

# Memorandum



Date February 4, 2010

To Honorable Members of the Quality of Life Committee: Pauline Medrano (Chair), Vonciel Jones Hill (Vice Chair), Carolyn R. Davis, Angela Hunt, Sheffie Kadane, David A. Neumann, Steve Salazar

Subject Informational Memo regarding proposed Stolen Dog Ordinance

At the January 13, 2010 City Council Meeting, Dallas citizen Brad Kirby spoke to the Council about a proposed change to Chapter 7 – Animals of the Dallas City Code. Attached is Mr. Kirby's proposed change.

The Department of Code Compliance has considered the issues and the proposed ordinance in depth, particularly with regard to the daily operations of the Animal Shelter. Code also consulted with the City Attorney's Office from a legal standpoint. After careful consideration and evaluation, Code Compliance has determined that this proposal is impractical and unenforceable. Code has programs in place to help facilitate animal identification, such as registration and microchips. Every animal brought into the shelter is checked for identification tags and microchips.

This proposed change is about compelling an individual to bring an animal to an animal shelter or licensed veterinarian to determine ownership. This is unenforceable by code and is a civil issue between two individual's claiming ownership of the same property.



Forest E. Turner  
Assistant City Manager

## Attachment

c: Honorable Mayor and Members of the Dallas City Council  
Mary K. Suhm, City Manager  
Deborah Watkins, City Secretary  
Thomas P. Perkins, City Attorney  
Craig D. Kinton, City Auditor  
C. Victor Lander, Judiciary  
Ryan S. Evans, First Assistant City Manager  
A.C. Gonzalez, Assistant City Manager  
Jill Jordan, Assistant City Manager  
David K. Cook, Chief Financial Officer  
Helena Stevens-Thompson, Assistant to the City Manager

**SEC. 7-7.**

**Reuniting Stray Dogs with Their Owner.**

**(a) Any person who takes possession or control of a stray dog within the corporate limits of the City, shall make a reasonable effort to locate the owner of the dog, by delivering the dog to the animal shelter or a licensed veterinarian's office for examination for any owner identification such as a microchip implant or tattoo;**

**( b) A person commits an offense if he takes possession or control of a dog under this section and knowingly fails to deliver it to the animal shelter or a licensed veterinarian for identification scanning within 48 hours.**