

STAFF EVALUATION

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Case No.: Zoning ordinance amendment, ZOA2021-00020
Planning Commission Date: December 16, 2021
City Council Date: January 20, 2022

General Information

Description of Proposal To add a definition of companion animals to Chapter 2 of the Zoning Ordinance. The definition comes from Chapter 5 of the City Code which regulates animals and their care within the City.

Zoning Definitions This amendment proposes the following definition:
Companion animals. Dogs, both domestic and feral; cats, both domestic and feral; nonhuman primates; guinea pigs; hamsters; rabbits not raised for human food or fiber; exotic or native animals; reptile; exotic and native birds; or any feral animal or any animal under the care, custody, or ownership of a person or any animal that is bought, sold, traded, or bartered by any person. Agricultural animals, game species, or any animals regulated under federal law as research animals shall not be considered companion animals.

Current Regulations The current Zoning Ordinance does not define companion animals.

Analysis

In past years, staff have received numerous requests or complaints from residents regarding animal-related uses and care. Last year, staff began addressing these concerns by clarifying requirements for kennels and animal daycare facilities; these amendments continue that effort to clarify how structures for the keeping of animals are regulated within the Zoning Ordinance. Staff has worked closely with the Hampton Animal Response Team (HART, formerly Animal Control) to coordinate this effort.

If adopted, this amendment would add a definition for companion animals. This definition aligns with the definition within Chapter 5 of the City Code, and will assist in clarifying what animals are intended by the proposed standards within Chapter 1 for accessory structures for the keeping of companion animals.

This amendment is in conjunction with ZOA 21-00015 and ZOA 21-00019 which clarify existing animal-related uses with additional standards and accessory structures for the keeping of animals. These three amendments taken together do not significantly alter how animals are allowed within the City limits, but rather clarify and codify existing interpretations of the Zoning Ordinance, and coordinate enforcement efforts between HART and Zoning enforcement.

Staff recommends approval of ZOA 21-00020.