

Chapter 55.455 Commercial Animal Permit

Background

Animal Services, in conjunction with the City of Reno developed this new Code language to address welfare concerns and to establish a welfare permit to coincide with business licensing or special use permits for commercial animal establishments, retail, animal exhibits, circuses and 501(c)(3) groups who utilize animals as part of an educational group. Currently, there are no regulations within Chapter 55 that address commercial animal sales or exhibits. The goal is to improve the oversight of the health, safety and welfare of the animals in commercial environments through an internal permit process in conjunction with business licensing.

Summary of Code proposals

- Establishes permit durations and renewals to accommodate establishments as well as exhibits and circuses
- Establishes welfare requirements in accordance with NRS 574
 - Walls/floors constructed of nonabsorbent, nonporous materials and of adequate support to animals
 - Dogs/cats kept in isolation rooms for 120 hrs prior to being released for sale
 - Any dog/cat presenting signs of illness or injury shall be kept in an isolation area and treated by a veterinarian
 - Operators that do not have a full-time veterinarian must have a written Program of Veterinary Care (PVC) which outlines a veterinarian's oversight of animals and methods of euthanasia for animals which should be consistent with the American Veterinary Medical Association Guidelines for Euthanasia.
 - Operators to provide hand sanitizer for public use to decrease the transmission of disease
 - Disposal of carcasses in accordance with NRS 571.200
- A commercial establishment is prohibited from selling dogs/cats not obtained from an Acceptable Procurement Source
 - Humane groups organized as legal entities in accordance with NRS 571.200 and NAC 571200
 - USDA licensed breeders
- Establishes suspension or revocation of welfare permit process and reporting to Business Licensing
- Due process if a welfare permit is revoked
 - 14 days to file an appeal with the Washoe County Administrative Hearing Office
 - Aggrieved permittee may appeal the Hearing Officer's decision through a petition for judicial review within 30 days.
 - Welfare permit remains in place until a decision is rendered.

Community Concerns

- Potential negative affect on local economy
- Discriminating against pet stores
- Clarification on the revocation of welfare permits for commercial animal establishments
- Support of regulation of animal sources for retail establishments, specifically sourced from puppy mills
- Purebred animals can be obtained from responsible breeders and subjecting animals to the caged retail environment is inhumane
- Delete USDA breeders as an Acceptable Procurement Source