



Zoning Code Amendments for Dog Kennels and related standards

Vancouver City Council Public Hearing August 21, 2023



Bryan Snodgrass

Principal Planner

City of Vancouver Community Development Department

Agenda

- Staff summary of current kennel standards, application for code text change, proposal, and review to date.
- Council questions, applicant and public testimony, Council deliberation and decision.

Current Code Requirements

- Title 20 defines Animal Kennels/Shelters as overnight boarding of unlimited number of animals, exclusive of day care or veterinary uses, allowed in the CC, CG, IL and UH zones.
- Title 8 requires annual licensing and fee subject to review and approval by Clark County Animal Control.



Current Code Requirements

Facilities required to be:

- Structurally sound and maintained
- Designed to prevent injury, and provide adequate standing, resting, and turning space
- Bedding, refrigeration, washrooms, and waste removal required
- Provisions related to sickness, feeding and exercise required
- Indoor facilities require adequate heat, ventilation, light, drainage, and overall cleanliness
- Outdoor facilities require weather protection, space for exercise, and drainage

Proposed Changes related to kennels

- Initiated by a private application for zoning code text change.
- Amend Title 20 kennel/shelter standards to allow day care, prohibit breeding, and establish new maximum capacity limit of no more than 175 dogs, or fewer where required by County Animal Control.
- Amend VMC 8.24 Animal Standards to reference Title 20 changes, update kennel fees, and require emergency evacuation plan for kennels.



Other Title 8 dog- related changes proposed by Clark County Animal Control

- Establish a special license fee of \$200 for individual private dogs declared as “potentially dangerous” to cover investigation costs, like the higher special license fee currently applied to dogs declared as “dangerous.”
- Require veterinarians administering rabies vaccine to provide notification to Animal Control.
- Allow animal hearings officers to assess appeal hearing cost to appellants in the case of frivolous appeals.



Review to date

- Planning Commission recommended approval of Title 20 changes by 6-0 vote at the June 13 public hearing, no public testimony was offered.
- City Council Communications discussions on July 10 and 17 included the following comments from individual members:
 - Outreach. Following Council direction, email notice sent to potential stakeholders on July 11. SW Washington Humane Society indicated support for proposed changes. No response to date from existing Vancouver kennels and dog day care businesses
 - Numerical standards. Concern that required features and functions of kennels under VMC 8.24 do not have numerical standards
 - Number of dogs allowed.

Action requested

- Adopt changes to kennel standards in VMC Title 20 recommended by the Planning Commission, and standards related to kennels and dogs requested by Clark County Animal Control.

Questions, applicant and public testimony, deliberations, and decision

Bryan Snodgrass, Principal Planner, Community Development Department
bryan.snodgrass@cityofvancouver.us, 360-487-7946

