

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO. C(5)

AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

MEETING DATE: October 4, 2011

TITLE: An Ordinance Establishing the Penalties for Violation of Section 10-17.2 of the Town Code Dealing with the Tethering of Dogs

DEPARTMENT: Police	PUBLIC HEARING: NO
ATTACHMENTS: A. Proposed Ordinance	FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Carolyn Hutchison, 918-7412

PURPOSE

The Board of Aldermen is requested to adopt the proposed ordinance establishing the penalties for violation of Section 10-17.2 of the Carrboro Town Code dealing with the tethering of dogs.

INFORMATION

At the September 13, 2011 Board of Aldermen worksession, the Board adopted an ordinance amending Chapter 10 of the Town Code to prohibit the tethering of dogs except in limited circumstances. That ordinance neglected to establish the penalties for violation of Section 10-17.2.

This proposed ordinance amends Subsection (a) of Section 10-39 of the Town Code to make violation of Section 10-17.2 a misdemeanor punishable as provided in G. S. 14-4.

As a matter of administrative policy, the Carrboro Animal Control Officer (ACO) will give a warning/notice the first time he finds someone tethering a dog. The Town's objective is compliance, and we expect that most people will comply with the ordinance once they know what the ordinance prohibits. Of course, it may be impossible to immediately rectify all situations. As a result, the ACO will allow a three month grace period for those owners who are not in compliance. Following the grace period, noncompliant dog owners will be subject to fines or criminal charges.

FISCAL IMPACT

Minimal staff time will be associated with implementing and enforcing the proposed ordinance.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Board adopt the proposed ordinance.