



# Animal Services Ordinances: Regulations on the Keeping of Chickens

Corey Price, Animal Services Manager





# Timeline

- October 2015 Community Services/Public Safety Sub-Committee Meeting
  - Reviewed Chapter 6 – Animal Services challenges in ordinances
  - Discussed prohibiting roosters and limiting hens
  - Requested staff to draft with input from Animal Services Advisory Committee
- January 2016 Animal Services Advisory Committee Meeting
  - Voted unanimously to recommend proposed changes to Council
- February 2016 Community Services/Public Safety Sub-Committee Meeting
  - Reviewed Advisory Committee Recommendations for the Keeping of Chickens
  - Requested ordinance be placed on City Council agenda



# Timeline

- Council Work Session March 16, 2016
  - Reviewed proposed draft for Regulations on the Keeping of Chickens
  - Council consensus for more public input
- Council Meeting March 17, 2016
  - Council voted to table item and host public input meetings
- Public Input Meetings
  - Hosted 2 public input meetings April 11 & 12, 2016
  - Discussed at Neighborhood Roundtable Meeting April 26, 2016



# Timeline

- May 2016 Animal Services Advisory Committee Meeting
  - Reviewed input from public input meetings
  - Decided to provide council with 3 options:
    - A. No change to existing ordinance
    - B. Original draft with more hens and smaller roosting space
    - C. New draft allowing for more chickens based on lot size
- Council Work Session June 8, 2016
  - Council reviewed options and agreed on option C
  - Fill gap for 1-2 acres with 24 or 36 hens
  - Questions raised about show roosters
  - Legal to draft with changes then post for public input
- Council Meeting July 21, 2016
  - Council presented with revised draft of ordinance based on option C
  - Council voted to indefinitely postpone by a 5-4 vote



# Draft Option C

- Roosters not allowed on less than 1 acre
- 2 roosters allowed on one acre or more
- No more than 12 hens on ½ acre or less
- No more than 18 hens on ½ acre to 1 acre
- No more than 36 hens on more than 1 acre up to 2 acres
- No limit if more than 2 acres or zoned AG





# Draft Option C

- Must be kept 25 feet from any structure intended for human occupancy
- Regulations on coop structure and size
- Adequate food and water
- Sanitary conditions
- Cannot be at large
- No Slaughter in public view





# Draft Option C

- Affirmative Defense:
  - Exhibited at a city approved event
  - Government/education
  - Medical and research



A horizontal row of various dogs and cats, including a tabby cat, a golden retriever puppy, a beagle, a bulldog, a black and white cat, a beagle, a French bulldog, a pit bull, and a golden retriever puppy with a tabby cat.

# Benchmarking - Roosters

- Dallas – PROHIBITED with exceptions
- Plano – PROHIBITED – exception zoned agriculture
- Fort Worth - 2 roosters, only if more than 50 feet from any regulated structure
- Richardson – allowed but cannot create a nuisance (noise, odor)
- Mesquite – must be zoned agriculture and be a minimum of 2 acres
- Arlington – must be zoned agriculture
- Carrollton – min. 1 acre, up to 5 birds, cannot create a nuisance
- Garland – PROHIBITED
- Grand Prairie – PROHIBITED with exceptions





# Benchmarking - Hens

- Dallas – Hens allowed, no specified restrictions
- Plano – PROHIBITED – exception zoned agriculture or estate
- Fort Worth - # allowed varies by lot size, 12 for less than ½ acre
- Richardson – allowed but cannot create a nuisance (noise, odor)
- Mesquite – must be zoned agriculture and be a minimum of 2 acres
- Arlington – no more than 4 for less than ½ acre
- Carrollton – min. 1 acre, up to 5 birds, 200 ft easement, cannot create a nuisance
- Garland – No more than 4 hens, 30 ft easement
- Grand Prairie – 150 ft easement, 20 sq ft per hen



# Discussion

