

**POLICE MEMORANDUM
#4-2024**

DATE: Feb. 24, 2025
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*
SUBJECT: CB-2026 – Limiting the Number of Household Pets

PURPOSE

To consider CB-2026, an ordinance on first reading that would amend Article 1 of Chapter 14 of the Municipal Code to limit the number of household pets in a residential dwelling unit.

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. In response, Council Member Nicholas Walker requested Council consensus to schedule a study session on the matter.

The Northglenn Police Department conducted research to assess how surrounding cities regulate pet limits 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. 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.

On Oct. 14, 2024, City Council held a study session to review this issue. Following the discussion, Council directed staff to draft an ordinance aligning with neighboring jurisdictions, limiting the number of dogs and/or cats per residence. Most communities in the area have established a maximum of four dogs and/or cats per household.

As drafted, the proposed ordinance would amend Section 14-1-4 to state:

“It shall be unlawful for an occupant of any residential dwelling unit in the City to keep upon the premises more than four (4) cats, or four (4) dogs, or a combination of cats and dogs totaling more than four (4). This subsection shall not apply to cats or dogs under six (6) months old from the same litter of a female cat or dog kept in such residential dwelling unit.”

City Council also requested staff develop a communication plan on how to roll out the proposed changes to the community. This plan will be presented to City Council during second reading of the ordinance.

BUDGET/TIME IMPLICATIONS

There are no time or financial impacts on the City. If CB-2026 is approved on first reading, a public hearing and second reading of the proposed ordinance would be scheduled for March 10, 2025.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends approval of CB-2026 on first reading.

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.

CB-2026 – Limiting the Number of Household Pets

SPONSORED BY: MAYOR LEIGHTY

COUNCIL MEMBER'S BILL

ORDINANCE NO.

No. CB-2026
Series of 2025

Series of 2025

A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE 1 OF CHAPTER 14 OF THE NORTHGLENN MUNICIPAL CODE TO LIMIT THE NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLD PETS IN A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING UNIT

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTHGLENN, COLORADO, THAT:

Section 1. Section 14-1-1 of the City of Northglenn Municipal Code is amended by the addition thereto of a new subsection (t) to read as follows, with the remainder of Section 14-1-1 re-lettered accordingly:

Section 14-1-1. Definitions.

* * *

(t) **Keep** means the activity of the occupant of any premises on which an animal exists or to which an animal customarily returns for food and care which contributes to the animal's habit or tendency to stay at or return to said premises for care or sustenance.

Section 2. Section 14-1-4, subsection (f) of the City of Northglenn Municipal Code is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

Section 14-1-4. Unlawful Acts.

* * *

(f) It shall be unlawful for an occupant of any residential dwelling unit in the City to keep upon the premises more than four (4) cats, or four (4) dogs, or a combination of cats and dogs totaling more than four (4). This subsection shall not apply to cats or dogs under six (6) months old from the same litter of a female cat or dog kept in such residential dwelling unit.

INTRODUCED, READ AND ORDERED POSTED this ____ day of _____,
2025.

MEREDITH LEIGHTY
Mayor

ATTEST:

JOHANNA SMALL, MMC
City Clerk

PASSED ON SECOND AND FINAL READING this ____ day of _____,
2025.

MEREDITH LEIGHTY
Mayor

ATTEST:

JOHANNA SMALL, MMC
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

COREY Y. HOFFMANN
City Attorney