



City of Dallas

Anti-Feeding Ordinance Proposal

**Quality of Life, Arts & Culture
Committee
June 21, 2022**

MeLissa Webber, Director
Dallas Animal Services
City of Dallas

Background



- On **May 3rd**, a 2-year-old child was attacked by a coyote in District 10
- Response:
 - DAS called in USDA Wildlife Services and the City of Dallas' Urban Wildlife Biologist
 - Four coyotes removed & tested for rabies
 - All tested negative
 - Coyote Hotline created for information gathering
 - 275 calls received within Dallas
 - 40 calls received outside of Dallas
 - Neighborhood meetings held in District 10 & 14
 - Coyote Management Plan shared with District 10 on June 13th
 - Drafted Anti-Feeding Ordinance

Purpose



- Goals of the ordinance:
 - Reduce habituation of coyotes and other wildlife
 - Prevent human interactions with rabies vector species
 - Avoid property damage
 - Increase resident safety
- Types of problematic behaviors the ordinance addresses:
 - Overflowing, unkept bird feeders
 - Free-feeding of community cats
 - Leaving trash or food scraps out for wildlife



SEC. 7-3.6. FEEDING OF ANIMALS PROHIBITED; EXCEPTIONS.

- (a) A person commits an offense if he/she intentionally feeds or makes food available for animal consumption to any animal(s) in a manner that:
- (1) Creates a danger to public health or safety;
 - (2) Destroys public or private property;
 - (3) Causes more than ten adult animals to congregate in one location at the same time; or
 - (4) Attracts, habituates or socializes wildlife to humans.
- (a) This ordinance shall not apply to:
- (1) Community or feral cat colonies registered with the City of Dallas, provided they are following Dallas Animal Services' guidelines and best practices
 - (2) Wild bird feeders filled in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations within the boundaries of a person's owned or occupied property; overflowing bird feeders may be in violation of this ordinance.
- (a) It is a defense to prosecution under Subsection (e) that the person is a licensed veterinarian, a peace officer, or a person employed by the Department, the state, or a political subdivision of the state who is acting pursuant to a lawfully authorized program to manage animal populations and who is acting within the scope of the person's duties and authority.



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