



**TO:** T.C. Broadnax, City Manager  
**FROM:** Shawn Stringer, Captain, Police Department  
Donald Ramsdell, Police Chief  
**COPY:** Community Vitality and Safety Committee  
**SUBJECT:** Adequate Care For Animals (Ordinance # 28271)  
**DATE:** August 4, 2016

**SUMMARY:**

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide information regarding enforcement of the Adequate Care For Animals Ordinance #28271 and to determine if it may require revisions.

The Ordinance provides Animal Control Officers an opportunity to educate citizens regarding legal care standards that afford quality living conditions for animals. It serves as a useful educational tool and provides an opportunity for positive outreach to our citizens regarding this issue. Since inception of the Ordinance, we have experienced almost 100% compliance.

**BACKGROUND:**

In 2014, the Washington Alliance for Humane Legislation proposed a revision to Tacoma Municipal Code Title 17 Animal Control. They proposed adding a provision for adequate care standards relating to the care of animals.

On December 16, 2014, Tacoma City Council passed Ordinance #28271 adding Title 17.01.166 Adequate Care for Animals, to the Tacoma Municipal Code.

This issue is currently being addressed due to recent contact with a citizen that has expressed concern that this Ordinance is not being enforced.

In 2015, there were 423 calls received related to neglect of an animal. Animal Control Officers respond to all adequate care complaints that are received. Many of these complaints are unfounded and no enforcement is required. After responding to each call and educating animal owners, there were 3 infractions issued for neglect/adequate care violations. Two of the infractions resulted in the citizens giving their animals away and the citizen that received the third infraction was compliant with the requirements. We do not know what the outcome is on any of our infractions unless we are served with a subpoena, which is rare. Our officers will follow-up with owners if necessary. For example, if there is no dog house for the animal, we will return at a later date to confirm compliance.

Overall, we have experienced success using this as an educational tool for animal owners.

**ISSUE:**

This information was provided as an update on enforcement of Ordinance # 28271, Adequate Care For Animals.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

This is an information briefing only. There are no alternatives presented.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

This is an information briefing only. There is no fiscal impact.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

No changes to the law recommended at this time.