

Sep. 16, 2009

Letters to the Editor

SNIP

What if I need my allergy medicine?

I had to laugh regarding the proposed draft language of the new Nye County Animal Ordinance, section 6.12.020, "Cruelty: ... B. it is unlawful for any person to ride or drive horse while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or drug."

Is this another male chauvinistic governmental attempt to "save a horse, ride a cowboy"?

What if I am allergic to horses and want to take my allergy drug before riding the horse? So, it is not cruel to get the horse drunk with Jack Daniels, just the rider?

Does this apply to riding horses on all legally paved roads or anywhere, including my private property?

Is animal control even allowed to do breathalyzer tests? Whose jurisdiction will it really be in to ticket drunken horse riders? How exactly will this be enforced?

According to Nevada Revised Statutes, NRS 458 260 ... "(the use of alcohol, the status of drunkard and the fact of being found in an intoxicated condition are not (a) public offenses and shall not be so treated in any ordinance or resolution of a county, city or town.)"

Simply being intoxicated in public is not illegal, unless you are driving motorized vehicles over the legal alcohol limit. If Nevada made public intoxication illegal, the tourism would just die off.

But in case our county attorneys and commissioners decide to ignore NRS and pass this nonsense, I suggest that all the drunken Nye County cowboys trade in their horse and get donkeys instead, so they have a nice ass to ride home after a wild night at the bar.

ZUZANA KUKOL

The letter above was written regarding:

<http://www.pahrumpvalleytimes.com/2009/Sep-04-Fri-2009/news/30983150.html>

Sep. 04, 2009

Proposed animal ordinance covers a broad variety of circumstances

By MARK WAITE
PVT

Proposed revisions to the Nye County animal control code spell out regulations on kennels, animal cruelty, vicious dogs, walking dogs in the park and special-condition animals.

The code allows homeowners to keep up to five dogs or cats; they can own from six to 10 by obtaining a residential kennel permit. Those animals must be kept for pleasure and not for remuneration or breeding.

Residential owners may have no more than two dogs or cats over six months old that are unspayed or unneutered.

Owners of a commercial kennel permit can keep any number of animals. Those permits would be issued at the discretion of the animal control department based on health and safety concerns, local zoning and preventing animals from becoming a nuisance. A commercial kennel permit holder may keep animals for an animal rescue or sanctuary or for breeding, boarding and training.

Any person owning a dog or cat over six months old must obtain a license, which can be obtained after showing proof of a rabies vaccination. The Nye County commissioners will set license fees.

Section 6.08.080 of the proposed animal code makes it unlawful for animals to run at large. Those animals not restrained will be impounded and kept at an animal shelter at least three working days, after which they are considered abandoned and made available for auction, adoption or destroyed. Sick or injured animals may be euthanized at any time to prevent inhumane suffering.

Another section allows animals to be impounded if animal control officers believe the owner is violating any section of the code.

The code prohibits using animals for fighting. The minimum penalty is \$1,000 per animal plus impoundment and veterinary fees. Section 6.12.020 on animal cruelty states it will be illegal to ride a horse while intoxicated. It's also against the law to trip horses. Animals may not be abandoned to die and it's unlawful to throw anything on a road intended to wound an animal.

Transporting animals in hot enclosures or open enclosures from which they can escape is illegal under the code.

Operators of animal shelters or kennels must keep buildings and grounds clean and in good repair, built in a manner to protect animals from injury or escaping, and have reliable power and potable water available. Animals shall be kept indoors, except those acclimated to the outdoors.

Provisions require indoor facilities to be kept at a temperature of no less than 50 degrees and no more than 85 degrees. Adequate ventilation is required.

Animals kept outdoors must be kept dry from rain or snow, have enough shade for protection from direct sunlight likely to cause overheating and be able to keep warm when the temperature is below 50 degrees.

Dealers have requirements to provide information to purchasers of dogs or cats on their history, registry, immunizations and medical history. The premises of dealers or operators will be inspected annually.

Livestock owners must have at least a half-acre of land and keep livestock at least 30 feet from neighbors. There is an exception for open-range animals.

It will be unlawful to keep animals who by consistent barking, yelping or howling disturb the peace of a neighborhood.

Wild animals may not be exhibited without a permit from Nye County animal control.

Vicious dogs are not permitted unless they are registered at a \$50 fee and kept in a proper enclosure with a warning sign. When outside the enclosure they must be on a leash and muzzled.

Animals walked in parks must be on a leash and owners must pick up the poop. An exception is allowed for special events.

The animal control officer will investigate incidents where a person uses an animal to attack another person.

Owners of special-condition animals must have an annual \$60 permit.

The owners must be at least 18, have experience in their care, not been convicted of cruelty or violating state or federal wildlife regulations in the past three years and have a facility that complies with zoning requirements.

Copies of federal and state permits for keeping exotic animals are required, as well as a plan for recapture and emergency evacuation of facilities. Facilities must be open to inspection during normal business hours.

Sep. 04, 2009

Animal board wraps up changes

By MARK WAITE
PVT

It was almost three years ago Nye County officials made their first attempt at revising the code on animal control, but it was shot down by local residents.

Now the animal advisory board, appointed in August 2008, has completed months of work on proposed revisions to Nye County Code Title 6 on animal control.

The draft changes to Title 6 will now undergo review by the Nye County district attorney's office before submission to Nye County commissioners.

"I think with our new law, there are no surprises. Animal control will know where people have to have a permit," said board member Mary Ann Gantvoort, owner of Pet Villa, a dog-boarding business.

Board member Scott Shoemaker, who represents exotic animal owners, said animal control officer Tim McCarty will have more tools at his disposal to stop repeat offenders, like people who let their dogs out continuously.

The attempt to revise animal control regulations in Nye County had its roots in a few highly-publicized incidents. Initially there were complaints from neighbors about barking dogs at the New Leash on Life kennel run by Southern Nye County Friends of Animals in August 2006.

But the first revisions to the animal control code in October 2006 were shouted down by representatives of animal kennels, animal rescue groups and exotic animal owners. The original ordinance would have required a minimum of 2,000 square feet per animal, a minimum of 10 acres to operate a kennel and other restrictions.

An ad hoc kennel committee was established on the Pahrump Regional Planning Commission. Initially provisions in the zoning code, Title 17, that related to animals, were passed without much controversy.

The second step is passage of revisions to Title 6 on animal control.

The "surprises" Gantvoort may have referred to have been situations like the seizure of over 400 cats and kittens found in dire condition at an animal sanctuary belonging to For Love of Cats and Kittens (FLOCK) in August 2007. They were sent to a new home in Kanab, Utah, owned by the Best Friends Animal Sanctuary.

Another "surprise" was the killing of a 73-year-old woman by a pack of eight wolf hybrids on Jayme Street in October 2007.

But while revisions to Title 17 only cover the Pahrump Regional Planning District, Shoemaker said revisions to Title 6 on animal control will apply countywide.

The animal advisory board will consider appeals by residents of citations for violations of Title 6 and animal zoning provisions of Title 17. Its decision may be appealed to justice court.

A large section is devoted to special-condition animals, like lions and tigers.

Shoemaker said anything smaller than a tiger has been eliminated from that definition, meaning people could own ocelots, bobcats and savannahs which would be treated as little more than a feral house cat. It does include wolves and wolf hybrids.

Correction published, the sentence above should read:

<http://www.pahrumpvalleytimes.com/2009/Sep-09-Wed-2009/news/31088855.html>

Sep. 09, 2009

Correction

In the recent article titled "Animal board wraps up changes" (Sept. 4, 2009), Scott Shoemaker was cited as specifying the proposed size of some special-condition animals.

The article should have read, "Shoemaker said anything smaller than a cougar has been eliminated from that definition..."

We regret the error.