

## MEMO-

---

**To:** Ordinance Committee, Mayor Nielsen  
**From:** Randy Reeg, City Administrator  
**Subject:** Potential Transfer or Elimination of Pet Licensing Services and Emotional Support Animals  
**Date:** September 7, 2023

---



During budget preparation time, we have a perennial discussion about the workload of licensing dogs and cats versus the actual revenue we receive for doing so. In short, it's way more work than it's worth (financially). Nicole has reached out to the county and they are more than happy to take on the dog licensing process for residents in the City of Mauston. We would not be eliminating our local requirement for dogs to be licensed. Pet owners would simply obtain the license from the county rather than the city. This seems like an easy decision. However, the county does not license cats and it would do us little good to transfer dog licensing services if we had to keep performing cat licensing in-house. This raises the question of eliminating the requirement for cat licenses. We have discussed this before but reached no consensus. For context, the number of licensed animals in the city is well below the actual number of pets being kept. That is undeniable.

Additionally, I had a recent inquiry about an exemption to the limit on the number of dogs that can be kept for an emotional support animal. We have no ordinance language that permits such an exemption. Do we want to consider one?