

# LAS CRUCES SUN-NEWS

## **City votes to get Animal Services pet adoptions back at Farmers Market**

**By Steve Ramirez/Sun-News reporter**

**Posted: 07/21/2009 12:00:00 AM MDT**

For more information on the ordinance change, click [here](#).

To view the City of Las Cruces Web site, click [here](#)

LAS CRUCES - Animal adoptions at the Las Cruces Farmers and Crafts Market will soon return after the city council unanimously approved changes Monday to a city ordinance to allow for the adoptions.

Two portions of the ordinance that heretofore prohibited animal adoptions at the twice-weekly market were changed. One of the changes repealed the prohibition of animal adoptions on public property within the city, and the other will allow representatives of the Animal Services Center of the Mesilla Valley to conduct those adoptions.

Adoptions had been conducted at the market, on the Downtown Mall, earlier this year. But animal shelter representatives were forced to stop those when city officials became aware of the ordinance.

"If it's in the rules, we have to play as everyone else does," Mayor Ken Miyagishima.

Beth Vesco-Mock, director of the Animal Services Center, said the process for adoptions at the Farmers and Crafts Market will be the same as conducted at the shelter, on Bataan Memorial West. However, she made it clear that animals that are adopted at the market may not necessarily go home with their new owners right away.

"Animals must be altered before they leave," said Vesco-Mock, referring to the need for animals to be spayed or neutered. Animals must also be microchipped before being released.

"We're trying to make sure animals get into responsible families," Vesco-Mock said.

Christine Logan, city economic development administrator, said the changes in the ordinance make it pretty clear that only the Animal Services Center will be able to conduct animal adoptions at the market.

"Individual residents are still not allowed to have animal adoptions," Logan said. "The change in the ordinance also includes definitions, ...and that language is worded as such that the only government agency who could conduct animal adoptions is the shelter."

Steve Ramirez can be reached at [sramirez@lcsun-news.com](mailto:sramirez@lcsun-news.com); (575) 541-5452