

# Animal Control Audit Follow-Up

**Objective:** Determine if City management implemented the three recommendations made in an earlier report, Animal Control Audit (Project# 2020-06).

## What Was Found

**Prior Finding #1:** Animal Control citations are outdated, do not contain required language from Chapter 2 of the City's Code of Ordinances, and are routinely deemed uncollectible and written off as bad debt.

**Status: Implemented** Chapter 2 of the City's Code of Ordinances was updated and modified to include Animal Control by changing the division name from Code Enforcement Division to the Code Compliance and Animal Protection Division with Ordinance No. BG2021-31. The update also added a section ensuring compliance with Chapter 5 (Animals). The paper citations are no longer used and the Animal Protection Officers utilize the Community Development module of the City's enterprise software solution, the same as all Code Compliance Officers. In addition, the citations are also enforceable by property liens the same as other citations within the division, which greatly increases the ability to collect the fine when a citation is written.

**Prior Finding #2:** The City's Code of Ordinances lists penalties for second and third offenses; however, there were no records found of ever writing a second or third offense. Management states this is because the citation structure does not track the number of offenses.

**Status: Implemented** The division has the ability to track all citations now that electronic citations are utilized. This provides the Animal Protection Officers the ability to quickly determine when a second or third offence should be written at a location. Chapter 5 of the City's Code of Ordinances was updated with Ordinance No. BG2022-12, which addressed the fee and fine schedule to ensure that the language of the final order process and the Code Enforcement and Nuisance Board appeal process coincided with Commonwealth of Kentucky statutes.

**Prior Finding #3:** The Animal Control page of the City's website is outdated and refers citizens to report items to the "Bowling Green Police Department Animal Control" even though this function has been within NCS since 2015. The page does not include appropriate contact information or other pertinent information for citizens.

**Status: Implemented** The website is updated and includes contact information and related information on animal protection.