

INTRODUCED: September 13, 2021

AN ORDINANCE No. 2021-246

To amend City Code § 4-306, concerning unsupervised cats, for the purpose of increasing the minimum age for sterilization of unsupervised cats from four months to six months and to provide that infractions of such section shall be punishable as a Class 4 misdemeanor rather than by a civil penalty.

Patron – Mayor Stoney

Approved as to form and legality
by the City Attorney

PUBLIC HEARING: SEP 27 2021 AT 6 P.M.

THE CITY OF RICHMOND HEREBY ORDAINS:

§ 1. That section 4-306 of the Code of the City of Richmond (2020) be and hereby is **amended** as follows:

Sec. 4-306. Unsupervised cats.

(a) No person who owns a cat over the age of [~~four~~] six months shall cause, permit, or allow such animal to be in a public place unsupervised, unless the cat is sterilized. The term “public place” shall include, but not be limited to, streets, highways, alleys, sidewalks, parks, carnivals, shopping malls, flea markets, and areas in front of commercial establishments. This requirement

AYES: 9 NOES: 0 ABSTAIN: _____

ADOPTED: SEP 27 2021 REJECTED: _____ STRICKEN: _____

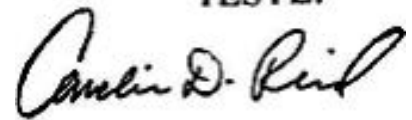
applies to all cats that are not sterilized, whether or not the cat's owner has obtained a breeding permit pursuant to Section 4-307.

(b) The failure to comply with any of the requirements mentioned in subsection (a) of this section is an infraction punishable ~~[by] as a [civil penalty of \$50.00 for the first occurrence, \$75.00 for the second occurrence and \$100.00 for each subsequent occurrence]~~ Class 4 misdemeanor.

§ 2. This ordinance shall be in force and effect upon adoption.

A TRUE COPY:

TESTE:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Camille D. Reed".

City Clerk




CITY OF RICHMOND


INTRACITY CORRESPONDENCE


O&R REQUEST

DATE: July 19, 2021 **EDITION:** 1

TO: The Honorable Members of City Council

THROUGH: The Honorable Levar M. Stoney, Mayor 

THROUGH: J.E. Lincoln Saunders, Acting Chief Administrative Officer 

THROUGH: Robert C. Steidel, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer 

FROM: Christie Chipps Peters, Director of Richmond Animal Care and Control

RE: Amendment to Sec. 4-306 of the Richmond City Code which concerns Unsupervised cats.

ORD. OR RES. No. _____

PURPOSE: To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer to amend Sec. 4-306 of the Richmond City Code, Unsupervised cats.

REASON: The requested amendment, attached, would modify the existing text to increase the required age of an unsterilized cat to be allowed in a public place unsupervised. In addition, the penalty for failure to comply would be modified.

RECOMMENDATION: Approval.

BACKGROUND: In its current form, this section of Richmond City Code mandates that an unsterilized cat be at minimum four months of age in order to be in a public place unsupervised. Failure to comply currently results in a civil penalty. This amendment seeks to increase the minimum age to six months and replace the civil penalty with a fine, which will be keeping with industry best practices while prioritizing the safety and welfare of City animals and residents.

FISCAL IMPACT / COST: None at this time.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS: None at this time.

BUDGET AMENDMENT NECESSARY: No.

O&R Request

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REVENUE TO CITY: N/A.

DESIRED EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon adoption.

REQUESTED INTRODUCTION DATE: September 13, 2021

CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING DATE: September 27, 2021

REQUESTED AGENDA: Consent.

RECOMMENDED COUNCIL COMMITTEE: Governmental Operations Standing Committee.

CONSIDERATION BY OTHER GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES: N/A.

AFFECTED AGENCIES: Richmond Animal Care and Control.

RELATIONSHIP TO EXISTING ORD. OR RES.: N/A.

REQUIRED CHANGES TO WORK PROGRAM(S): N/A.

ATTACHMENTS: Requested text amendments to Richmond City Code Sec. 4-306.

STAFF: Christie Chipps Peters, Director of Richmond Animal Care and Control
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