

Ordinance No. \_\_\_\_\_

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON, AMENDING  
SECTION 6.04.050 OF THE OLYMPIA MUNICIPAL CODE, RELATING TO PET  
ANIMALS**

WHEREAS, Section 6.04.050 of the Olympia Municipal Code regulates pet animals; and

WHEREAS, one of the regulations in OMC 6.04.050, addressing pet animals at large, uses the word "dog" rather than "pet animal"; and

WHEREAS, Animal Services has received complaints regarding other free-running pets; and

WHEREAS, OMC 6.04.050 should be amended to clarify that animals at large includes other pets as well, with the exception of cats;

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:**

**Section 1. Amendment of OMC 6.04.050. Olympia Municipal Code 6.04.050 is hereby amended to read as follows:**

**6.04.050 Regulations and violations relating to pet animals**

Any person who harbors, keeps, possesses, maintains, or has temporary custody of a pet animal shall be responsible for the behavior of such animal whether the owner knowingly permits the behavior or not. Such person shall violate the terms of this chapter if:

A. Pet animal at large. Such person's ~~dog-pet animal, except cats,~~ is at large as defined in Section 6.04.030(D); provided, however, this section shall not prohibit the owner and pet animal from participating in an organized show or training, exercise, or hunting session in locations designated and authorized for that purpose.

B. Nuisance pet animal. Such person's pet animal constitutes a nuisance pet animal as defined in Section 6.04.030(T).

C. Pet animal on public property. Such person's pet animal is on public property such as a public park, beach, or school ground and is not on a leash held by a person who is able to maintain physical control, or proper safeguards have not been taken to protect the public and property from injury or damage from said animal, or the presence of the animal on such property is in violation of additional specific restrictions which have been posted. Such restrictions shall not apply to cats, guide dogs for the visually impaired, service animals for the physically handicapped where being off leash is necessary to the service, or to dogs on fenced areas of public property specifically designated by the City of Olympia as areas for dogs without the requirement of a leash. Pet animals on public property is a civil infraction as defined in Section 6.04.120(B).

D. Injury to a person or animal. Such person's pet animal, domestic animal or exotic animal causes injury to a person or domestic, exotic or pet animal.

E. Failure to possess removal equipment or to remove fecal material. Such person (1) fails to possess in a public park the equipment or material necessary to remove animal fecal matter when accompanying a pet animal, or (2) fails to remove animal fecal material when accompanying a pet animal off the owner's property. Failure to possess removal equipment or to remove fecal material is a civil infraction as defined in Section 6.04.120(B).

F. Failure to sterilize an adopted pet animal. Such person, when adopting a pet animal from the Animal Services Shelter, fails to have the pet sterilized within the time period specified in the written agreement, unless specifically recommended by a veterinarian in writing, or in cases of verifiable placement within a governmental law enforcement agency. Failure to sterilize an adopted pet animal is a civil infraction as defined in Section 6.04.120(B).

G. Failure to provide humane care. Such person fails to provide a pet, exotic or domestic animal with humane care as defined in Section 6.04.030(M). Failure to provide humane care is a misdemeanor as set forth in Section 6.04.120(D).

H. Failure to meet terms of quarantine. Such person fails to accept, perform or to meet the terms of a quarantine notice served pursuant to Thurston County Health Department regulation after an animal has bitten a human. Failure to meet terms of quarantine is a misdemeanor as set forth in Section 6.04.120(D).

I. Menacing behavior. Such person's animal engages in menacing behavior as defined in Section 6.04.030(R). Violation of this subsection is a civil infraction as defined in Section 6.04.120(A).

**Section 2. Severability.** If any provision of this Ordinance or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the Ordinance or application of the provisions to other persons or circumstances shall remain unaffected.

**Section 3. Ratification.** Any act consistent with the authority and prior to the effective date of this Ordinance is hereby ratified and affirmed.

**Section 4. Effective Date.** This Ordinance shall take effect thirty (30) days after publication, as provided by law.

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MAYOR

**ATTEST:**

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CITY CLERK

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Darre Niehaber", is written over a horizontal line.

DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY

**PASSED:**

**APPROVED:**

**PUBLISHED:**