

ORDINANCE NO. 3571

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LONGVIEW, WASHINGTON, AMENDING CHAPTER 6.06 OF THE LONGVIEW MUNICIPAL CODE BY REVISING SECTION 6.06.110 RELATED TO DOG REGISTRATION EXCEPTIONS TO CLARIFY THAT A LICENSE IS VALID FOR ONE YEAR FROM THE DATE OF PURCHASE, AND ADDING A NEW SECTION 6.06.410 AUTHORIZING A SPAY-NEUTER RELEASE PROGRAM FOR CATS.

WHEREAS, the City of Longview regulates the licensing of dogs and the impoundment and disposition of animals under Chapter 6.06 of the Longview Municipal Code; and

WHEREAS, the City desires to clarify that dog licenses recognized under reciprocal jurisdiction provisions are valid for one year from the date of purchase, rather than being tied to a calendar year; and

WHEREAS, the City further seeks to reduce shelter overcrowding, improve public health outcomes, and humanely manage community cat populations through the implementation of a spay-neuter release program; and

WHEREAS, Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) and Shelter-Neuter-Return (SNR) programs are widely recognized as effective, humane approaches to managing community cats; and

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LONGVIEW DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1.

6.06.110 Dog registration – Exceptions.

- (1) No certificate and tag shall be required for a dog less than six months of age when satisfactory proof of age can be and is, on request, submitted to the animal licensing authority, and for any dog which is a part of an inventory of a pet shop.
- (2) No owner, manager, or employee of a veterinary hospital shall be required to purchase a registration certificate for any dog treated or boarded in such establishments.
- (3) No certificate and tag issued by the animal licensing authority shall be required for any adult dog licensed in another jurisdiction and displaying a current tag from that jurisdiction until expiration of the other certificate or license or one year from the date the license was purchased, whichever occurs first, at which time a certificate and tag shall be required in accordance with this chapter.

(4) No certificate and identification tag shall be required for a dog owned by a governmental agency for use in connection with law enforcement activities.

(5) It shall be the responsibility of the person claiming an exception under the provisions of this section to demonstrate the exception. (Ord. 3504 § 8, 2023; Ord. 3040 § 1, 2008; Ord. 2372 § 1, 1989).

Section 2.

Addition of New Section 6.06.410 – Impoundment and disposition of cats (Spay-Neuter Release Program).

6.06.410 Impoundment and Disposition of Cats

(1) The purpose of this section is to reduce shelter crowding, improve public health outcomes, and humanely manage community cat populations by authorizing the implementation of a Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) or Shelter-Neuter-Return (SNR) program. This approach allows for the sterilization, vaccination, and return of healthy, community cats to the locations where they were found, rather than subjecting them to standard impoundment or holding periods.

(2) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, the Animal Shelter or its authorized agents may forego the standard stray hold period for cats that meet the following criteria:

a. The cat appears healthy, is of appropriate age and condition to undergo sterilization surgery, and shows no signs of ownership (e.g., collar, microchip, or other identifiable markings). These cats may be returned to field after they serve the required stray hold period.

b. The cat was impounded or received as a stray from within the jurisdiction's boundaries.

c. The cat is assessed as suitable for return under the Shelter-Neuter-Return or Trap-Neuter-Return program.

d. Eligible cats may be sterilized, vaccinated against rabies and other core diseases, ear-tipped for identification, and returned to the approximate location where they were found, unless relocation is deemed necessary for public health or safety reasons.

(2) Exceptions

The stray hold exemption shall not apply to:

a. Cats with verified ownership, microchips, or other traceable identification.

b. Cats that are visibly ill, injured.

c. Cats determined by Animal Control to present a public safety risk or nuisance that cannot reasonably be mitigated.

(3). Recordkeeping and Reporting

The Animal Shelter shall maintain accurate records of all cats processed under this section, including:

1. Location of intake and return.
2. Medical treatments administered (sterilization, vaccinations, etc.).
3. Any exceptions applied under subsection (C).

An annual report summarizing outcomes under this section shall be made available to the jurisdiction on a monthly or quarterly basis.

(4) Coordination with Animal Control and Public Communication

The Animal Shelter shall coordinate with Animal Control officers and community partners to educate the public about the Shelter-Neuter-Return program, promote responsible pet ownership, and reduce community cat population growth through humane, sustainable methods.

Section 3. Corrections. Upon approval of the city attorney, the city clerk and the codifiers of this ordinance are authorized to make necessary technical corrections to this ordinance, including, without limitation, the correction of clerical errors; references to other local, state, or federal laws, codes, rules, or regulations; or section/subsection numbering.

Section 4. Severability. If any provision of this Ordinance is found to be invalid or unconstitutional, such invalidity shall not affect the remaining provisions, which shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 5. Publication. This Ordinance shall be published by an approved summary consisting of the title. A summary of this Ordinance may be published in lieu of the entire ordinance, as authorized by State Law.

Section 6. Effective Date. This ordinance shall take effect and be in full force March, 2026.

PASSED by the City Council of the City of Longview, Washington, at a regular meeting thereof this 12th day of February, 2026.

APPROVED:



Mayor

ATTEST:

Jeffery Ostrem

City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

[Signature]

City Attorney

Publish: 2-24-26