

Summary of Ordinance 2933 Amendments

‘To improve is to change. To be perfect is to change often.’

Winston Churchill

If that saying holds true, the animal ordinance is now just about perfect.

6.8.060 Tag--Collar

- A. Upon receipt of a proper application and the pet registration fee, the registration agent shall issue to the applicant a pet registration certificate and metallic tag. The tag shall have stamped thereon a number to correspond with the number of the certificate issued to the applicant.
- B. Every owner is required to provide each dog or cat with a substantial collar or harness, to which the registration tag or other identification tag shall be affixed at all times. In the event a registration tag is lost or destroyed, another tag shall be issued by the Animal Control Agency upon presentation of an affidavit to that effect, a receipt or duplicate receipt showing payment of the pet registration fee for the current year, and the payment of a fee for such duplicate. No refunds shall be made on any pet registration fee because of the death of the pet or the owner leaving the City before the expiration of the registration period. **If a dog or cat has a Microchip Implant, no collar or tag is required to be worn, however the animal is still required to be registered pursuant to the provisions of this Title.**
- C. Any pet animal found off the owner's premises without a registration tag, **or without a Microchip Implant**, shall be deemed to be not registered, even though a registration has been issued for such animal. Pet registration tags are not transferable from one animal to another and any animal found with a registration tag issued for another pet animal shall be deemed to be not registered.
- D. It is unlawful for any person to cause or permit a pet registration tag to be placed upon an animal for which it was not issued.
- E. A person found guilty of a violation of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a maximum fine of \$250. (Ord. 2573, 1990: Ord. 2534 §2(Exh. B(part)), 1989).

This section allows owners to not have collars or tags as long as the animal is microchipped – this rewards responsible pet owners and allows us to follow through on the intent which is to locate the owner when the animal is picked up.

6.8.080 Multiple-Animal Permit / **Multiple Animal Hobby Breeder permit**

A Multiple Animal Permit is required for any person, family, or household owning or harboring any more than the number of dogs and cats permitted by Section 6.08.070 for more than thirty (30) days. **A Multiple Animal Hobby Breeder Permit is required for any person, family, or household owning or harboring any more than the number of dogs and cats permitted by Section 6.08.070 who intends to breed their animals. The holder of a regular Multiple Animal Permit or a person holding no Multiple Animal Permit must apply for a Multiple Animal Hobby Breeder Permit within ten days of the birth of a litter. Application for these permits shall be made with the Animal Control Agency. The intended facilities are subject to inspection by an Animal Control Officer. The permit shall be issued upon the following conditions:**

- A. All dogs must be registered;
- B. Cats must be registered or micro-chipped;
- C. There must be adequate shelter and secure enclosure for animals on the premises;
- D. The owner uses suitable means of disposing of animal feces so that it does not become a nuisance or a health hazard;
- E. That in the investigating officer's opinion, the animals receive proper care, food, water, shelter and humane treatment;
- F. **Cat breeders are allowed to have a maximum of 4 litters per year. Other than any animals intended to be kept as pets by the breeder, kittens must be sold or given away within 4 months of birth. Dog breeders are allowed to have maximum of 2 litters per year, and other than any animals intended to be kept as pets by the breeder, puppies must be removed within 4 months.**

- G. For a Hobby Breeder Permit, the puppies and kittens can only be sold, given as a gift or other transfer or conveyance from the location listed on the Hobby Breeder Permit.
- H. The Hobby Breeder Permit shall list the maximum number of animals over the age of six months allowed on the premises and if the holder of the permit exceeds that number, it shall be grounds for revocation of all permits for that location.
- I. The Animal Control Agency shall approve or deny the application based on the information submitted by the applicant and on the recommendation of the investigating officer. The Animal Control Agency may issue a conditional permit, but must state the permit conditions on the document and ensure that the applicant is advised of the conditions;
- J. After receiving notification of the Animal Control Agency's approval, the applicant must pay the Animal Control Agency an application fee which shall be established by resolution of the City Commission;
- K. All premises for which a multiple animal permit is issued may be subject to annual inspections by the Animal Control Officer. The inspections may also be instigated if a complaint is filed. The Animal Control Agency, on determining that such premises are not being maintained and/or the conditions of the permit are not met, may recommend a revocation or denial of the permit if it is deemed necessary. The permittee shall be given a 30 day written notice of the Animal Control Agency's recommendation/revocation/denial;
- L. A permit authorized by the Animal Control Agency must contain the following information:
1. Name and address of the person to whom the permit is granted;
 2. The number of dogs and cats for which the permit is granted; and
 3. Any special conditions required by the Animal Control Agency.
 4. A Hobby Breeder Permit must state whether it is for dogs or cats or both
- M. If the holder of a Multiple-Animal permit or a Multiple Animal Hobby Breeder permit moves, he or she must provide written notice of their new address if it is within the city limits of Great Falls within 30 days of moving. The Animal Control Agency will then conduct an inspection and take appropriate action under this section based on any changes at the permit holder's new residence.
- N. The applicant may appeal the denial or revocation of a permit by filing a written request for reconsideration with the Neighborhood Council Coordinator. The written appeal must state the applicant's name and address and should clearly outline the applicant's rebuttal to the reason(s) stated for denial and should include any additional information which may be pertinent to the applicants request for a permit. The appeal shall be heard by the Neighborhood Council for the district which includes the location of the requested permit. The Neighborhood Council shall set the matter for hearing at either the Council's next regularly scheduled meeting or a special session set at the Council's discretion. The Neighborhood Council Coordinator shall provide written notice to the person filing the appeal as well as the Animal Control Agency of the date and time of the hearing. After hearing testimony and reviewing the written appeal, the Council shall either affirm or reverse the permit decision.
- O. If the applicant is not satisfied with the decision of the Neighborhood Council, they may file an appeal to the Clerk of Municipal Court within 30 days of the date on the written denial provided by the Neighborhood Council. The written appeal must state the applicant's name and address and should clearly outline the applicant's rebuttal to the reason(s) stated for denial and should include any additional information which may be pertinent to the applicants request for a permit. The Court shall set the matter for hearing and either affirm or reverse the permit decision.

This change allows breeding for those who wish to have a litter or two of hunting dogs but do not rise to the level of commercial purposes. It also establishes an appeal process for denials of permits.

6.8.130 Contagious Disease

Upon the positive diagnosis of a contagious communicable disease in any animal in the City which poses a community health risk, the diagnosing veterinarian shall notify the City County Health Department Director, or designee, who may issue a city-wide alert. Any animal displaying symptoms of the disease must be quarantined and confined either upon the premises of the owner or at a licensed veterinary hospital. The location of quarantine shall be determined by the Animal Control authority. (Ord. 2534 §2(Exh. B(part)), 1989).

This addresses the question raised @ the hearing while leaving the purpose of the ordinance intact.

6.8.190 Surrender / Crematory Fee - Dogs and Cats

- A. The Animal Control Agency will dispose of dead dogs or dead cats for a fee to be established by the Animal Control Agency if the animal is transported to the Animal Shelter by the owner.
- B. The Animal Control Agency will euthanize and dispose of dogs and cats for an owner who is a resident of the City for unwanted cats and dogs brought to the Animal Shelter by the owner. The resident surrender fee shall be established by the Animal Control Agency and charged to the owner.
- C. The Animal Control Agency will euthanize and dispose of dogs and cats for an owner who is a non-resident of the City for unwanted cats and dogs brought to the Animal Shelter by the owner. The non-resident surrender fee shall be established by the Animal Control Agency and charged to the owner.
- D. These fees do not apply to persons or agencies covered by a contract with the Animal Control Agency or the City for disposal.

This section was completely re-written to clean up the language and more specifically state the purpose of the fees.