



**Agenda Item Number: 2008-**

## **BERNALILLO COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

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**Meeting Date:** October 14, 2008

**Department:** Animal Care and Regulations **Staff Contact:** Becky Darrow, Director,  
Animal Control and Protection,  
John Dantis, Deputy County Manager for  
Public Safety

**TITLE:** Animal Control Ordinance, Bernalillo County Code Chapter Six

**ACTION:** Motion to introduce and approve publication of the revised Animal Control Ordinance, County Code, Chapter 6

### **SUMMARY:**

The Bernalillo County Animal Care and Regulations Department's mission is to protect public health and welfare while enforcing humane animal treatment. The Animal Control Ordinance, Bernalillo County Code Chapter Six, (the Ordinance) was enacted to protect animals from neglect and abuse, to protect residents from annoyance and injury and to encourage responsible ownership of animals as pets.

The Ordinance was last revised in April 1999, at which time Chapter Six of the Bernalillo County Code and animal license and permit fees were approved. Proposed amendments were introduced to the Board at its May 22, 2007 administrative meeting. Since that date, eight public meetings have been conducted to receive public comment, along with input provided via email to the County's web page. The public hearings were conducted at:

- June 27, 2007 South Valley Academy
- October 15, 2007 Raymond Sanchez Community Center
- November 26, 2007 South Area Command Station
- March 26, 2008 Lt. Sibrava Substation
- July 23, 2008 Manzano Mesa Multigenerational Center
- July 30, 2008 Whispering Pines Senior Center
- August 6, 2008 Vista Grande Community Center
- August 13, 2008 Los Vecinos Community Center

Bernalillo County Animal Care staff have also met or talked with various individuals and organizations regarding the proposed amendments. Some of those discussions included representatives from Animal Protection of New Mexico, People for Animal Welfare – New Mexico, National Alliance for the Interest of Animals, Rio Grande Kennel Club, and various hobby breeders. Based on input received and research conducted, Animal Control staff are recommending a few modifications to the amendments presented at the May 22, 2007 meeting.

**ATTACHMENT:**

1. Strikethru version
2. Proposed Amended Animal Control Ordinance

**STAFF ANALYSIS SUMMARY**

**COUNTY MANAGER**

**DEPUTY COUNTY MANAGER FOR PUBLIC SAFETY**

Animal Care conducted public hearings in all commission districts in an effort to ensure complete and comprehensive community review. I recommend approval for introduction and publication of this item. JDantis 9/17/08

**LEGAL**

Approved as to form. JSL 10/8/2008

**FINANCE**

**Budget** The revised ordinance will affect the amount of revenue that the Animal Control Department will collect each year. Fiscal analysis shows that while fees have been increased, the availability of a three (3) year animal permit will taper off the initial revenue increase. A more in depth analysis will be performed to pinpoint the exact amount of the increase if any. Jennifer N. Gallegos, Financial Administrator III, 09/15/2008