

POLICE MEMORANDUM

#13-2024

DATE: Oct. 14, 2024

TO: Honorable Mayor Meredith Leighty and City Council Members

THROUGH: Heather Geyer, City Manager *Hmg*

FROM: James S. May Jr., Chief of Police *JSM/217*
Peter Rice, Commander

SUBJECT: Regulation of Household Pets

PURPOSE

To provide City Council with information and data regarding the establishment of pet limits and an animal registration/licensing ordinance for the City.

BACKGROUND

At the Nov. 13, 2023, City Council meeting, a resident expressed concern about the lack of regulation on the number of pets allowed per residence. The resident stated her neighbor has seven or eight dogs and the noise and waste from the dogs impact her ability to use her backyard. The resident requested the City regulate the number of pets a resident can have. Council Member Nicholas Walker requested Council consensus to schedule a study session related to Municipal Code Section 14-1-4(f), regarding no limit to the number of pets.

In 1973, City ordinance required three or more dogs to be licensed. In 1984, Council repealed the license requirement. Municipal Code section 14-1-4(f) states, "There shall be no limitation on the number of household pets allowed per dwelling unit except for those set forth in other ordinances of the City of Northglenn or set forth in local or state health regulations."

The Northglenn Police Department (NPD) recently conducted research to assess how surrounding cities regulate pet limits and whether licensure is required for cats and dogs within their jurisdictions. Many cities in Adams County and the Denver Metro area have municipal ordinances that limit the number of pets allowed on residential properties. Additionally, many jurisdictions require licensure for domesticated animals such as dogs and cats. Attachment 2 provides other cities' pet regulations and licensing requirements. Northglenn has no municipal ordinance limiting the number of dogs, cats, or other domesticated animals permitted within a residential property, and is the only municipality in Adams County without such regulations.

Animal Control Officers (ACOs) are non-sworn personnel responsible for enforcing animal-related laws, promoting animal welfare, and addressing issues related to stray or dangerous animals. NPD's Animal Control Officers work seven days a week, covering a 10-hour shift from 6 a.m. to 4 p.m. In addition to responding to animal related calls, ACOs also respond to on-street parking violations and other community service requests that do not require a sworn officer response, for example: removing objects from the roadway, assisting with traffic control and road closures during emergency responses, and handling mutual aid requests from neighboring jurisdictions.

The tables below identify animal-related calls for service and enforcement data regarding household pets.

| Calls for Service | Animal Complaint General | Animal at Large | Animal Attack/Vicious Animal | Animal Livestock |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 2022 | 1,676 | 15 | 65 | 6 |
| 2023 | 1,459 | 22 | 59 | 0 |
| 2024 | 1,272 | 43 | 51 | 2 |

| Citation | Barking Dog | Animal at Large | Vicious Dog | Cruelty to Animal | Prohibited Animals | Attack/Bite by Dog |
|-----------------|--------------------|------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2022 | 3 | 15 | 16 | 2 | 0 | 4 |
| 2023 | 0 | 22 | 17 | 5 | 2 | 8 |
| 2024 | 5 | 42 | 19 | 6 | 2 | 7 |

City Council can consider the following options in response to the information outlined above:

1. Make no changes – maintain the City’s current policy that does not require licensing or limit the number of pets in the City.
2. Authorize a City ordinance that limits the number of cats and dogs or a combination of cats and dogs for residential properties within the City.
3. Authorize a licensure policy for dogs and cats but continue with no limits to the number of dogs or cats allowed.
4. Authorize a City ordinance that both requires licensure and limits for dogs, cats and other animals within residential properties.

BUDGET/TIME IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial impacts to the City. If City Council would like staff to develop a license program, staff will need to bring back a proposed program to Council to include fees and funding needed to administer a licensing program.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

This is for informational purposes only.

STAFF REFERENCE

If Council Members have any questions, please contact James S. May, Jr., Chief of Police, at jmay@northglenn.org or 303.450.8967.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Presentation
2. Cities with Ordinances Regulating Dogs and Cats

REGULATION OF HOUSEHOLD PETS

Council Meeting

Oct. 14, 2024

James S. May Jr.

Chief of Police

303.450.8967

jmay@northglenn.org

Peter Rice

Commander of Police

303.450.8965

price@northglenn.org



CITY OF
Northglenn

PURPOSE

To provide City Council with information regarding pet limits and animal registration/licensing options for the City.



NORTHGLENN HISTORY

Pet Limits and License

1973

- **Three or more dogs required a license.**

1984

- **Repealed license to keep three or more dogs**



MUNICIPAL CODE

Municipal Code section 14-1-4(f)

- ***“There shall be no limitation on the number of household pets allowed per dwelling unit except for those set forth in other ordinances of the City of Northglenn or set forth in local or state health regulations.”***



AVERAGE PET LIMITS ADAMS COUNTY

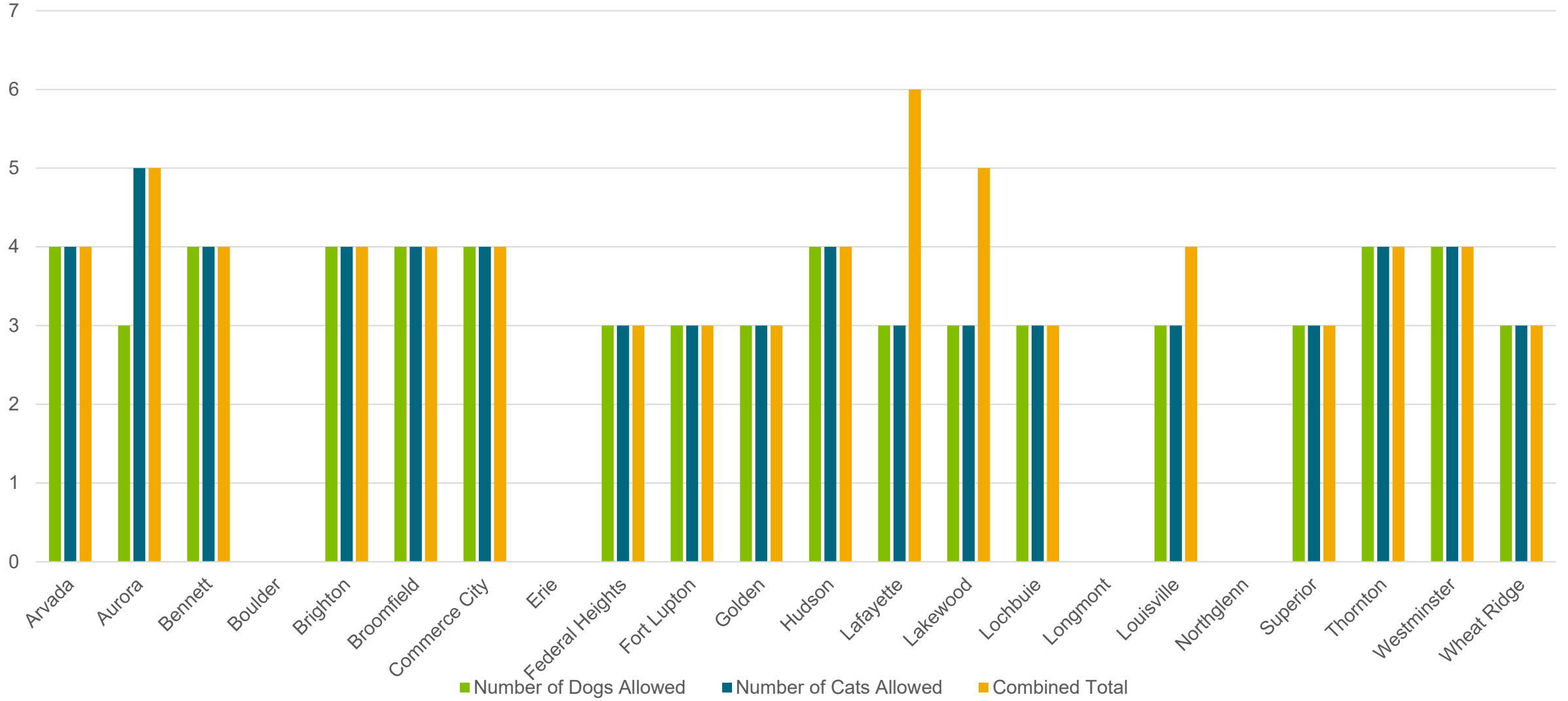


Average Pet Limits

- **Three to four dogs**
- **Three to four cats**
- **Or a combined total of three to four**



CITIES AND PET LIMITS



PET LICENSURE

Local Cities Not Requiring a Pet License

- **Brighton**
- **Commerce City**
- **Northglenn**
- **Superior**
- **Thornton**
- **Westminster**



PET LICENSURE

Local Cities Requiring Dog License

- **Arvada**
- **Aurora**
- **Bennett**
- **Boulder**
- **Broomfield**
- **Erie**
- **Federal Heights**
- **Fort Lupton**
- **Golden**
- **Hudson**
- **Lafayette**
- **Lochbuie**
- **Longmont**
- **Louisville**
- **Wheat Ridge**



PET LICENSURE

Local Cities Requiring a Cat License

- **Aurora**
- **Bennett**
- **Broomfield**
- **Federal Heights**
- **Fort Lupton**
- **Longmont**



PET LICENSURE

Local Cities Requiring Dog and Cat Licenses



- **Aurora**
- **Bennett**
- **Broomfield**
- **Federal Heights**
- **Fort Lupton**
- **Longmont**



CALLS FOR SERVICE

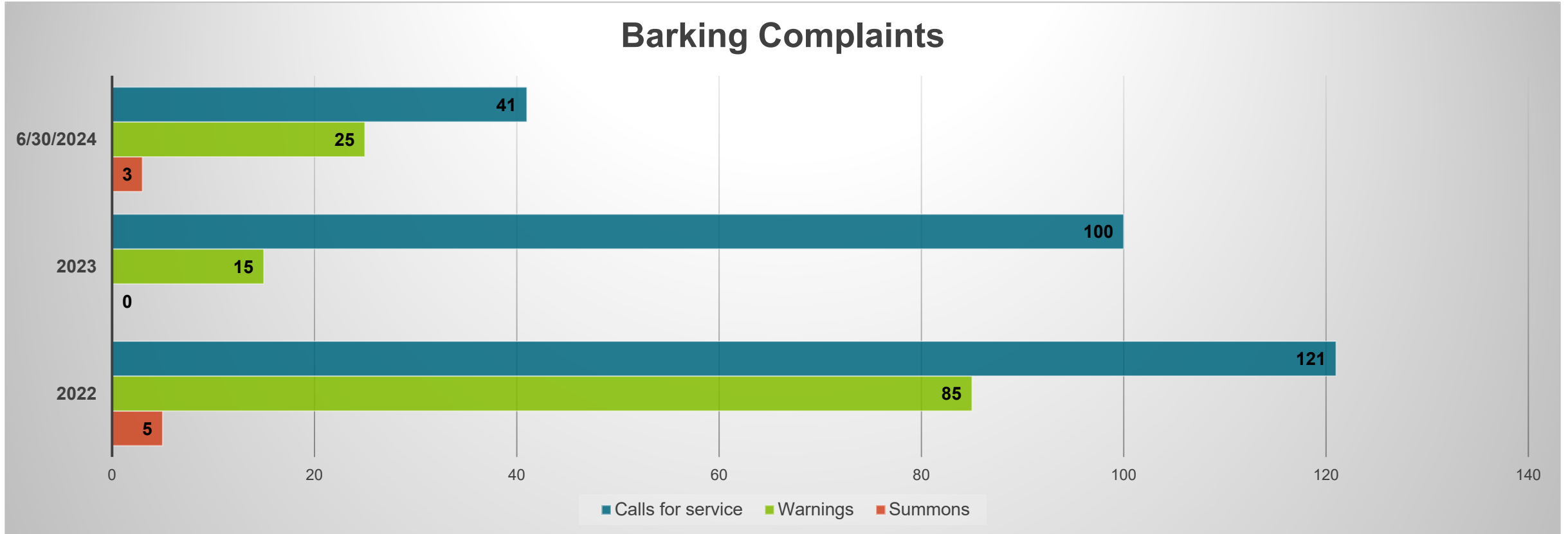


Chart does not include any follow-ups or email complaints.



CALLS FOR SERVICE

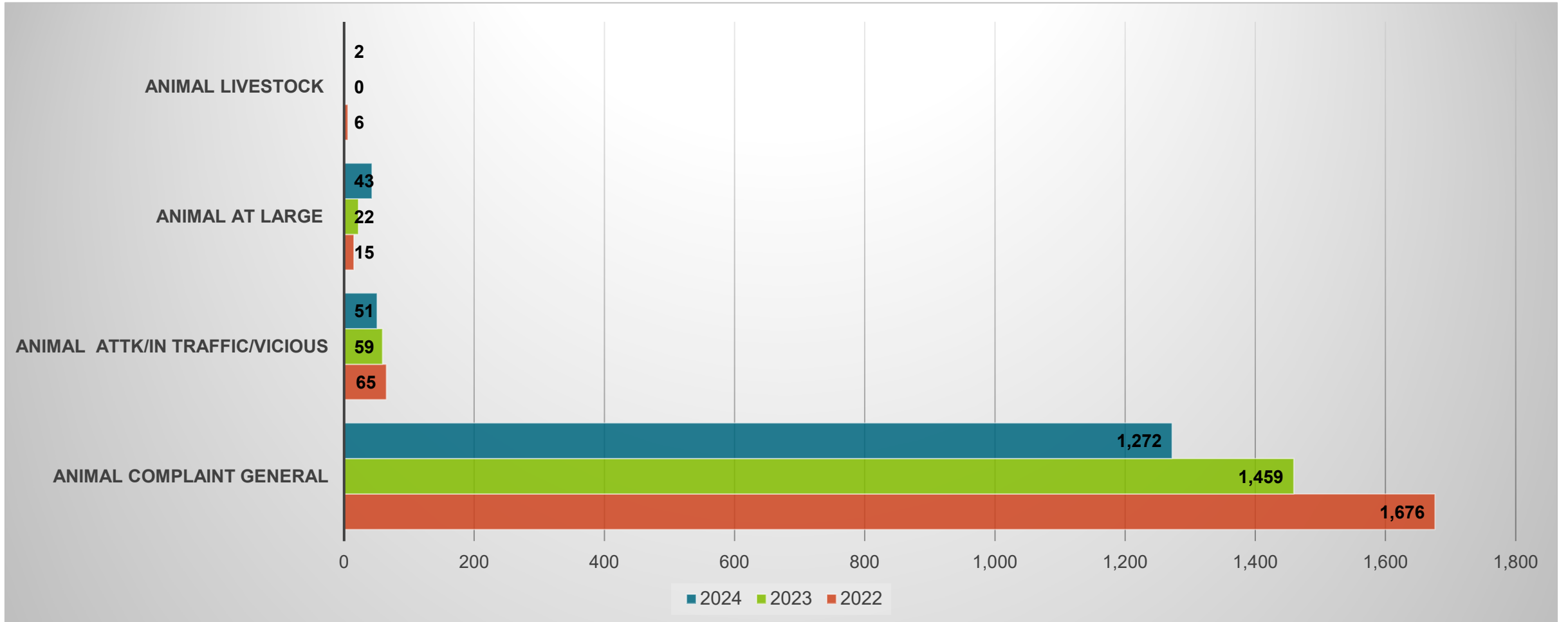


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CITATIONS

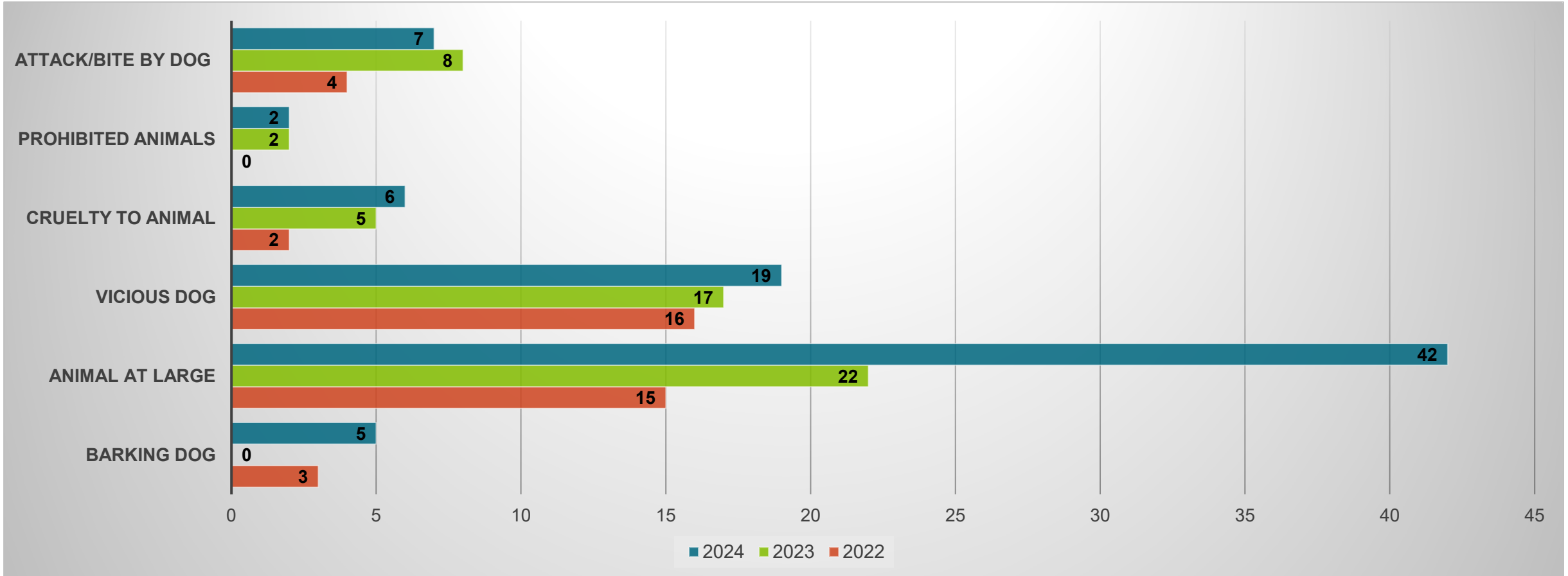


Chart does not include follow-ups or email complaints.



OPTIONS

Make no changes – maintain the City’s current policy that does not require licensure or limit the number of pets within the City

Authorize a City ordinance that limits the number of cats and dogs or combination of cats and dogs for residential properties within the City

Authorize a licensure policy for dogs and/or cats but continue with the existing policy of no limits to the number of dogs or cats allowed

Authorize a City ordinance that requires both licensure and limits for dogs, cats and/or other animals within residential properties



QUESTIONS?



CITY OF
Northglenn

Municipal Household Pet Regulations

| City | Has an Ordinance Regulating Number of Pets Allowed | Number of Dogs Allowed | Number of Cats Allowed | Combined Total | Requires Dog License | Requires Cat License |
|-----------------|--|------------------------|------------------------|----------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Arvada | Yes | 4 | 4 | 4 | Yes | No |
| Aurora | Yes | 3 | 5 | 5 | Yes | Yes |
| Bennett | Yes | 4 | 4 | 4 | Yes | Yes |
| Boulder | No | No Limit | No Limit | No Limit | Yes | No |
| Brighton | Yes | 4 | 4 | 4 | No | No |
| Broomfield | Yes | 4 | 4 | 4 | Yes | Yes |
| Commerce City | Yes | 4 | 4 | 4 | No | No |
| Erie | No | No Limit | No Limit | No Limit | Yes | No |
| Federal Heights | Yes | 3 | 3 | 3 | Yes | Yes |
| Fort Lupton | Yes | 3 | 3 | 3 | Yes | Yes |
| Golden | Yes | 3 | 3 | 3 | Yes | No |
| Hudson | Yes | 4 | 4 | 4 | Yes | No |
| Lafayette | Yes | 3 | 3 | 6 | Yes | No |
| Lakewood | Yes | 3 | 3 | 5 | Yes | No |
| Lochbuie | Yes | 3 | 3 | 3 | Yes | No |
| Longmont | No | No Limit | No Limit | No Limit | Yes | Yes |
| Louisville | Yes | 3 | 3 | 4 | Yes | No |
| Northglenn | No | No Limit | No Limit | No Limit | No | No |
| Superior | Yes | 3 | 3 | 3 | No | No |
| Thornton | Yes | 4 | 4 | 4 | No | No |
| Westminster | Yes | 4 | 4 | 4 | No | No |
| Wheat Ridge | Yes | 3 | 3 | 3 | Yes | No |