrown from the vehicle, trailer or other conveyance during its normal operation.

(b) ~~No person having charge or custody of an animal shall place or confine an animal or allow an animal to be placed or confined or to remain in a motor vehicle or trailer under such conditions or for such period of time as may endanger the health or well-being of such animal~~ A person commits an offense if they intentionally, knowingly, recklessly or with criminal negligence leaves an animal unattended in any standing or parked vehicle, trailer or other conveyance in such a way as to endanger the animal's physical health, safety or immediate welfare due to heat, lack of food or water, or other such circumstances as may be reasonably expected to cause suffering, disability or death of such animal.

(1) In the event that an animal is left unattended in any standing or parked vehicle in such a way as to endanger the animal's physical health, safety or immediate welfare, an animal services officer or police officer shall make a reasonable attempt to locate the owner or person in control of the vehicle. In the event that the owner of the vehicle cannot be located after reasonable attempt, an animal services officer or police officer is authorized to use reasonable force and measures to remove the animal from the vehicle to secure the animal's physical health and safety. An animal removed from a vehicle under these circumstances shall be taken to the Alpine Animal Services Shelter or to a veterinarian if the animal is determined to be in physical distress, and a written notice shall be attached to the vehicle by the animal services officer or police officer advising the telephone number and address of the location from which the animal may be claimed. The city shall have no responsibility for any damage sustained to a vehicle in the course of securing the safety of an animal under this section.

ANIMAL ADVISORY BOARD AGENDA ITEM REPORT

April 14, 2026

Agenda Item No. 6C

Department: Animal Services

Sponsor: Jennifer Stewart, Animal Services Supervisor

Memo Prepared By: Alexandra Tackett, Deputy City Secretary

Staff Recommendation: None



AGENDA ITEM

Discussion and possible recommendation regarding proposed revisions to Section 10-85 (Application for permit for livestock and fowl), including application requirements, site documentation, and sanitation standards. (J. Stewart, Animal Services)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

None

SUPPORTING MATERIALS

1. Ordinance 10-85 Revisions

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

Expenditure Required: N/A
Savings Anticipation: N/A
Current Budget FY 2025-2026: N/A
Additional Funding: N/A

APPROVERS

Alexandra Tackett, Deputy City Secretary
Geoffrey R. Calderon, City Secretary

Sec. 10-85. Application for permit (excluding cats, dogs and household pets).

Application for a permit to keep any large or small livestock animals or fowl shall be ~~made submitted to the city animal services~~, in writing, upon forms provided ~~for that purpose by the animal control services officer or city manager for the city~~. Such application shall contain the following information in addition to such other information as the animal ~~control~~ services officer ~~or city manager~~ may desire:

- (1) Name and residence of the applicant;
- (2) Location of premises where large or small livestock animals or fowl are to be kept;
- (3) Species of large or small livestock animals or fowl to be kept;
- (4) Number of large or small livestock animals or fowl to be kept;
- (5) Statement of method in which all manure and waste material accumulating from such large or small livestock animals or fowl will be sanitarily disposed of;
- (6) For large livestock an attached diagram or plat of the premises, showing dimensions of the premises, the location and dimensions of the enclosure, corral, pen or shelter, and the distance from residence buildings and property lot line, either on the same lot or on adjacent property.
- (7) Pictures of the property, enclosure, shelter and the place where feed will be stored if location is outside of the residence.

ANIMAL ADVISORY BOARD AGENDA ITEM REPORT

April 14, 2026

Agenda Item No. 6D

Department: Animal Services

Sponsor: Jennifer Stewart, Animal Services Supervisor

Memo Prepared By: Alexandra Tackett, Deputy City Secretary

Staff Recommendation: None



AGENDA ITEM

Discussion and possible recommendation regarding proposed revisions to Section 10-93 (Permit required for exotic animals), including permitting authority, public safety considerations, and coordination with state regulatory requirements. (J. Stewart, Animal Services)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

None

SUPPORTING MATERIALS

1. Ordinance 10-93 Revisions

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

Expenditure Required: N/A
Savings Anticipation: N/A
Current Budget FY 2025-2026: N/A
Additional Funding: N/A

APPROVERS

Alexandra Tackett, Deputy City Secretary
Geoffrey R. Calderon, City Secretary

Sec. 10-93. Permit required for exotic animals.

No person shall keep within the city any wild or exotic species of animal or bird, warm or cold blooded, unless a permit is obtained from ~~the animal control officer~~. ~~A special permit may be obtained if all conditions, regulations and rules are met by applicant as determined by the animal control officer. No permit shall be issued a special permit if there is any concern about the health and safety of the community of its citizens by granting such permit. A permit, if granted, is valid for one year from the date of issuance and must be renewed annually. If granted, such permit may be revoked at any time as deemed necessary as determined by any animal control officer.~~ Texas Parks and Wildlife who oversees the state of Texas exotic animal permit system. If a valid exotic or wildlife permit cannot be produced at the time the animal is reported to animal services or other respective agency, animal services or any other qualified entity may remove the animal immediately from its location. Definition for exotic animal can be found in the Section 10-1 of this chapter.

ANIMAL ADVISORY BOARD AGENDA ITEM REPORT

April 14, 2026

Agenda Item No. 6E

Department: Animal Services

Sponsor: Jennifer Stewart, Animal Services Supervisor

Memo Prepared By: Alexandra Tackett, Deputy City Secretary

Staff Recommendation: None



AGENDA ITEM

Discussion and possible recommendation regarding proposed revisions to Section 10-117 (Running at large prohibited), including enforcement procedures, identification requirements, and animal services protocols for impoundment and owner notification. (J. Stewart, Animal Services)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

None

SUPPORTING MATERIALS

1. Ordinance 10-117 Revisions

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

Expenditure Required: N/A
Savings Anticipation: N/A
Current Budget FY 2025-2026: N/A
Additional Funding: N/A

APPROVERS

Alexandra Tackett, Deputy City Secretary
Geoffrey R. Calderon, City Secretary

Sec. 10-117. Running at large prohibited.

No person keeping or harboring any animal or fowl shall permit such animal or fowl, ~~except pigeons, to go loose or~~ run at large in any of the public ways of the city or upon the property of another, including their own unfenced property. exceptions are when the animal or fowl is in an enclosures, invisible fence or by any other means of confinement restricting the animal from leaving on the private property owned or leased by the person keeping or harboring such animal or fowl. Any unidentifiable ~~or unidentified~~ animal not wearing a collar displaying a rabies vaccination tag, a city license, a name tag, not microchipped or is not an ear notched ~~or microchipped~~ cat indicating that it has been processed through the trap-neuter-return program will be considered stray, lost or feral, and shall be subject to animal ~~control~~ services.

Animal services will make an attempt to locate the owner of said animal or fowl before bringing it to the shelter. Animal services is required to photograph any animal or fowl found running at large and post it as found on social media in an attempt to reunite the animal with its owner. Animal services is required to leave a notice at a property stating an animal had been picked up near their property if they believe an animal belongs at said residence but the resident is not reachable and the animal cannot be safely confined at the residence by an animal services officer. Animal services is permitted to enter a gated property for the purpose of making contact with a potential owner to reunite a lost pet.

ANIMAL ADVISORY BOARD AGENDA ITEM REPORT

April 14, 2026

Agenda Item No. 6F

Department: Animal Services

Sponsor: Jennifer Stewart, Animal Services Supervisor

Memo Prepared By: Alexandra Tackett, Deputy City Secretary

Staff Recommendation: None



AGENDA ITEM

Discussion and possible recommendation regarding proposed revisions to Section 10-119 (Redemption of impounded animals), including redemption timelines, adoption requirements, spay/neuter provisions, and shelter operations. (J. Stewart, Animal Services)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

None

SUPPORTING MATERIALS

1. Ordinance 10-119 Revisions

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

Expenditure Required: N/A
Savings Anticipation: N/A
Current Budget FY 2025-2026: N/A
Additional Funding: N/A

APPROVERS

Alexandra Tackett, Deputy City Secretary
Geoffrey R. Calderon, City Secretary

Sec. 10-119. Redemption of impounded animals.

(a) The owner shall be entitled to resume possession of any impounded animal upon payment of the ~~impoundment and daily board fees, medical fees, and microchip fees~~ (if applicable) ~~and compliance with vaccination registration requirements; provided application for such possession, with payment of all required fees in accordance with Appendix C: Animal Services Fees, is made within 72 hours after impoundment, or within such time after impoundment as may be agreed to by the animal control officer and such owner, if such agreement is made within such 72-hour period and such additional time does not exceed ten days total impoundment time.~~ If an owner comes forward after the stray hold period is up and the animal has been adopted or transferred to another rescue the owner is not entitled to that animal and the adoption or transfer will stand.

~~(b) Adoption, spaying and neutering:~~

~~(1) Whenever an unlicensed dog or cat is adopted, such owner shall be required to pay a rabies vaccination fee to the animal control officer. The animal control officer shall thereupon issue a receipt for such fee, and the holder thereof may have such animal vaccinated for rabies by any veterinarian licensed to practice veterinary medicine in the state who has agreed to administer such rabies vaccination receipts. Any rabies vaccination shall be obtained by the owner or purchaser of such dog or cat within seven days after obtaining custody of such dog or cat. The animal control officer shall maintain and make available to any owner or purchaser of any dog or cat a list of veterinarians honoring such receipts. In addition, the owner or purchaser of any dog or cat shall be required to obtain a license tag for such dog or cat at the time of such sale or redemption~~

~~(2) The adopting person shall comply with all the adoption conditions and surgery conditions for the adopted animal as set forth in the contract.~~

~~(3) Should the adopted animal be lost or die before the adoption and surgery conditions as set forth in the contract have been complied with, such loss or death shall be reported in person or by mail to the animal control shelter not later than seven days after its occurrence.~~

~~(4) All animals adopted from the shelter are required to be spayed or neutered.~~

~~(5) The adopter shall forfeit the surgery deposit in the event that such surgery deposit has not been redeemed within 30 days after the date the surgery was due to be performed.~~

~~(6) The forfeiture of such surgery deposit shall in no way release the adopter from the obligation of having the required surgery performed.~~

~~(7) The provisions of this section shall only apply to dogs and cats of the age of four months or more, excluding the provisions for spaying/neutering which are set out in subsection (e)(4) of this section.~~

(eb) The owner shall not be entitled to possession of any animal held under quarantine or observation for rabies until a ~~written~~ release is obtained by the observing veterinarian or local rabies control authority and until all fees have been paid. The payment of such fees may be deferred until the animal is eligible for release.

~~(d c) Any dog or cat animal impounded and not reclaimed by the owner within five days the stray or at the end of the quarantine hold periods outlined in this chapter may be humanely destroyed euthanized if deemed unadoptable or medically necessary. If the animal control services officer determines that any unclaimed dog or cat animal is reasonably healthy, currently vaccinated against rabies, spayed or neutered and should not constitute a threat to public or animal health of the community, the animal control services officer shelter may offer such dog or cat animal for adoption or transfer to another rescue organization. If not adopted, the animal shall be humanely destroyed.~~

(d) Adoption, spaying and neutering:

(1) All cats and dogs adopted from the Alpine Animal Services Shelter will be rabies vaccinated prior to adoption or will be sent home with a receipt stating that the rabies vaccine will be paid for by Alpine Animal Services which is included in the adoption fee paid by the adopter. The fee will be covered by Animal Services for 1 month from the adoption date, after said date, the new owner will be liable for the full cost of the vaccination.

(2) The adopter shall comply with all of the adoption requirements and any follow up medical needs the adopted animal may require as set forth in the adoption contract.

(3) Should the adopted animal be lost or die during a trial adoption period, such loss or death shall be reported in person or by phone to the animal services shelter immediately after its occurrence.

(4) All cats and dogs adopted from the shelter are required to be spayed or neutered. Exemption would be if it is deemed medically unsafe, by a licensed veterinarian or the animal services supervisor.

(5) The provisions of this sub section shall only apply to dogs and cats.

~~(e) The animal control officer shall approve all applications for adoption of unclaimed animals. Adopted animals must comply with all registration and vaccination provisions of this chapter. If any impounded animal, other than a dog or cat large livestock animal, is not claimed by the owner within seven days the stray hold periods outlined in this chapter, the animal shall be held for such time as the animal control officer deems reasonable, considering the animal's probable value, condition of health and suitability for use. Upon expiration of such reasonable time, the animal control officer may offer the animal, if suitable, to be sold by posting the date of sale, the animal's description and sale location for five full days on the city hall bulletin board, on the courthouse door and on one other public place in the city. Animals not suitable for sale will be humanely destroyed.~~

(g) All small livestock, birds, rodents, snakes, or any other animal not considered large livestock, cat or dog, may be placed up for adoption and do not need to meet the requirements of section 10-119 (d)

(f) Animal Services has the right to deny an adoption application or sale of livestock within reason and to protect the health and wellbeing of the animal.

(g) There will be no holds on adoptable animals unless they are waiting for a spay or neuter appointment, in that case, multiple applications may be accepted. When the animal becomes available for adoption animal services will contact the adopters in order the applications were accepted and the adopter will have 24 hours to pick up their new pet or the next applicant will be contacted. Exceptions would be that the staff believe another applicant would be a better fit or the person does not live in Alpine and needs time to travel to receive the animal.

ANIMAL ADVISORY BOARD AGENDA ITEM REPORT

April 14, 2026

Agenda Item No. 6G

Department: Animal Services

Sponsor: Jennifer Stewart, Animal Services Supervisor

Memo Prepared By: Alexandra Tackett, Deputy City Secretary

Staff Recommendation: None



AGENDA ITEM

Discussion and possible recommendation regarding proposed revisions to Section 10-221 (Permits for kennels, breeders, and animal-related businesses), including permitting thresholds, inspection requirements, public hearing procedures, and operational standards. (J. Stewart, Animal Services)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

None

SUPPORTING MATERIALS

1. Ordinance 10-221 Revisions

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

Expenditure Required: N/A
Savings Anticipation: N/A
Current Budget FY 2025-2026: N/A
Additional Funding: N/A

APPROVERS

Alexandra Tackett, Deputy City Secretary
Geoffrey R. Calderon, City Secretary

Sec. 10-221. Permit for kennels, private boarding, boarding as a business, raisers or breeders of dogs, cats or other animals; selling of animals.

~~(a) Kennels, raisers and breeders of dogs, cats or other animals shall make and submit an application for a permit with the animal services supervisor or any duly authorized representative of the city for permission to keep or harbor in excess of four but not more than 12 dogs, cats or other animals or a combination thereof beyond the normal weaning age on any premises used or zoned for residential purposes. The animal services supervisor or, other authorized representative of the city, is empowered to issue a permit under this section. At the discretion of the animal services supervisor, or authorized city representative, a permit may be deferred to the city council so that a public hearing may be held and interested persons may have the opportunity to voice concerns. In addition, a neighbor notice requirement is established requiring the city to send public hearing notices to neighbors within 200 feet for permit requested under this section. Letters must be sent at least ten days prior to the public hearing.~~

~~(b) The maximum length of a permit issued under this section shall be one year. After the public hearing is conducted, the city council may approve or deny a permit request. The animal services officer must complete an inspection of the residence and receive the following information in order for a permit to be considered by the city council:~~

~~(1) Name of applicant, with permanent residence.~~

~~(2) The maximum number of dogs, cats or other animals to be kept or housed.~~

~~(3) The purpose for keeping or harboring the dogs, cats or other animals.~~

~~(4) The dogs, cats or other animals are to be housed in cages or pens inside the residence or a completely enclosed structure.~~

~~(5) The dogs, cats or other animals are kept or harbored so as to not be a nuisance or detriment to any adjoining or adjacent neighbors.~~

~~(6) The dogs, cats or other animals shall not bark or howl or create noises that cause the peace and quiet of the neighborhood or the adjacent premises to be disturbed.~~

~~(7) The cages or pens are to be maintained in a sanitary condition so as not to create any hazards to the general health and welfare of the community.~~

~~(8) The applicant shall furnish a drawing showing the dimensions of the lot, dwelling, fenced yard and other enclosed areas of the parcel of land that the permit is being requested for.~~

~~(9) The enclosed parcel of land that the dogs, cats or other animals to be kept or housed on shall have a minimum of 100 square feet per animal over the normal weaning age.~~

~~(10) The enclosed area in which the animals are to be housed shall be of adequate size, height and structure to prevent running at large.~~

~~(c) Permit and inspection fees under this section shall be assessed, in accordance with Appendix C: Animal Services Fees, for the initial inspection and permit application, and renewable so long as the permittee remains in compliance with requirements of this section and has no violations of such requirements or any other animal-related city ordinances. This permit will allow the selling of only those animals that are raised at the permitted premises.~~

~~(d) A permit issued under this section shall be renewed annually by the last day of the same month in which it was issued the previous year by payment of the appropriate fee. If the ownership of the place in which the animals are kept is changed, the permit may be changed accordingly upon written verified application by an animal services officer and payment of fee delineated in Appendix C: Animal Services Fees.~~

~~(e) Any permit issued under this section shall be subject to suspension or revocation by the city for violation by the permittee of any of the provisions of this division, or violation of other animal ordinances of the city. A permittee whose permit has been suspended must cure the violations within 72 hours in order to prevent revocation of the permit.~~

~~(f) Each permittee shall permanently display the permit number on a display board or sign approved by animal control officials, not less than four inches in size, where such animals are kept so that such permit number is clearly visible from the street or alley nearest to the facility.~~

~~(g) Refusal to issue permit. The decision of the animal services officer shall be final unless the applicant shall, within ten days after refusal to grant such permit, file a written appeal with the city secretary addressed to the city manager, requesting a review. Should the city manager concur in the decision of the animal services officer, that decision shall be final unless the applicant shall, within ten days after concurrence, file a written appeal with the city secretary addressed to the city council requesting a review of the decision of the animal services officer and the city~~

~~manager. This permit may be revoked at any time upon violation of any of the conditions and requirements.~~

~~(h) All pet dealers (commercial, raiser or itinerant) shall be required to present each purchaser of an animal a veterinary certification stating that the animal is free from disease or parasites.~~

Permit required; exceptions.

- (1) Permits shall be required for the operation of all kennels within the city limits of Alpine.
- (2) Kennels, raisers and breeders of dogs, cats or other animals shall make and submit an application for a permit with the animal services supervisor or any duly authorized representative of the city for permission to keep or harbor in excess of four dogs, cats or other animals or a combination thereof beyond the normal weaning age on any premises used or zoned for commercial or residential purposes. A permit shall be deferred to the city council so that a public hearing may be held and interested persons may have the opportunity to voice concerns. In addition, a neighbor notice requirement is established requiring the city to send public hearing notices to neighbors within 200 feet for permit requested under this section. Letters must be sent at least ten days prior to the public hearing.
- (3) The animal services officer must complete an inspection of the property and receive the following information in order for a permit to be considered by the city council:
 - a. Name of applicant, with permanent residence and phone number.
 - b. Location of kennel if different from permanent residence.
 - c. The maximum number of dogs, cats or other animals to be kept or housed.
 - d. The purpose for keeping or harboring the dogs, cats or other animals.
 - e. Type of enclosures being used.
 - f. Measurements of the enclosures.
 - g. The dogs, cats or other animals are kept or harbored shall not be a nuisance or detriment to any adjoining or adjacent properties.
 - h. A kennel shall not operate within 100 feet of any residence.
 - i. The dogs, cats or other animals shall not bark or howl or create noises that cause the peace and quiet of the neighborhood or the adjacent premises to be disturbed.

- j. The cages or pens are to be maintained in a sanitary condition so as not to create any hazards to the general health and welfare of the community, the staff maintaining the facility, the visitors to the facility or animals in their care.
- k. The applicant shall furnish a drawing and pictures showing the dimensions of the lot, dwelling, fenced yard and other enclosed areas of the parcel of land that the permit is being requested for.
- l. The enclosed area in which the animals are to be housed shall be of adequate size, height and structure to prevent escape and insure the comfortability of the animal at all times.

(4) After the public hearing is conducted, the city council may approve or deny a permit request.

Exemption of initial inspection can be accepted if a facility has not been built yet but a final inspection must be done prior to issuance of a permit following the council's approval and the building being built.

Grooming parlors where no animals are to be kept overnight, veterinary clinics and nonprofits maintaining an adoption program for homeless cats with the use of a public cattery, shall not be considered kennels, nor subject to this division.

(a) Duration of permit; permit fees.

(1) Permits issued under this article shall be valid for one (1) year from date of issuance. Permit and inspection fees under this section shall be assessed, in accordance with Appendix C: Animal Services Fees, for the initial inspection and permit application, and renewable so long as the permittee remains in compliance with requirements of this section and has no violations of such requirements or any other animal-related city ordinances.

(2) A permit issued under this section shall be renewed annually by the last day of the same month in which it was issued the previous year by payment of the appropriate fee. If the ownership of the place in which the animals are kept is changed, the permit may be changed accordingly upon written verified application by an animal services officer and payment of fee delineated in Appendix C: Animal Services Fees.

(b) Facility requirements for kennels.

Upon inspection by the animal services department of premises that are to be operated as a kennel, a permit will be issued if, in the opinion of the animal services officer, all of the following conditions are met:

- (1) The kennel facility is adequate for the number and type of animals to be kept therein.
 - a. The kennel facility is of a sufficient size as to allow all animals in the kennel to move about freely, considering the maximum possible size of the individual animal's height and weight that may be kept within the kennel.
 - b. Adequate food and fresh water is continuously provided so that each and all animals kept in the kennel shall be maintained in good health and free of malnutrition and/or dehydration.
 - c. The kennel premises are kept in a sanitary condition and reasonably free of animal waste, parasites, insects, rodents and flies that could be harmful to the animal's health and/or to the health of the general public.
 - d. Nothing about the operation of the kennel poses any public or private nuisance within the city limits.
 - e. Food must be wholesome and free of foreign particles or matter. Food must be maintained in a manner as to prevent rodent and insect infestation.
 - f. Waste shall be disposed of into an approved sewage system or maintained in a sufficient air tight receptacle which must be constructed and kept in a manner as to protect its contents from wash off and fly infestation.
 - g. An effective program for the control of insects, rodents, and external parasites affecting dogs, cats and other animals must be established and maintained in a manner as to promote the health and well- being of the animal and reduce contamination by pests in animal areas.
 - h. Exercise areas must be constructed and maintained in the following manner:
 1. Protect animal from injury;

2. Contain the animal securely;
3. Provide shelter and protection from extreme temperature and weather conditions;
4. Provide the animals with easy and convenient access to clean food and water.

(2) The animals and the kennel facility shall, at all times, be kept free of odor or stench which is offensive to a person of ordinary sensibilities.

(3) The animals in the kennel shall at all times be maintained in a manner that does not pose a danger to the health of the animals themselves, to adjacent animals within the kennel, or to visitors or staff in the kennel facility.

(4) The animals in the kennel shall not cause noise(s) or other disturbances which are offensive or disturbing to a person of ordinary sensibilities on adjoining, adjacent or neighboring premises.

(5) In the case of a boarding kennel, no animal may be bred or sold or transfer of ownership of an animal be otherwise affected from within the boarding kennel.

(6) Each permittee shall permanently display the permit number on a display board or sign approved by animal services, not less than four inches in size, where such animals are kept so that such permit number is clearly visible to the public.

(d) Refusal to issue permit.

The decision of the animal services officer shall be final unless the applicant shall, within ten days after refusal to grant such permit, file a written appeal with the city secretary addressed to the city manager, requesting a review. Should the city manager concur in the decision of the animal services officer, that decision shall be final unless the applicant shall, within ten days after concurrence, file a written appeal with the city secretary addressed to the city council requesting a review of the decision of the animal services officer and the city manager.

(e) Revocation or suspension of permit.

(1) Any kennel permitted under this chapter found to be in violation of any municipal zoning law, health and safety law or any other applicable ordinance of the city or of the state, or found to have a facility maintained in such a manner as to be detrimental to the health, safety or peace of mind of persons residing in the immediate vicinity because of the animals owned, controlled or housed by the kennel on the premises, may have all applicable permits suspended by the animal services department. A permittee whose permit has been suspended must cure the violations within 72 hours in order to prevent revocation of the permit. If a permit is revoked due to noncompliance after the 72-hour time period, a hearing may be requested by the permittee through the municipal court within 10 days of the revoked permit to appeal the animal services department's decision.

(2) Upon suspension of the permits, the animal services department shall notify the permit holder of such action in writing. Written notification shall be deemed made when a certified letter, return receipt requested, addressed to the last known mailing address of the permit holder is deposited in the U.S. mail.

(3) Upon the expiration of ten (10) days after written notification of suspension is deposited in the U.S. mail, as provided above, the permit holder shall no longer keep, maintain or harbor animals within the city's corporate limits, and each 24-hour period that an animal with a suspended registration remains in the city shall constitute a separate violation of this article.

(4) Upon suspension of the permit, the holder of the revoked permit shall notify the animal services department of the location to which the animal(s) are being removed.

(f) All pet dealers (commercial, raiser or itinerant) shall be required to present each purchaser of an animal a veterinary certification stating that the animal is free from disease and parasites.

ANIMAL ADVISORY BOARD AGENDA ITEM REPORT

April 14, 2026

Agenda Item No. 7A

Department: Board

Sponsor: James Etchison, Place 5, Vice-Chair

Memo Prepared By: Alexandra Tackett, Deputy City Secretary

Staff Recommendation: Approve



AGENDA ITEM

Approve a recommendation to the City Council to implement Ordinance 2026-06-01, an Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Alpine, Texas, Amending Chapter 10 – Animals of the Alpine Code of Ordinances; Amending Section 10-1 – Definitions to Include Terms Describing Human-Wildlife Interactions; Amending Section 10-10 – Human-Wildlife Interactions; Repealing Section 10-11 – Hunting; Establishing Regulations Concerning Human-Wildlife Interactions; Providing for the Establishment of up to a \$500 Penalty per Occurrence for Violations of the Ordinance; and Providing for the Following: Findings of Fact, Enactment, Repealer, Penalty, Savings, Severability, Proper Notice and Meeting, and Effective Date Clauses. (J. Etchison, Chair)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

None

SUPPORTING MATERIALS

1. Ordinance 2026-06-01 Human-Wildlife Interactions

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

Expenditure Required: N/A
Savings Anticipation: N/A
Current Budget FY 2025-2026: N/A
Additional Funding: N/A

APPROVERS

Alexandra Tackett, Deputy City Secretary
Geoffrey R. Calderon, City Secretary

ORDINANCE 2026-06-01

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ALPINE, TEXAS AMENDING CHAPTER 10 – ANIMALS TO THE ALPINE CODE OF ORDINANCES; AMENDING SECTION 10-1 – DEFINITIONS TO INCLUDE TERMS DESCRIBING HUMAN-WILDLIFE INTERACTIONS; AMENDING SECTION 10-10 – HUMAN-WILDLIFE INTERACTIONS; REPEALING SECTION 10-11 – HUNTING; ESTABLISHING REGULATIONS CONCERNING HUMAN-WILDLIFE INTERACTIONS; PROVIDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF UP TO A \$500 PENALTY PER OCCURRENCE FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE ORDINANCE; AND PROVIDING FOR THE FOLLOWING: FINDINGS OF FACT, ENACTMENT, REPEALER, PENALTY, SAVINGS, SEVERABILITY, PROPER NOTICE AND MEETING, AND EFFECTIVE DATE CLAUSES.

WHEREAS, the City of Alpine, Texas, is a home rule city acting under its charter adopted by the electorate pursuant to Article XI, Section 5 of the Texas Constitution, and Chapter 9 of the Texas Local Government Code; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Alpine (“City”) adopted Ordinance No. 2008-11-01, Ordinance 2015-11-01, Ordinance 2021-02-02, Ordinance No. 2021-03-02, Ordinance No. 2021-05-03, Ordinance No. 2024-05-03, and Ordinance No. 2024-09-02, and 2025-06-05, which implemented regulations relating to the keeping of animals and for animal control services in the City; and

WHEREAS, the Animal Advisory Board is composed of community members who advise the City Council on policy decisions that affect the health and safety of animals within the City; and

WHEREAS, the Animal Advisory Board has recommended amendments to the City Council that would establish regulations concerning human-wildlife interaction; and

WHEREAS, the amendments recommended by the Animal Advisory Board will allow the Animal Services Department to provide a more effective and efficient service to the community and to ensure adequate animal welfare within the City; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code, including Chapters 61, 62, and 63, establishes the State of Texas’ authority to regulate and protect wildlife, prohibit unlawful feeding, harassment, capture, or taking of wildlife, and protect wildlife nests, dens, and offspring, and authorizes cooperation between municipalities and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in furtherance of these purposes; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 821 of the Texas Health and Safety Code provides for the humane treatment of animals and authorizes municipal enforcement of animal welfare regulations applicable within the city limits; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Texas Local Government Code Section 51.001, the City has general authority to adopt an ordinance or police regulation that is for the good government, peace, or order of the City and is necessary or proper for carrying out a power granted by law to the City; and

WHEREAS, it is deemed by the City Council to be in the best interest of the City to amend the current animal ordinances as recommended by the Animal Advisory Board and that such amendments will serve to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the City and are in the best interest of the public.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF ALPINE, TEXAS THAT:

**SECTION I
FINDINGS OF FACT**

The Alpine Code of Ordinances is hereby amended to reflect the changes hereto attached as Exhibit "A." The premises attached as Exhibit "A" are found to be true and correct legislative and factual findings of the City Council of the City of Alpine and are hereby approved and incorporated herein as findings of fact.

**SECTION II
INCLUSION IN THE CODE OF ORDINANCES**

The provisions of this ordinance shall become and be made a part of the Code of Ordinances of Alpine, Texas. The sections of the Ordinance may be renumbered or re-lettered to accomplish such, and the word "ordinance" may be changed to "section," "article," or any other appropriate word. The codifier of the City is empowered to make amendments to match the style of the existing code.

**SECTION III
CUMULATIVE CLAUSE**

This ordinance shall be cumulative of all provisions of the City of Alpine, Texas, except where the provisions of this Ordinance are in direct conflict with the provisions of such Ordinance, in which event the conflicting provisions of such Ordinance are hereby repealed.

**SECTION IV
PENALTY CLAUSE**

Any person, corporation, or entity who intentionally, knowingly, recklessly, or with criminal negligence violates any provision of this Ordinance shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be fined in an amount not to exceed \$500.00. Each day in which any violation occurs, or each occurrence of any violation, shall constitute a separate offense.

**SECTION V
SAVINGS CLAUSE**

The repeal of any ordinance or part of ordinances effectuated by the enactment of this ordinance shall not be construed as abandoning any action now pending under or by virtue of such ordinance or as discontinuing, abating, modifying, or altering any penalty accruing or to accrue, or as affecting any rights of the municipality under any section or provisions of any ordinances at the time of passage of this ordinance.

**SECTION VI
SEVERABILITY CLAUSE**

It is hereby declared to be the intention of the City Council of the City of Alpine that the phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs, and sections of this Ordinance are severable, and if any phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph or section of this Ordinance should be declared unconstitutional by the valid judgment or decree of any court of competent jurisdiction, such unconstitutionality shall not affect any of the remaining phrases, clauses, sentences paragraphs or sections of the Ordinances, since the same would have been enacted by the City Council without incorporation in this ordinance of any such unconstitutional phrases, clause, sentence, paragraph or section.

**SECTION VII
PROPER NOTICE AND MEETING**

It is hereby officially found and determined that the meeting at which this Ordinance was adopted was open to the public and that public notice of the time, place, and purpose of said meeting was given as required by the Open Meetings Act, Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code. A public hearing was held on June 2, 2026, where interested parties had the opportunity to make public comments on this ordinance prior to approval. Notice of the date and time of the hearing and notice of how to obtain copies of the proposed ordinance was published in the Alpine Avalanche, the official newspaper of the City of Alpine on May 28, 2026.

**SECTION VII
EFFECTIVE DATE**

This ordinance shall be effective upon passage and publication as required by State and Local law.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 2ND DAY OF JUNE 2026 BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ALPINE, TEXAS.

INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

MAY 19, 2026

SECOND AND FINAL READING

JUNE 2, 2026

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Catherine Eaves, Mayor

Geoffrey R. Calderon, City Secretary

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

City Attorney

EXHIBIT "A"

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Additions are Underlined. ~~Omissions appear in Strikethrough Text.~~

The portion of text replaced by the trunkus symbol (***) indicates that the portion of the code replaced by the symbol remains unchanged from one section to the next.

Sec. 10-1. Definitions.

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this chapter, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Adequate shelter means a sturdy structure:

- (1) [That has] a weatherproof top, bottom, and sides;
- (2) [That has] an opening on no more than one side that allows the dog to remain dry and provides adequate shade during daylight hours to prevent overheating and discomfort to the dog;
- (3) [That has] a floor that is level and dry;
- (4) [That is] free from cracks, depressions, and rough areas that might be conducive to insects, parasites, and other pests;
- (5) [That is] of adequate size to allow the dog to stand erect with the dog's head up, to turn around easily, and to sit and lie down in a comfortable and normal position.
- (6) [That has] sufficient clean and dry bedding material or other means of protection from the weather that will allow the dog to retain body heat when the weather is colder than what a dog of that breed and condition can tolerate;
- (7) [That provides] suitable means for the prompt elimination of excess liquids;
- (8) [That is] structurally sound, maintained in good repair, and constructed with material that protects the dog from injury; and
- (9) Allows the dog in and out.

Altered animal means an animal having been spayed or neutered.

Animal means every living nonhuman creature, vertebrate or invertebrate, domestic or wild.

Animal control officer, animal services officer, or ACO means a duly authorized person responsible for the enforcement of this chapter including peace officers.

Animal shelter means any premises designated or operated by the city for the purpose of impounding and caring for animals under the authority of this chapter.

Appendix C: Animal Services Fees means the official animal services fee schedule, established by city council resolution and available during normal business hours at city hall or online by visiting www.cityofalpine.com/fees.

Attack means definite vigorous, aggressive action by a dog directly against a person or other animal which results in the infliction of bodily injury, or the threat of bodily injury, by such dog to a person or other animal.

Authorized Agency means City of Alpine Animal Services, law enforcement, or other agencies designated by the city, and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD).

Bee, bee keeping and bee hives means any of numerous hairy-bodied insects including social and solitary species, the cultivation of bees on any commercial scale for the production of honey or bees, and a hive is a manmade receptacle that houses a swarm of bees.

Bite means an abrasion, scratch, puncture, tear or piercing of the skin actually or suspected of being caused by the mouth of any animal.

City or City of Alpine means officials of the City of Alpine including, but not limited to, the city manager, the animal control officer, and any City of Alpine peace officer.

Collar means a band, chain, harness or other suitable device worn about the neck of an animal to which a current rabies vaccination registration tag can be affixed.

Continual noise or frequent or long continued noise means noise pollution, unwanted or excessive sound, a nuisance that interferes with activities, for example owning an animal that causes frequent or long-continued noise, by barking or howling, that disturbs the comfort of any person.

Current vaccination means vaccinated and satisfying the following:

(1) The animal must have been vaccinated against rabies with a vaccine licensed by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for that species at or after the minimum age requirement as determined by Texas state law and using the recommended route of administration for the vaccine.

(2) At least 30 days have elapsed since the initial vaccine.

(3) The time elapsed since the most recent vaccination has not exceeded the recommended interval for booster vaccination as established by the manufacturer.

Dangerous animal means any animal that:

(1) Has inflicted severe injury on a human being without provocation;

(2) Has injured or killed a domestic animal without provocation; or

(3) Has been previously found to be potentially dangerous, the owner having received notice of such and the animal again aggressively bites, attacks, or endangers the safety of humans or domestic animals.

Potentially dangerous animal means any animal that when unprovoked:

(1) Inflicts injury on a human or a domestic animal; or

(2) Chases or approaches a person upon the streets, sidewalks, or any public grounds in a menacing fashion or apparent attitude of attack; or

(3) Has a known propensity, tendency, or disposition to attack, or to cause injury or otherwise to threaten the safety of humans or domestic animals.

Dangerous dog means a dog that:

(1) Makes an unprovoked attack on a person that causes bodily injury and occurs in a place other than an enclosure in which the dog was being kept and that was reasonably certain to prevent the dog from leaving the enclosure on its own; or

(2) Commits unprovoked acts in a place other than an enclosure in which the dog was being kept and that was reasonably certain to prevent the dog from leaving the enclosure on its own and such acts cause a person to reasonably believe that the dog will attack and cause bodily injury to that person.

Dilapidated means a building, structure or material that has fallen into partial ruin by neglect or misuse or into a condition of partial decay.

Dog means any member of the canis familiaris species.

Domestic animals means animal species which generally have their breeding controlled by people and which by their long association with people have been developed into breeds or types for specific uses by people.

Domesticated means a tame animal that is subject to the dominion and control of an owner and accustomed to living in or near human habitation without requiring extraordinary restraint or unreasonably disturbing such human habitation.

Dwelling means any building or portion thereof which is designed and used for residential purposes. An attached garage shall be deemed to be part of a dwelling.

Enclosure means a building or other similar structure that is fully enclosed with a roof and sides to provide a degree of protection as well as preventing the ability of escape.

Euthanasia means putting to death of an animal in a manner and method which causes no pain or distress to the animal, and is in compliance with the provisions of V.T.C.A., Health and Safety Code ch. 821, subch. C. Shooting firearms into a pen or enclosure containing multiple animals is prohibited by the Texas Health and Safety Code and shall not satisfy the requirement under the definition of euthanasia or

humane destruction of animals. Lethal injection shall, throughout this chapter, be presumed to be the method of euthanasia employed by the city.

Euthanize means to kill in a humane manner.

Exotic animal means any animal that is not livestock or a domesticated animal and includes, but is not limited to: all alligators and crocodiles; all bears; all cats other than the commonly accepted domesticated cats, including but not limited to cheetah, leopard, lion, lynx, panther, cougar, mountain lion, bobcat, and tiger; all dogs other than domesticated dogs, including but not limited to wolf, part wolf, fox, part fox, coyote, and part coyote; all porcupines; all nonhuman primates; all raccoons; all skunks; all venomous fish and piranha; all venomous snakes and lizards; and all weasels other than ferrets.

Exposed to rabies means an animal which has been exposed to rabies either by being bitten by another animal or has been in contact with any animal known to be or suspected of being infected with rabies.

Feeding means the intentional or negligent placement of food, water, salt licks, or attractants for the purpose of attracting animals.

Feral animal means formerly domesticated animals and their offspring which have roamed at large for a sufficient period of time and with sufficient success at survival as to be deemed no longer domesticated.

Feral cat means a domestic cat who has been born and raised without contact with humans, or a cat who has not had contact with humans for a significant period of time and has become unsocialized. It can also mean a free-roaming domestic cat which is not owned.

Feral cat colony means any group of feral cats which have a keeper who is maintaining and caring for the feral cats by providing food and water and other forms of sustenance.

Feral keeper means any person or organization, harboring, regularly feeding or having in his or her possession any feral cat. A person becomes a "keeper" when any person has possession of or control over the animal and has fed the cat for three or more consecutive days. Also, a "keeper" can be any individual who permits a cat to habitually be or remain on or be lodged or fed within such persons property or premises.

Fowl means any domesticated bird used as food by people, such as chickens, ducks, turkeys, geese, guinea fowl, peafowl or pigeons.

Harass means any action that disturbs, chases, injures, stresses, or alters the natural behavior of an animal.

Harness means a set of straps constructed of nylon, leather, or similar material, specifically designed to restrain or control a dog.

Horse means any member of the equine family.

Hunting is the practice of seeking, pursuing, capturing or killing wildlife or feral animals.

Inclement weather includes rain, hail, sleet, snow, high winds, extreme low temperatures, or extreme high temperatures.

Interaction means any intentional or negligent action that causes direct or indirect contact with wildlife, including feeding, touching, handling, harassing, or attempting to capture.

Keep or harbor means to have charge, custody or control of an animal or fowl, or permitting the animal or fowl to habitually remain or be lodged or fed within the property of the owner or occupant of the premises.

Kennel means any premises on which four or more dogs or four or more cats, four months of age or older, are kept; or where the business of buying, selling, breeding, grooming, training or boarding of dogs or cats is conducted. The term "kennel" does not include veterinary hospitals or animal shelters.

Large livestock animal means cattle, horses, mules, beasts of burden, or any other similar domesticated animal.

License, registration or permit means a printed authorization issued by the city allowing the holder to keep the animal described within the city limits.

Livestock means domestic animals of the equine, bovine, ovine, caprine or porcine genera.

Nuisance means disturbing the peace, emitting noxious or offensive odors or otherwise endangering or being offensive to the environment of the city.

Own means to keep, harbor or have charge, custody or control of an animal or fowl.

Owner means any person who owns, harbors, keeps, causes or permits to be harbored or kept, or has in their care, an animal or bird on or about their premises; or any person keeping, harboring, having charge or control of, or

permitting to habitually be or remain on such person's premises any animal for a period of three consecutive days or more.

Pet animal means dogs, cats, birds, guinea pigs, hamsters, mice, snakes, iguana and turtles. Pet animal shall also include any domesticated animal that a person owns or that is sold or offered for sale for the purpose of being kept indoors as household pets.

Properly fitted means, with respect to a collar or harness, a collar or harness that:

- (1) Is appropriately sized for the dog based on the dog's measurements and body weight;
- (2) Does not choke the dog or impede the dog's normal breathing or swallowing; and
- (3) Does not cause pain or injury to the dog.

Provoke, provoking, or provocation means that:

- (1) A situation or action that encourages or incites a dog to bite someone. It can also be actions that excite a dog or cause it to feel defensive, regardless of a person's intent.

Quarantine means to place an animal in a secure enclosure which precludes physical contact with any other animal.

Rabies means an acute viral disease of man and animal affecting the central nervous system and usually transmitted by an animal bite.

Restrained or confined means an animal restricted to the property of the owner or under the direct physical control of a competent person.

Restraint means a chain, rope, tether, leash, cable, or other device that attaches a dog to a stationary object or trolley system.

Retail sale means the business of selling pet animals directly to consumers of the public.

Run at large means free of physical restraint beyond an enclosed or fenced area; includes any animal that is not under the actual control of its owner.

Service animals are defined as dogs that are individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities. Examples of such work or tasks include guiding people who are blind, alerting people who are deaf, pulling a wheelchair, alerting, and protecting a person who is having a seizure, reminding a person with mental illness to take prescribed medications, calming a person with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) during an anxiety attack, or performing other duties. Dogs whose sole function is to provide comfort or emotional support do not qualify as service animals under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Small livestock animal means swine, sheep, goats or any other domesticated or wild animal of smaller stature, except pet animals or fowl.

Stray means any animal running free with no physical restraint beyond the premises of the owner.

Swine means any member of the Suidae species.

Unaltered animal means an animal that has not been spayed or neutered.

Vaccination means the inoculation of an animal with a vaccine that is licensed by the United States Department of Agriculture, and which is administered by a veterinarian for the purpose of immunizing the animal against rabies or other diseases.

Veterinarian means a veterinarian holding a current and valid license to practice veterinary medicine in the state.

Wild animal means any non-domestic animal.

Wildlife means ~~any undomesticated animals living in the wild.~~ Any non-domesticated mammal, bird, reptile, amphibian, or other animal species native to or migrating through the region, including but not limited to deer, javelina, feral hogs, coyotes, foxes, raccoons, skunks, snakes, and birds of prey.

(Ord. No. 2008-11-01, § 1, 1-6-09; Ord. No. 2015-11-01, Exh. A, 6-21-16; Ord. No. 2021-03-02, § I(Exh. A), 3-16-21; Ord. No. 2021-05-03, § I(Exh. A), 7-20-21; Ord. No. 2022-02-01, § 1(Exh. A), 3-15-22); Ord. No. 2022-05-02, § I(Exh. A), 6-7-22; Ord. No. 2023-05-02, § I(Exh. A), 5-16-23; Ord. No. 2024-05-03, § I(Exh. A), 6-18-24; Ord. No. 2024-09-02, § I(Exh. A), 10-1-24)

Cross reference(s)—Definitions generally, § 1-2.

Sec. 10-10. ~~Wildlife feeding.~~ Human-Wildlife Interactions

The purpose of this ordinance is to:

- (1) Protect public health and safety.
- (2) Protect native and migratory wildlife from harm or habituation.
- (3) Reduce conflicts between humans and wildlife.
- (4) Promote responsible and lawful wildlife interactions consistent with state and federal law.

(a) Feeding of wildlife prohibited.

(1) Except as provided below in subsections (b)(1) and (2) below, a person commits an offense if the person intentionally feeds wildlife by making food available for consumption on private or public property within the city limits.

(2) A person shall be deemed to have purposely fed or caused wildlife to be fed if the person places food and/or water, as defined in this section, in any form, (not including live vegetation such as ornamental landscaping or flowers) on the ground, or within reach of wildlife.

(3) A person who violates any provision of this section commits an offense.

(b) Harassment or harm of wildlife prohibited.

(1) it shall be unlawful to harass, chase, capture, injure, or kill wildlife, except as allowed by state law or in defense of human life.

(c) Keeping wildlife as pets prohibited.

(1) it shall be unlawful to possess, confine, or keep wildlife as pets without proper state and federal permits.

(d) Interfering with nests or dens prohibited.

(1) it shall be unlawful to disturb, destroy, or remove nests, dens, or offspring of wildlife.

(2) No person shall remove or have in their possession the young eggs, or nest of any wildlife within city limits.

(e) Improper waste management prohibited.

(1) it shall be unlawful to leave trash, food waste, or attractants accessible to wildlife in a manner that creates a nuisance or safety hazard. This section can also be classified as a public nuisance under section 10-42 of this chapter.

(f) Hunting.

(1) Hunting of any kind is strictly prohibited within the city limits unless it is for the capture and or control of nuisance animals by an authorized government official.

(b) (g) Exceptions; affirmative defenses.

(1) This section does not apply to the placement of food into feeders kept at a minimum of five feet above the ground surface and intended for birds.

(2) This section does not apply to an animal control officer, veterinarian, peace officer, city employee, federal or state wildlife official, who is acting pursuant to a lawfully authorized program to treat, manage, capture, trap, hunt, or remove wildlife and who is acting within the scope of the person's authority.

(3) This section does not apply to licensed wildlife rehabilitators operating under state and federal permits.

(4) This section does not apply when emergency actions are taken in immediate defense of human life.

~~(3)~~ (5) It is an affirmative defense to prosecution under this section if a person places food, in good faith, for the purpose of feeding domestic livestock or domestic pets located on their property.

(e) (h) Enforcement.

~~(1) Animal control officers, park rangers, code compliance officers and police officers are hereby given full power and authority to enforce this section.~~ This ordinance shall be enforced by City of Alpine law enforcement officers, animal services officers, and other authorized agencies.

(2) It is a violation to hinder, molest or interfere with anyone authorized or empowered to perform any duty under this section.

(3) Officers may issue warnings, citations, or take other lawful actions deemed necessary to ensure compliance

(4) Wildlife posing an immediate threat to public safety may be handled in accordance with state law and best management practices.

~~(d)~~ (i) Penalties.

(1) A person who commits a violation of this section will first be given a warning and will be provided information on the negative impacts of wildlife feeding. A second offense will result in prosecution in municipal court. Any violation of this section is deemed a class C misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not less than \$75.00 or more than \$500.00. Each day any violation of any provision of this section shall continue shall constitute a separate offense.

(2) Nothing in this section shall be construed as to limit any civil action the city may take to enforce the terms of this section.

(3) Each day a violation continues shall constitute a separate offense.

(j) Public education

The City of Alpine shall encourage public education efforts regarding wildlife safety, coexistence practices, and responsible behavior through signage, outreach programs, and coordination with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

(k) Severability

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase of this ordinance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the remaining portions of this ordinance.

(Ord. No. 2021-03-02, § I(Exh. A), 3-16-21; Ord. No. 2024-09-02, § I(Exh. A), 10-1-24)

~~Sec. 10-11. Hunting.~~

~~(a) Hunting of any kind is strictly prohibited within the city limits unless it is for the capture and or control of nuisance animals by an authorized government official.~~

~~(b) No person shall remove or have in their possession the young eggs, or nest of any wildlife within city limits.~~

~~(Ord. No. 2021-03-02, § I(Exh. A), 3-16-21; Ord. No. 2024-09-02, § I(Exh. A), 10-1-24)~~