

# City Council Agenda Item Memo

**From:** Midge Christianson, Executive Coordinator  
Hudson Spoonemore, Community Service Officer Supervisor  
Michael Drake, Chief of Police

**Council Meeting:** March 24, 2026/April 14, 2026

**Subject:** Ordinance 26-011: Revision to City Code of Ordinances,  
Chapter 14: Animals

**Presenter:** Michael Drake, Chief of Police

## **Summary and Recommended Action:**

Department staff recently completed a comprehensive review of Chapter 14 of the City Code of Ordinances pertaining to animals. The review process included comparison of applicable South Dakota Codified Laws, as well as animal ordinances from cities similar to and in proximity to Brookings. Staff recommends approval of the proposed revisions and additions to Chapter 14.

## **Item Details:**

The existing animal ordinances were adopted in October of 2013. Since that time the city population has grown substantially, leading to increased frequency and complexity of animal ordinance calls. The recommended changes will support and enhance the department's ability to respond efficiently and effectively in order to protect the health, safety and welfare of the community.

An overview of key changes and the resulting impact is provided below.

- Update definitions and incorporate the use of community service unit and community service officer terminology to reflect current city and departmental organizational structure.
- Revise pet licensing structure commensurate with current vaccination protocols to encourage and support responsible pet ownership.
- Adjust fine amounts for certain ordinance violations, add financial penalties for violations of newly adopted ordinances, and enhance penalties for repeat violations of the dog at large ordinance to encourage compliance and prevent recurring violations.
- Clarify ordinances related to keeping fowl, including chickens.
- Align municipal code with provisions of South Dakota codified law in order to solidify regulatory and enforcement authority to provide care for injured, diseased, or mistreated animals, as well as liability protections for officers in carrying out related duties.

- Enhance Sec.14-126 pertaining to restricted animals and create a vicious animal designation. Adopt use of the Dunbar Aggression Assessment Scale to provide an objective and transparent guide for safety-focused intervention measures.
- Add Article VII establishing collaborative and proactive rabies control measures to prevent the spread of disease.

The following Sections within Chapter 14 have been amended:

ARTICLE I, Sections 14-1, 14-2, 14-5, 14-7, 14-8, 14-10, 14-11, 14-12, 14-13, 14-14, 14-15

ARTICLE II, Sections 14-44, 14-46, 14-48

ARTICLE III, Sections 14-82, 14-84, 14-88

ARTICLE IV, Sections 14-121, 14-122, 14-123, 14-124, 14-125, 14-126, 14-128, 14-129, 14-130, 14-131, 14-132, 14-133, 14-134, 14-154, 14-183, 14-185, 14-186, 14-188, 14-189,

ARTICLE V, Section 14-221, 14-222, 14-223, 14-227, 14-228, 14-230

ARTICLE VI, Sections 14-262, 14-291, 14-292, 14-293, 14-294, 14-296

ARTICLE VII, Sections 14-297, 14-298, 14-299, 14-300, 14-301, 14-302, 14-303, 14-304

**Legal Consideration:**

The City Attorney has reviewed the ordinance amendments and additions.

**Strategic Plan Consideration:**

- Safe, Inclusive, Connected Community – The City of Brookings will create an environment for inclusive programs, gathering places, and events where the community can safely live, work and come together to participate in opportunities for learning, recreation and enjoyment.

**Financial Consideration:**

There are no anticipated increases to general fund expenditures. Proposed ordinances include specified fines for violations. Increases to the consolidated fee schedule will be recommended.

**Supporting Documentation:**

Ordinance - clean

Ordinance - marked

Legal Notice