

February 21, 2010

Cochise County Board of Supervisors

Re: Proposed Animal Control Ordinance

Madam Chair and Board Members:



Although the proposed draft has been reviewed by the County Attorney, the J-6 Mescal Community Development Organization requests that the BOS take appropriate action until significant language is changed so that this ordinance meets the standard of responsible governance.

We have reviewed the Existing Ordinance and all subsequent revisions. Taking the existing language, adding new definitions which not only changes how business has historically been conducted but expands authorities, produces even a greater impact economically and emotionally to animal owners in unincorporated areas.

By approving the current proposal, you are allowing an Animal Control Officer to bypass the Citation process and enter on to private property without a warrant to seize an animal if

- (1) the animal is left unattended for 24 hours even though adequate shelter, water, and food are provided
- (2) the animal is noisily barking to announce an intruder, etc.
- (3) the owner has not provided the minimum general care provisions although the animal is healthy

for the simple reason that the Animal Control Officer feels the above will be repeated.

By approving the current proposal, you are engaging innocent individuals into a bureaucratic entanglement by considering them an owner of an animal simply because they reside at the same address where the animal resides.

By approving the current proposal, you are adding an undue burden on ranchers with working animals that never leave the property by declaring the ranch a kennel if all their animals are not individually licensed. A kennel must be permitted - it is also listed under Animal Husbandry Services under zoning regulations which frequently requires a special variance.

By approving the current proposal, you have increased the euthanization authority of the County to immediately destroy an animal without contacting an owner or exhausting other sources of care.

We are itemizing our concerns on an attachment in greater detail since they are numerous. We have highlighted the above to quickly show the document is problematic and should be tabled until objectionable areas are reworked.

Sincerely,
Mary McCool, Chair
J-6/Mescal CDO