

**The Animal Shelter Commission proposed revisions for discussion purposes. They will make these recommendations to City staff for approval by the Dallas City Council.**

**1/3/08**

## **Proposed Changes to Dallas City Code Chapter 7 - Animals**

### **Pet Limits**

- § Amend Sec. 7-4.6 – Limitation on Number of Dogs and Cats in Dwelling Units - to further limit the number of dogs and cats; provide a grandfather provision; and a defense for foster care providers.

**SEC. 7-4.6. LIMITATION ON THE NUMBER OF DOGS AND CATS IN DWELLING UNITS ~~WITH COMMON WALLS.~~**

(a) A person commits an offense if he harbors more than four dogs, cats, or any combination of dogs and cats on the premises of a dwelling unit that shares a common wall with another dwelling unit.

(b) A person commits an offense if he harbors more than six dogs, cats, or any combination of dogs and cats on the premises of a dwelling unit that shares no common wall with another dwelling unit.

(c) In this section, DWELLING UNIT has the meaning given it in Section 51A-2.102 of the Dallas Development Code, as amended.

(d) For purposes of this section, a dog or cat under four months of age or a feral cat participating in a trap, neuter and return program approved by the director shall not be counted for purposes of determining the limitations in Subsections (a) and (b).

(e) It is a defense to prosecution under Subsection (b) that the person:

(i) is approved by the director as a foster care provider;

(ii) is harboring no more than ten dogs, cats, or any combination of dogs and cats on the premises; and

(iii) has on file with the director a written document on a form provided for that purpose by the director signed and acknowledged before a notary public by the legal owner of the dwelling unit and at least one adult occupant of the dwelling unit authorizing the director to conduct unannounced inspections of the premises and all animals located thereon to ensure that the person is in compliance with all applicable provisions of this chapter.

(f) It is a defense to prosecution under Subsection (b) that the person:

(i) was, on the effective date of the ordinance establishing the limitations in Subsection (b), the owner of more than six dogs, cats or any combination of dogs and cats;

(ii) within 90 days after the effective date, provides the director a list of each dog or cat owned by the person on a form provided by the director for that purpose;

(iii) harbors no additional animals on the premises from and after the effective date of the ordinance creating Subsection (b); and

(iv) complies with all other requirements of this chapter applicable to those dogs and cats.