

## How to Pass a City Ordinance to Protect Animals

### 1 Identify an Issue

Do you see dogs riding unrestrained in truck beds or rabbits being given away as prizes at a county fair? A city ordinance is a local law that can protect these animals. First, identify an animal issue you would like to see changed.



### 2 Research the Process



The process for proposing and passing a city ordinance will vary based on where you live. Do some research to learn about your local laws. Make sure there is not an existing law that covers your issue. Attend city council meetings to learn how your local government operates.

### 3 Get Support From Others

Your city ordinance will have a higher chance of passing if it has the support of many. Write to your newspaper, contact your city representatives, and work with your local humane society to spread the word.



### 4 Draft the Ordinance



Start by researching similar ordinances from other areas. They can help to guide you. It is often helpful to seek the advice of someone in local government so they can help you write the ordinance in the proper legislative format.

### 5 Testify

It is time to present your proposal to city council or a similar body! Be sure to plan what you have to say and practice often. It is best to acknowledge opposing arguments in your speech. Do not be afraid to consider compromise. Any progress for animals can be better than none!

