



Recommendation for Action

File #: 20-3475, **Agenda Item #:** 2.

11/12/2020

Posting Language

Approve an ordinance amending Section 3-1-1 (*Definitions*) of City Code Title 3 (*Animal Regulation*) to add a new definition of provoked biting, and to amend the definition of unprovoked biting by a dog, and to renumber the remaining definitions accordingly.

Lead Department

Animal Services Office.

Fiscal Note

This item has no fiscal impact.

Prior Council Action:

On October 17, 2019, the City Council passed Ordinance No. 20191017-025 which amended City Code Section 3-1-1(20).

For More Information:

Don Bland, Chief Animal Services Officer, Animal Services Office, (512) 978-0521.

Council Committee, Board

During the January 13, 2020, regular meeting of the Animal Advisory Commission, commissioners passed a recommendation to revise the definition of "UNPROVOKED BITING" in Section 3-1-1(20).

Additional Backup Information:

The proposed ordinance amendment would provide clarification to the definition of unprovoked biting that was added to City Code Section 3-1-1 by City Council in 2019. The additional language would designate that ordinary animal care, including feeding and placing a collar, leash or harness on a dog, and walking towards or addressing the dog or its owner, would not constitute provocation. A new definition of provocation is being added to more clearly highlight what constitutes provoking a dog to bite.

The recommendation was considered and approved by the Animal Advisory Commission at its January 13, 2020 meeting at the request of the Animal Services Office in relation to an incident that occurred after the passage of the October 2019 Code amendment. ASO supports this recommendation to amend the City Code.

Strategic Outcome(s):

Health and Environment.