

## Title 6 – Animals Matrix Summary and Explanation

<b><u>Title and Proposed Numbering</u></b>	<b><u>Summary of Proposed Change</u></b>	<b><u>Explanation for Proposed Change</u></b>
<b>Proper and adequate care of animals</b> SMC 6.02.010	Adds new requirements for proper care and attention to household pets, such as shelter, water, food, vet treatment, exercise, and sanitation.	Clearly defines proper shelter, water, food, vet treatment, exercise, sanitation, for which existing code is silent. Aligns with state law and allows for incremental penalties.
<b>Maximum number of dogs, cats, or litters</b> SMC 6.02.020	Changes the maximum number of dogs and cats from any combination of three to any combination of four. Prohibits more than one litter of dogs or cats per year.	Existing code is unclear of the allowed number of dogs and cats; aligns with other local jurisdictions. Addresses the issue of overpopulation to minimize the number of unwanted animals that end up in shelters.
<b>Animals in vehicles</b> SMC 6.02.030	Adds language addressing safely transporting animals in cars and adds incremental penalties for leaving animals in parked cars.	Aligns with state law and allows for incremental penalties.
<b>Feeding wild animals</b> SMC 6.02.050	Bans feeding wild animals with some limited exceptions (such as bird feeders, permitted trapping, and persons licensed under state law).	Addresses nuisance behaviors, safety of humans and animals, and prevents vermin/pests and the spread of disease.
<b>Animal bites, reports, quarantine, and violations</b> SMC 6.02.070	Broadens code to include a reporting obligation for any animal bite (not just dog bites) and clarifies that Animal Control may seize an animal or order the owner to quarantine the animal on the premises. Also, provides for penalties for owners who fail to follow the Animal Control Officer's orders for quarantine.	Broadens the code to be in line with state law that requires reporting of animal bites involving any rabies-subject animal; allows incremental penalties; groups the information in a clearer way than state law.
<b>Poisoning domestic animals</b> SMC 6.02.110	Prohibits poisoning and abusing domestic animals, allows flexibility with charging as a warning, infraction, or misdemeanor.	Aligns with state law and allows for incremental penalties.
<b>Vaccination certificates</b> SMC 6.04.090	Adds requirement for vets located in Sunnyvale to submit current rabies certificate for dogs to animal control within 30 days.	To promote and encourage dog licensing, as a component of the state-mandated rabies immunization and license program.
<b>Dog parks</b> SMC 6.04.110	Adds rules and regulations for designated off leash dog parks.	There are no codified rules for dog parks in existing code as dog parks were all built after the last update to Title 6.

<b>Nuisances by animals</b> SMC 6.02.040	Adds additional enforcement tools to address animals obstructing the reasonable and comfortable use of property, broadens noise restrictions from just “barking dog” to “noisy animal.”	Addresses nuisance behaviors not addressed in existing code.
<b>Taking up stray animals</b> SMC 6.02.060	Obligation to report finding a stray animal changed from six hours to two hours.	Reporting period shortened based on ease of access to phone, social media, and other platforms.
<b>Animal traps</b> SMC 6.02.100	Clarifies what constitutes a prohibited animal trap, allows flexibility with charging as a warning, infraction, or a misdemeanor.	Aligns with state law and allows for incremental penalties.
<b>License fees</b> SMC 6.04.020	Update to provide that seniors may be allowed one free pet license, however, dog must be spayed or neutered.	Prevents abuse of senior exemption, to encourage spay/neuter.
<b>Selling animals</b> SMC 6.03.010	Prohibits selling puppies or kittens under 8 weeks old, selling animals to minors, selling unvaccinated animals, and raffling animals; also allows flexibility with charging a violation as a warning, infraction, or misdemeanor.	Groups the information in a clearer way than state law, adds protections for the seller and buyer, aligns with local jurisdictions and state law.
<b>Impounding animals</b> SMC 6.05	Updates to language relating to reclaiming lost animals by owner, responsibility for animals in animal control custody, and responsibility of owner to license dog and pay fees upon reclaiming animal.	Aligns with state law.
<b>Dangerous animals</b> SMC 6.06	Updates to current chapter regarding “vicious animals” renaming animals who display certain characteristics and behavior to “dangerous,” clarifies permit requirements, insurance, and control of animal.	Aligns with state law; consistent with current animal control “vicious animal” procedures; groups the information clearer than current code.
<b>Small animals and livestock</b> SMC 6.09	Adds requirements for the care of small animals (including rabbits, chickens, ducks, doves); prohibits keeping livestock (including cattle, horses, goats, sheep) in any R district; updates minimum setback requirements for small animal cages; and prohibits roosters over four months old.	Existing code is silent on number of small animals allowed per household, aligns with local jurisdictions and the zoning code, and considers smaller lots and closer neighbors. Prohibiting livestock in residential districts addresses nuisances like flies and odors that are not conducive to smaller residential lots. Prohibiting roosters over four months in age addresses noise nuisances.