

Washoe County Regional Animal Services Notice for Proposed Code and Fee Changes & BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT



Washoe County is considering amendments to Chapter 55 and to the Animal Services Fee Schedule.

The proposed amendments to the Washoe County Ordinance (WCC Chapter 55) are in response to new State Laws enacted by the 2011 and 2013 Nevada Legislature and signed into law by the Governor. In addition, requested changes from the City of Reno, the public and the creation of Regional Animal Services as a Department within Washoe County. The proposed amendments, which affect your business, include:

- Adding definitions;
- Modifying definitions; and,
- Creating a permit structure with appropriate permit requirements.

The proposed amendment to the WCC 55 is to establish a permit and permit fee to regulate the care and keeping of animals in commercial establishments located within Washoe County and the Cities of Reno and Sparks. The proposed permit fee is \$100.00 per year.

State Law requires that Washoe County prepare a Business Impact Statement to address any potential fiscal impacts of the proposed new permit fees for businesses within the jurisdiction.

Copies of the proposed WCC Chapter 55 amendments pertaining to your business and permit fee are attached and additional copies may be obtained at:

Regional Animal Services
2825 Longley Lane, suite A
Reno, NV 89502

As a business owner or manager, you are encouraged to review the proposed amendments and provide written data or arguments pertinent to the proposed amendments before July 30, 2014.

You are invited to attend the public meeting outlining the ordinance review process on

July 15, 2014 at 5:30 pm.

The public meeting will be held at:

Washoe County Commission Chambers

Washoe County Administrative Complex, Building A,
1001 East Ninth Street, Reno

If you have any questions, please contact Animal Services at 775-353-8900 or at pets@washoecounty.us.

Proposed code addition

55.455 Commercial Animal Permit

1. Commercial animal establishments must be inspected by and be permitted by the Animal Services Manager or his designee.

- a) No commercial permit may be transferred or assigned between persons, between commercial animal establishments, or between a person and a commercial animal establishment.
- b) Each separate and distinct commercial animal establishment owned by the same person or entity, must possess an individual location permit.
- c) Upon a change of location or ownership of a commercial animal establishment, a new inspection and permit is required prior to any operational changes.
- d) Each commercial animal establishment is subject to inspection by an Animal Control Officer anytime during normal business hours.
- e) The commercial animal establishment permit must be displayed in a conspicuous place.
- f) No commercial animal establishment may sell a cat or dog over the age of 3 months old to any person without a valid rabies vaccination.
- g) Veterinarian or veterinary hospitals are exempt from this provision.

2. All commercial animal establishments, except Veterinarians and Veterinary Hospitals, are required to submit an application for commercial animal establishment to Regional Animal Services.

3. Upon initial application, Regional Animal Services must review and certify that the commercial animal establishment has been inspected and is in compliance with all zoning requirements and ordinances of Washoe County, the City of Reno or the City of Sparks. A certificate of occupancy for the appropriate jurisdiction or approved business license may be accepted as evidence that the commercial animal establishment is in compliance with the local jurisdiction.

- a) Regional Animal Services is hereby authorized to create an internal permit application process with rules, records requirements and retention including, but not limited to, proof of insurance, health records, and any other conditions deemed necessary to preserve the health and safety of the animals and the public.
- b) The records required by 3(a) shall be maintained at the commercial animal establishment for a minimum of two years after the date of sale, transfer or other disposition of the dog or cat addressed by the record, and shall be readily available for inspection by any animal control officer.

4. Except as otherwise established, a permit is renewable annually upon inspection.

5. Commercial permits granted to circus, performing animal exhibitions, or animal exhibits are valid for the duration of the event not to exceed thirty (30) days from the date of issuance.

6. Circuses, performing animal exhibitions, or animal exhibits may request limited permission to possess prohibited animals within the jurisdiction of Regional Animal Services for the duration of the commercial permit.

Comment [a1]: For discussion

Suggested language provided by Beverlee McGrath
Legislative Liaison for NV Animal Groups

"Prohibiting the sale of Commercially bred dogs,
cats and rabbits in pet stores."

Comment [a2]: This is a new section to address
the issues with pet stores and exotic animal shows.

Wording is a collaboration between the County,
Reno and Sparks.

- a) Possession of a prohibited animal under this section is exempt from the provisions of 55.650. Regional Animal Services is hereby authorized to create internal permit application rules including, but not limited to, proof of insurance, health records, USDA exhibitors permit and any other conditions deemed necessary to preserve the health and safety of the public. Each prohibited animal possessed is required to be separately permitted."

7. In accordance with the provisions of NRS 574 duties of Operators, the Board hereby adopts NRS 574.360 thru 574.510 inclusive. In addition to the requirements in subsection 7 an Operator shall ensure:

- a) the walls and floors of enclosures shall be constructed of nonabsorbent, nonporous materials impervious to moisture. If wire or grid flooring is used it must be made of powder coated or plastic coated wire and be of adequate gauge to support the animal(s) without sagging and to prevent the animals' feet from passing through the openings.
- b) All dogs and cats received for resale shall be kept in an isolation room for a minimum of 120 hours before being released to a purchaser. Each animal shall be observed daily by the licensee or his representative in order to recognize general symptoms of injury, illness or disease.
- c) Any dog or cat that exhibits symptoms of injury, illness or disease shall be kept in an isolation area or isolation room and treated as prescribed by a veterinarian. Any such dog or cat shall be verified by a veterinarian to be healthy before such dog or cat can be offered for sale.
- d) Facilities which do not have a full-time attending veterinarian must have a written Program of Veterinary Care (PVC). The attending veterinarian must visit the facility on a regular basis, i.e., often enough to provide adequate oversight of the facility's care and use of animals. The PVC must include the method(s) of euthanasia for the animals, which should be consistent with the current AVMA Guidelines on Euthanasia (<https://www.avma.org/KB/Policies/Documents/euthanasia.pdf>).
- e) To reduce the risks of the transmission of diseases, all commercial animal establishment that allow for the handling of animals by the public must provide a hand sanitizer for the public and require hand sanitizing prior to and after handling the animals.
- f) Disposal of animal carcasses shall be followed in accordance with NRS 571.200 and NAC 571.200.

8. A commercial animal establishment is prohibited from the selling dogs or cats obtained from a source other than an acceptable procurement source. Acceptable Procurement Sources are:

- a) Humane groups organized as legal entities in accordance with NRS 574.010 thru 574.040 inclusive.
- b) USDA licensed dealers.

9. Revocation of Permit for commercial animal establishment. Any single violation of this section or violation of any other law of the State of Nevada or violation of any other Washoe County ordinance shall constitute a violation of the commercial animal permit and permit shall be subject to revocation by the Regional Animal Services.

- a). Any commercial animal establishment residing within the boundaries of the City of Reno shall maintain a City of Reno business license. If at any time the City suspends or revokes the business license, the City shall notify Regional Animal Services and the Commercial animal permit shall be suspended or revoked as applicable.

b). Any commercial animal establishment residing within the boundaries of the City of Sparks shall maintain a City of Sparks business license. If at any time the City suspends or revokes the business license, the City shall notify Regional Animal Services and the commercial animal permit shall be suspended or revoked as applicable.

c) Operators who have been denied a permit or whose permit has been revoked may, by default or otherwise, may, in accordance with 55.800, seek judicial review, thereof by filing a petition for judicial review in the district court within 10 days of the denial or revocation and said petition must be personally served upon respondent within 30 days of filing.

Commercial Animal Establishment means any pet store, circus, performing animal exhibitions, animal exhibits, zoological park and kennels or boarding facilities, used for the business of buying, selling, housing or boarding or exhibiting of animals.

Comment [SRA3]: For new code section 55.455

"Isolation" means the separation, for the period of communicability, of infected animals from others in such place and under such conditions as to prevent the direct or indirect conveyance of the infectious agent from those infected to those which are susceptible or which may spread the agent to others.

Comment [a4]: New reference 55.455

"Isolation room" means a separate room located where conditions can be established to adequately control or contain modes of transmission of disease such as (but not limited to) contamination with feces and bodily secretions, mites, and arthropod vector and . having a separate air environment exhausting outside with no admixture in the general circulation

Comment [a5]: New reference 55.455