

ORDINANCE 2025 - 15

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF SUNNYSIDE, WASHINGTON, AMENDING CHAPTER 6.04 SMC AND ADDING A NEW ARTICLE VII ESTABLISHING REGULATIONS FOR DOG BREEDING AND THE SALE OF DOGS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Sunnyside has observed significant non-compliance with dog registration requirements, resulting in an increase in stray and abandoned dogs; and

WHEREAS, unregulated dog breeding and sales contribute to overpopulation, animal neglect, and risks to public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, the Council is committed to promoting responsible pet ownership and ensuring the welfare of animals and residents in the City of Sunnyside; and

WHEREAS, the Council has determined that prohibiting dog breeding and sales within the city limits is necessary to address these concerns and to protect the public health, safety, and welfare of the community;

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that Chapter 6.04 of the Sunny Side Municipal Code must be amended to provide for the prohibition of dog breeding within the city limits and to establish fines and penalties for any person who violates said prohibition; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that the adoption of the ordinance will serve the general welfare of the public.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SUNNYSIDE, WASHINGTON:

SECTION 1. Adoption of Chapter VII. The Council hereby adopts Article VII of Chapter 6.04 SMC. The title of this article shall be "Article VII. Dog Breeding."

SECTION 2. Amendment of SMC 6.04.020. The Council hereby amends SMC 6.04.020 (in relevant part) to provide as indicated below. Without limitation of the foregoing, it is the City Council's express legislative intent that no preexisting text of SMC 6.04.020 be deemed deleted or otherwise repealed by this ordinance unless such text is affirmatively struck through below.

6.04.020 Definitions.

The following words and phrases used or referred to in this chapter shall have the following meanings unless a different meaning appears from the context:

...

"Dog breeding" means any act resulting in the reproduction of dogs, whether intentional or due to negligence, including but not limited to breeding for the purposes of profit, the failure of an owner to adequately control or confine their dog to prevent unplanned or unwanted mating.

...

"Sale of dogs" includes any exchange of money or goods for a dog, whether through direct transactions, advertisements, or online platforms.

...

SECTION 3. Adoption of 6.04.440. The City hereby adopts a new section of Chapter 6.04 SMC Dog Control to provide for in its entirety as set forth below.

6.04.440 Prohibitions.

- A. It shall be unlawful for any person, group, or entity to engage in dog breeding within the City limits of Sunnyside.
- B. Except as specifically provided herein, it shall be unlawful for any person to sell or offer for sale any dog within the City limits of Sunnyside. A retail pet store may provide space and appropriate care for animals owned by a publicly operated animal control agency or nonprofit animal welfare organization for the purpose of adopting spayed or neutered dogs.

SECTION 3. Adoption of 6.04.450. The City hereby adopts a new section of Chapter 6.04 SMC Dog Control to provide for in its entirety as set forth below.

6.04.450 Penalties

- A. Any person found in violation of section 6.04.440 SMC shall be subject to a civil penalty of up to \$1,000 per violation per day. Each day that a violation continues shall constitute a separate offense.
- B. Repeat offenders may be subject to additional penalties, including, but not limited to, forfeiture of animals involved in breeding or sales activities.
- C. Any person subject to the fines in this Section may seek to have their fine reduced or waived by the City Manager, or authorized designee, upon providing proof that all dogs bred and their offspring have been spayed or neutered via inspection of the dogs in question and veterinary records, and

that all breeding activity has ceased. Any such waiver or reduction of the fines shall be at the discretion of the City Manager or their designee.

SECTION 4. Adoption of 6.05.460. The City hereby adopts a new section of Chapter 6.04 SMC Dog Control to provide for in its entirety as set forth below.

6.04.460 Enforcement.

- A. The City Manager, or authorized designee, shall have the authority to enforce the prohibitions set forth in SMC 6.04.440 and to levy fines pursuant to SMC 6.04.450. The City Manager may designate another City official or city department with the authority to enforce the prohibitions set forth in SMC 6.04.440 and to levy fines pursuant to SMC 6.04.450.
- B. The City Manager, or authorized designee, shall have the authority and right to investigate, inspect, and issue citations for violations of SMC 6.04.440.

SECTION 5. If any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause, or phrase of this ordinance is declared unconstitutional or invalid for any reason, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining parts of this ordinance.

SECTION 6. This Ordinance shall be effective five days after passage, approval and publication as required by law.

PASSED this 10th day of November 2025.



DEAN BROERSMA, MAYOR

ATTEST:



JAMES L. BRIDGES, INTERIM CITY MANAGER

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:
OGDEN MURPHY WALLACE PLLC**

/s/ Julie K. Norton

BY: JULIE K. NORTON, CITY ATTORNEY