



Mendocino County Farm Bureau

303-C Talmage Road • Ukiah, CA. 95482 • (707) 462-6664 • Fax (707) 462-6681 • Email: director@mendofb.org

Affiliated with the California Farm Bureau Federation and the American Farm Bureau Federation

December 3, 2018

Via Email: bos@mendocinocounty.org

Mendocino County Board of Supervisors
501 Low Gap Road, Room 1010
Ukiah, CA 95482

RE: Comments on December 4, 2018 Agenda Item 5(i): the Discussion and Possible Action Including Introduction and Waive Reading of Ordinance Amending Title 10 of Mendocino County Code Regarding Animals

Dear Supervisors,

The Mendocino County Farm Bureau (MCFB) is a non-governmental, non-profit, voluntary membership, advocacy group whose purpose is to protect and promote agricultural interests throughout the county and to find solutions to the problems facing agricultural businesses and the rural community. MCFB would like to offer the comments on agenda item 5(i), the discussion and possible action amending title 10 of the Mendocino County code regarding animals.

Page 3, Public Nuisance D(2)

MCFB understands that this language was in the previous version, but section D(2) may be broad enough to impact working animals such as herding dogs that bark to protect their herds during night time hours. Neighbors may think the barking interferes with the reasonable and comfortable enjoyment of life and these animal could be reported as a public nuisance.

Page 23

The animal control appeals and advisory board has been eliminated and was replaced with the new section on appeals through an administrative hearings process listed on page 36. It is important to have some process in place during an appeal for contacting not only the violating animal's owner, but also those impacted by the animal to have the ability to testify in the administrative hearing process. See comments listed below for page 36, administrative hearings.

Page 34 (F)

The section below was stricken and did not seem to be relocated in another section of the amended language. MCFB feels that the stricken language is an important section for the protection of the livestock industry in the county. MCFB would advocate for the inclusion of the stricken language below and to not “rehabilitate” or “rehome” dogs that have been legitimately reported for injuring or killing livestock.

~~Such animal shall then be taken up and impounded and not returned to the adoptee. The offending dog(s) in the killing or wounding of livestock or biting persons may not be put up for further adoption and may be humanely euthanized. Such adoptee shall forthwith forfeit any right or title to the animal which will then become the property of the County. Adoptee may be subject to any fees, charges, penalties or citations or any other liabilities by the animal.~~

Page 36, Administrative Hearings

Notification of the hearing should not be limited solely to the appellant. It should be required that any impacted individuals related to the animal in question also be contacted to participate in the administrative hearing process. In particular, with livestock impacts or repeat trespass issues with dogs, it is important that all parties involved be contacted to testify to the impacts that the animal in question has caused.

MCFB requests that the Board of Supervisors consider all of the points above in the process of discussing the proposed amendments to Title 10 of the Mendocino County Code regarding animals. If there are any questions on any of the above points, please do not hesitate to contact the MCFB office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Frost Pauli".

Frost Pauli
President