



## Request for City Council Committee Action Department of Regulatory Services

Date: August 19, 2005

To: Council Member Dan Niziolek, Chair, Public Safety & Regulatory Services Committee

Subject: Regulations concerning Rabbits and Ferrets

### Recommendation:

- **Amend Chapter 70 of the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances relating to permit requirements for small animals (chickens, pigeons, etc.) to exclude rabbits.**
- **Amend Chapter 65 of the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances regulating ferrets by including rabbits to the ferret licensing requirements already in place.**
- **Amend Chapter 64 of the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances regulating the number of companion animals allowed at a residence.**
- **Amend Chapter 66 of the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances relating to rabies control to include ferrets.**

Prepared or Submitted by: Tom Doty, Manager, Field Services, Animal Care & Control

Approved by: Rocco Forte', Assistant City Coordinator, Regulatory Services

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Presenters in committee: Tom Doty, Manager Field Services, Animal Care and Control

### Financial Impact (Check those that apply)

- No financial impact (within current Regulatory Services budget)
- Action requires an appropriation increase to the Capital Budget
- Action requires an appropriation increase to the Operating Budget
- Action provides increased revenue for appropriation increase
- Action requires use of contingency or reserves
- Other financial impact (Explain):

## **Background/Supporting Information**

### **Rabbits and Ferrets as Pets**

The proposed ordinance change would make rabbits eligible for a pet licenses rather than require a permit for ownership.

The current process allows an annual, \$10.00 permit to own a rabbit(s). Documented consent from neighbors is required to obtain the permit. The original intent of the permit requirement was to create a mechanism for monitoring the animals by the City of Minneapolis (permits are granted after an inspection). Monitoring the animals is important because of animal neglect, hoarding, and overall neighborhood impact.

Removing the permit requirement and replacing it with a license makes the process of ownership simpler for residents. Owners would be required to obtain a \$25 license for each rabbit instead of paying for a permit. In addition, the proposed ordinance changes create a financial incentive by offering a license fee of \$15 for spayed and neutered rabbits. We are also proposing that ferrets be included in the ordinance amendment for a reduction in the license fee for spaying/neutering.

Suggested pet license fees are:

<u>Species</u>	<u>non-sterilized</u>	<u>spayed or neutered</u>
Dog	\$30	\$15
Cat	\$30	\$15
<i>Ferrets/Rabbits</i>	\$25	\$15 (proposed)

These amendments regulate common companion animals in the same manner. It also ensures that the City does not lose the ability to regulate the number of animals at a residence (existing ordinance states that having more than three (3) dogs and/or cats requires a special permit. Ferrets and rabbits would be included as well).

### **Ferrets and Rabies**

Concerning ferrets and rabies control, ferrets were allowed as pets by Council action in 2004. They were required to be vaccinated for rabies and licensed as pets in the same manner as cats and dogs. However, they were mistakenly omitted from the ordinance that regulates how they are handled when bitten by a rabid animal. These changes are included within the proposed ordinance amendments.