

**CITY OF TEMECULA
AGENDA REPORT**

TO: City Manager/City Council

FROM: Matt Peters, Director of Community Development

DATE: January 27, 2026

SUBJECT: Introduce Animal Ordinance to Amend Title 6 of the Temecula Municipal Code (LR25-0382)

PREPARED BY: Mark Collins, Senior Planner

RECOMMENDATION: That the City Council introduce an ordinance entitled:

ORDINANCE NO.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TEMECULA AMENDING TITLE 6 OF THE TEMECULA MUNICIPAL CODE REGARDING ANIMAL KEEPING SETBACK REQUIREMENTS AND MAKING A FINDING THAT THIS ORDINANCE IS EXEMPT FROM THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) PURSUANT TO CEQA GUIDELINES SECTION 15061 (b)(3)

SUMMARY OF

ORDINANCE: The proposed amendment to Title 6 (Animals) of the Temecula Municipal Code would reduce the required setback for accessory animal keeping (housing) structures from seventy-five (75) feet from the property line to twenty-five (25) feet from the property line, a reduction of fifty (50) feet. Additionally, this proposed Ordinance would add a note to Table 6.08.010 clarifying that existing, legally permitted animal keeping structures that do not meet this new standard before a certain date would be considered legal nonconforming and allowed to remain in place without change or action from homeowners.

BACKGROUND:

The City of Temecula comprehensively updated Title 6 (Animals) of the Temecula Municipal Code (Ordinance No. 2022-09) on June 14, 2022, to update and add definitions, implement current best practices, and codify a spay/neutering program. One of these changes amended the setback requirement for animal keeping (housing) structures for large animals, such as cattle and horses,

outdoor aviaries, poultry, and small animals, such as goats and pigs from seventy-five (75) feet from a neighboring residence to seventy-five (75) feet from the property line.

This standard was originally adopted to ensure that future animal keeping structures would not preclude or negatively impact future residential development (ADU's, redevelopment, etc.). While it accomplished that goal, it also had the unintended effect of making some smaller or uniquely shaped equestrian properties (~1/2 acre) unable to keep horses or similar animals. The proposed changes in this Ordinance will correct this issue by reducing the setback from seventy-five (75) feet from the property line to twenty-five (25) feet from the property line.

Additionally, the proposed Ordinance would codify that existing, legally permitted animal keeping structures constructed prior to June 14, 2022, that do not meet this new standard would be considered "legal nonconforming structures" pursuant to Temecula Municipal Code §17.03.070 (Legal nonconformities), and the addition of a note to the Animal Keeping Standards Table is proposed for added clarity and ease of use.

This Ordinance was presented to the General Plan Update Subcommittee (Ad Hoc) consisting of Councilmember Kalfus and Mayor Pro Tem Rahn on October 14, 2025. The subcommittee was supportive of the proposed change.

FISCAL IMPACT: The Ordinance has no direct fiscal impact if adopted.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Ordinance
2. Notice of Public Hearing
3. Notice of Exemption