

Animal Control Bill 4 Draft 5
Meeting With Waimea Hunters
Monday, March 28, 2005, 7 p.m.

1. Licensing Fees, Section 4-12

A) Increased Licensing Fees

Concerns:

- *Not everyone can afford the fees.
- *Why is it the responsible people who have to pay the higher prices to cover for the actions of the irresponsible?
- *Where do the licensing dollars go?
- *Why are dog owners the ones having to pay to fund a spay/neuter program which will largely be used to spay/neuter cats?
- *At what age should dogs/cats be registered?

Recommendations:

- *Reduced fees for senior citizens and low income households.
- *Charge a flat fee rather than charging different fees for spayed/neutered and unspayed/unneutered. (Hunters do not spay or neuter their dogs because it alters their ability to do their job.)
- *50% of the collected fees should go to the Humane Society for increased manpower (Better Enforcement) and 50% to the spay/neuter fund.
- *Consider establishing a recreational revolving fund (similar to the Pittman/Robinson Fund) to help pay for chipping and licensing.
- *Require licensing of cats and use this money to fund the spay/neuter program.
- *Consider a deposit on bags of dog food or other pet related items.
- *Reduced fees for people who rescue animals.

(B) Identification Methods - tattoo versus chipping.

Concerns:

- *Who has scanners?
- *Unreliability of scanner.
- *Scanner may not read all chip types.
- *HIHS may not scan all dogs.
- *Could the owner of a chipped dog be held liable when ownership has been transferred?
- *Some animals may not be good candidates for microchipping.
- *Migration of chips within the animal.

Recommendations:

- *Allow and register tattoos/freeze brands (good visual I.D. Chips cannot be read by individuals who may find the dogs)
- *Consider alternate methods of identification.

2. Noisy Dogs and Penalty for Noisy Dogs, Sections 4-24 and 4-25

(A) Enforcement/Unfair Punishment

Concerns:

- *Emergency and Police vehicle sirens. The dogs' sensitive ears can hear them from far away and can cause their dogs to bark.
- *No one seems to be an advocate for the dogs. We need to understand why the dog is barking.
- *What is the intent of the law? Dogs bark for a reason. Problem barking would indicate a serious problem. The law should focus on the problems.
- *Owner might be cited when barking is provoked.
- *"Trespassing" (Section 4-24 (c)) not defined.
- *Unsubstantiated complaints.

Recommendations:

*Mediation with neighbors.

3. Leash Requirement and Penalty for Permitting a Dog to Stray Sections 4-29 and 4-30

(A) Unequal Treatment Under the Law for Dog Owners

Concerns:

*Liability for damage caused by lost animals.

Recommendations:

*Require cats be on leashes and contained to the owner's property.

4. Miscellaneous Issues

Concerns:

*Rapid population growth and density issues.

Recommendations:

*Do not require HIHS spay/neuter dogs. This would increase adoption by hunters who only want unspayed/unneutered dogs.