



Legislative & Rules Committee – Board of Representatives

Benjamin Lee, Chair

Elise Coleman, Vice Chair

Committee Report

Date: Tuesday, April 20, 2021

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: *This meeting was held remotely.*

The Legislative & Rules Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Vice Chair Coleman, and Committee Member Reps. Florio, Jacobson, Lion, Miller, and Zelinsky. Excused were Chair Lee, and Committee Member Reps. Fedeli and Nabel. Also present were Rep. McMullen and Michael Toma, Law Department.

Vice Chair Coleman called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
1. LR30.103	ORDINANCE <u>for publication</u> ; Potential Amendment to §111-6 of the Code of Ordinances, Relating to the Control of Dogs. 12/07/20 – Submitted by Rep. Jacobson 12/22/20 – Held by Committee 8-0-0 01/19/21 – Held by Committee 8-0-1 02/16/21 – Report Made & Held by Committee 9-0-0 03/16/21 - Held by Committee 9-0-0	Held 6-0-0

Rep. Jacobson stated that the American Veterinary Medical Association informed him that they would not be taking a position on the proposed ordinance. He reached out to the Virginia legislature and obtained copies of letters written in support of that state's legislation by two prominent veterinarians, which are included in the record, as well as guidance from the VA Attorney General to animal control officers.

Rep. Jacobson noted that Mr. Cobb had submitted his comments, which are included in the record and that there are concerns about enforcement. Rep. Jacobson stated that since the overall goal is humane treatment of animals, the committee might want to consider a third option: prohibiting the tethering of animals on a property unless the owner is outside with the animal. Possibly the committee should consider this next month rather than a temperature restriction. This would be consistent with the idea that dogs are social animals. People who want to leave their dogs out unattended would have to have fenced areas.

Mr. Toma stated that there would be no conflict with State law by such a change. He noted that he and Mr. Cobb discussed that one of the issues currently being seen in Stamford is the rescue of dogs who turn out to be very aggressive, but the new owners are not getting that history.

Committee members discussed:

- Including a ban the import of aggressive dogs
- Not including things in the ordinance that can't be enforced

- The City would not be liable for adoption of an aggressive dog from the pound
- Would the animal control officer need to ring the doorbell?

A motion to hold Item No. 1 was made, seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote.

Vice Chair Coleman adjourned the meeting at 7:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Elise Coleman, Vice Chair

This meeting is on [video](#)