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Greenwood One Step Closer To New Pet Ordinance

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GREENWOOD, Ark. -- A proposed pet ordinance that would tighten existing animal laws has long been a heated issue in Greenwood, but after a city meeting Monday night, the issue may be resolved.

 **VIDEO:** [Greenwood Closer To New Animal Ordinance](#)

Many were unhappy about proposals limiting the number of animals one could own and putting restrictions on certain types of breeds. Those items have now been removed, and residents seemed to agree on the changes.

Greenwood leaders said the current animal ordinances are ineffective since they don't have fines. The city council proposed a ordinance back in August, and residents protested against it.

A meeting Monday night was much calmer after the ordinance was reworked.

Citizens agreed dogs running at large is a problem in their community.

"I know of two bitings of citizens and a couple of maulings, so this is an issue that continues to grow," said Greenwood resident Steve Ratterree.

If passed, the new ordinance would allow for a \$125 fine for the first offense.

The proposed ordinance would require all domestic animals be registered with the city and be vaccinated.

Another main point of the ordinance covers kennels. Residents who want to sell animals on the side of the road in Greenwood would pay a \$100 annual kennel licensing fee. Those who run kennels from their homes already pay a different fee.

"Any permit kennel in the city of Greenwood is required to purchase a business license," Ratterree said.

Monday night's meeting seemed to be mostly about finding ways to solve the problem of dogs

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running at large. Residents and city leaders hope those fines will help with that problem.

Monday's proposal was only a draft, and it still has to go before the city council for approval. If approved, the new ordinance could take effect as early as April.

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