

Jun. 26, 2009

Letters to the Editor

SNIP

Permits for multiple pets

Most people in Pahrump are not aware that Animal Control and the Animal Advisory Committee are seeking to implement new permit requirements for multiple dog and cat owners.

Anybody owning more than five cats or dogs would be required to apply for a permit at the annual cost of \$60 and would be subject to annual inspections of the home/property to get the permit. This permit will only be good for that specific location. If the pet owners move to another place, they would have to apply for a new permit at the new home.

If you currently own just three pets and a friend or family member who lost a job or their home wants to move in with you and they also have three pets, you will need to get a permit.

The pet limit is per property, not per person.

Nevada Revised Statutes defines a kennel as more than 10 unaltered dogs or cats older than 6 months, requiring a kennel license. Now that's more reasonable than to charge everybody who has more than five cats or dogs.

There are no exceptions for somebody who has taken in a few strays, does rescue, has indoor cats or simply enjoys having multiple pets.

I moved to Pahrump to have some acreage and more animals. Why is it that I should need a permit to have six dogs or cats, when somebody else who has 10 goats or six donkeys can do that without getting a permit on the same size property?

Why should I be subject for Animal Control to come on my property to check if my dogs are being fed and that my water bowls are clean and filled with fresh water based on an arbitrarily chosen pet limit? Those of us who have their dogs properly licensed will be easy targets, and we are the least likely ones to neglect our animals.

Do we really want our Animal Control Officers to waste their time inspecting pet owners' homes who are already compliant with licensing their pets and who apply for a license? How would you feel if a stray dog is attacking you, your child or your

chickens and Animal Control is tied up inspecting a pet owner with six pets to make sure they have clean water bowls?

By law, animals are personal property just like a car. How would you feel if somebody would tell you that if your family wants to own six cars, you need to get a permit and the police will come to your property and determine if it is OK for your family to own all those cars at this address.

The draft is worded rather vaguely and says it will be at the discretion of the animal control officer to issue such a permit.

Now, I believe our current staff at Animal Control are all good guys, and I would not worry that they would be very reasonable about issuing such a permit. However, things can change. What if the good guys are being replaced with people who like to abuse their power and who enjoy making people miserable?

Do we as pet owners in Pahrump and surrounding areas really want such an ordinance so if we have more than five cats or dogs, we now would have to worry about every year if somebody will grant us a permit or not?

I think Animal Control can do more good by addressing actual problems in our community such as dogs at large or animals being neglected instead of inspecting pet owner's homes who haven't done anything wrong.

Please go to [www. nyecounty.net](http://www.nyecounty.net) and look for the Animal Advisory Committee, please phone or e-mail the committee members if you do not want pet limits and permits to keep multiple pets. Attend the meetings for the Animal Advisory Board and make your opinions known.

There is an opportunity for public comment at the beginning of each meeting and you can also request for an item to be put on a future agenda.

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