



CITY OF HARRISONBURG
COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT

Zoning Ordinance Amendment Application

www.harrisonburgva.gov/zoning

DESCRIPTION OF AMENDMENT

Zoning Ordinance Section:

10-3-24 Definitions of 10-3-84 BI by right

Proposed Text (Attach separate sheet, if needed.)

see attached

APPLICANT'S INFORMATION

Cut's Cradle of the Shenandoah Valley 540 476 0055

Applicant's Name Sherri Hershman INC

Telephone

122 S Main St, Suite 101

sherri@cutscradeva.org

Street Address

E-Mail

Harrisonburg VA 22801

City

State

Zip

APPLICANT'S REPRESENTATIVE INFORMATION (if applicable)

Sherri Hershman

Applicant's Representative

540-476-0055

Telephone

Street Address

E-Mail

City

State

Zip

CERTIFICATION

I certify that the information supplied on this application and on the attachments provided is accurate and true to the best of my knowledge.

APPLICANT

DATE

1/15/25

REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS

☐ Letter explaining the reasons for seeking Ordinance amendment.

TO BE COMPLETED BY PLANNING & ZONING DIVISION

1-22-2025
Date Application and Fee Received

Total Fees Due: \$ 450
Application Fee: \$450.00

Received By

Nyrma C. Soffel

From: Sherri Heishman <Sherri@catscradleva.org>
Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2025 10:03 AM
To: Nyrma C. Soffel
Subject: Re: Zoning Ordinance amendment for pet adoptions

WARNING: External email. Be cautious when clicking on links or opening attachments.

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to request your consideration for an amendment to the existing ordinance that affects the ability of Cat's Cradle of the Shenandoah Valley, Inc., a local nonprofit cat rescue, to adopt out cats on-site at our current location at 122 S Main Street in Harrisonburg.

At present, we are required to drive our adopted rescue cats to the Harrisonburg PetSmart for final adoptions, as we are unable to complete this process directly at our facility. This creates significant logistical challenges for our organization, especially when it comes to coordinating volunteers to transport the cats. Since we cannot close our business during the workday, we are often forced to rely on volunteers to assist us in this transportation. Additionally, the requirement to transport the animals to a separate location impacts our ability to provide timely adoptions and meet the needs of prospective adopters.

In many cases, when a potential adopter falls in love with a cat, they are eager to take the cat home that same day. However, under the current ordinance, this is not possible. The added steps involved in transporting the cat to PetSmart can cause delays and sometimes discourage potential adopters from completing the process. As you can imagine, time is often of the essence when it comes to animal adoptions, and this ordinance significantly impedes our ability to facilitate a smooth and efficient adoption experience for both the cat and the adopter.

We respectfully ask that the City of Harrisonburg consider amending the ordinance to allow Cat's Cradle of the Shenandoah Valley, Inc. to complete adoptions directly at our facility. This change would not only streamline the adoption process but also help us reduce unnecessary delays, allowing us to place more cats in loving homes where they belong and keep cats out of your local municipal shelter.

We are happy to discuss this request further and provide any additional information or clarification you may need. Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter. We look forward to your support in making this change, which will allow us to better serve our community and the animals in our care.

Thank you,

Sherri Heishman
Executive Director
Cat's Cradle
122 South Main Street, Ste 101

Harrisonburg, VA 22801
540-476-0055



From: Nyrma C. Soffel <Nyrma.Soffel@harrisonburgva.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2025 9:41 AM
To: Sherri Heishman <Sherri@catscradleva.org>
Subject: Zoning Ordinance amendment for pet adoptions

Good morning Sherri,

We are processing the zoning ordinance amendment application for the March Planning Commission. I realized that I forgot to ask you for the required *Letter explaining the reasons for seeking Ordinance amendment*.

REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS
<input type="checkbox"/> Letter explaining the reasons for seeking Ordinance amendment,
TO BE COMPLETED BY PLANNING & ZONING DIVIS

Would you mind sending a letter (it can be an email) that I can attach to the application?

Thank you,

Nyrma

Nyrma C Soffel
Planner
City of Harrisonburg
Department of Community Development
409 South Main Street
Harrisonburg, VA 22801
(540) 432-7700 Ext. 1804
Pronouns: she, her, hers
Se habla español.

Sec. 10-3-24. Definitions.

Pet Adoption: The transfer of ownership of a dog or cat, or any other companion animal as defined in the Virginia State Code, from a releasing agency to an individual. Such transfer of ownership does not include the purchase, sale, transfer, exchange or bartering of companion animals for compensation or profit.

Pet shop: Retail establishment where companion animals are bought, sold, exchanged, or offered for sale or exchange to the general public.

Sec. 10-3-84. Uses permitted by right. (B-1)

(15) Pet adoptions.

Sec. 10-3-90(9). Uses permitted by right. (B-2)

Add "pet adoption" to subsection (9)



Nyrma C. Soffel

From: Sherri Heishman <Sherri@catscradleva.org>
Sent: Thursday, January 23, 2025 11:38 AM
To: Nyrma C. Soffel
Subject: Re: Zoning Ordinance Amendment

WARNING: External email. Be cautious when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Hi Nyrma,
Yes, this reflects my request!

Thanks for your help. Let me know next steps!

Thanks

Sherri Heishman
Executive Director
Cat's Cradle
122 South Main Street, Ste 101
Harrisonburg, VA 22801
540-476-0055



From: Nyrma C. Soffel <Nyrma.Soffel@harrisonburgva.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 23, 2025 10:30 AM
To: Sherri Heishman <Sherri@catscradleva.org>
Subject: Zoning Ordinance Amendment

Hello Sherri,

Since I edited the draft language for the ordinance amendment, I would like to make sure that you agree with the draft. The proposed language is to add the definitions for "pet adoption" and "pet shop". "Pet adoption" is added to the uses permitted by right in B-1 to allow the not-for-profit exchange of companion animals in the B-1 district.

To ensure that there is no change or confusion about what is allowed in B-2, the by-right uses will include both pet adoption and pet shop.

Does this reflect your request?