

ANIMAL CONTROL ORDINANCE

BE IT ORDAINED by the Commissioners of Washington County as follows:

ARTICLE I
PREAMBLE

1.1 Authority, Purpose, and Intent.

- a. This Animal Control Ordinance is enacted pursuant to the authority granted to Washington County under G.S. 153A-121 and 442, which empower local governments to regulate and enforce laws concerning the welfare, control, and protection of animals within their jurisdiction.
- b. The purpose of this ordinance is to promote public health, safety, and welfare by establishing regulations for the humane treatment of animals, preventing nuisances and dangers associated with uncontrolled animals, and ensuring responsible pet ownership. It is the intent of this ordinance to provide a framework for the enforcement of animal control laws, the establishment of penalties for violations, and the creation of procedures for addressing animal-related concerns. Through fair and effective enforcement, this ordinance aims to foster a safe and harmonious environment for both animals and residents of Washington County.

1.2 Definitions.

The following definitions apply in the interpretation and enforcement of this ordinance:

- a. Animal: Every nonhuman living creature, whether domestic or otherwise.
- b. Animal Cruelty: A person shall be considered responsible for animal cruelty if any of the following categories are met:
 - i. Molesting, torturing, tormenting, depriving of necessary sustenance, cruelly beat, needlessly mutilate or kill, wound, injure, poison, abandon or subject to conditions detrimental to its health or general welfare any animal, or to cause or procure such action.
 1. The words “torture” and “torment” shall be held to include every act, omission or neglect whereby unjustifiable physical pain, suffering or death is cause or permitted, but such terms shall not be construed to prohibit lawful shooting of birds, deer and other game for human food nor to prohibit the Animal Control Department or its agents or veterinarians from destroying dangerous, unwanted or injured animals in a humane manner; nor to prohibit the lawful use of animals in scientific research.
 - ii. A keeper who fails to provide their animal with proper shelter and protection from the weather, sufficient and wholesome food and water to keep his animal in good health and comfort, the opportunity for vigorous daily exercise, veterinary care when needed to prevent suffering, and humane care and treatment.

- c. Animal Shelter: Any premises designated by the Washington County Sheriff or Animal Control Department for the purposes of impounding and caring for all animals.
- d. At Large: Any animal off the property of their owner or keeper and not under physical restraint. This does not include domestic animals used in hunting with the proper ID and vaccinations as described in N.C.G.S. 130A-185 and 113-291.2.
- e. Board or Board of Commissioners: Board of County Commissioners of Washington County, North Carolina.
- f. Dangerous, Fierce, or Vicious Animal: An animal that constitutes a physical threat to humans or domestic animals, shown through a documented attack or an example of unprovoked aggression. Animals who fit this description must be confined in a secure building or enclosure or securely muzzled and under restraint at all times. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, dangerous dogs are further defined under and subject to the applicable portions of N.C.G.S. Chapter 67, Article 1A.
- g. Exposed to Rabies: Any animal bitten by or in the presence of another animal known or suspected to have been infected with rabies.
- h. Impoundment: Any animal in custody of a person or animal shelter duly authorized by the Washington County Sheriff or Animal Control department.
- i. Keeper: A person having custody of an animal, or who keeps and harbors an animal, or who knowingly permits an animal to remain on or about any premises occupied or controlled by such person.
- j. Luring: Enticing any animals out of an enclosure or off the property of its owner or keeper, or seizing, molesting, or teasing any animal while the animal is held or controlled by its keeper or while the animal is on the property of its keeper.
- k. Non-Domesticated Animal: Animals which are dangerous to persons or property or which have the potential or being dangerous to persons or property. No person shall possess or harbor an animal which fits this category, unless they are a bonafide circus, petting zoo, or other commercial animal exhibition of limited duration and in full compliance at all times with any and all applicable state and federal laws.
- l. Noisy Animal: Any animal that habitually or repeatedly makes excessive noises that tend to annoy, disturb, or frighten multiple households beyond its owners'.
- m. Nuisance: An animal or group of animals shall be considered a nuisance if it meets any of the following categories:
 - i. Damages, soils, or defiles private or public property;
 - ii. Interferes with, molests, or attacks person/s or other animals;
 - iii. Is repeatedly at large;
 - iv. Causes unsanitary, dangerous, or offensive conditions, including excessive fouling of the air by odors;
 - v. Chases, snaps at, harasses, or impedes pedestrians, bicyclists, or vehicles;
 - vi. By virtue of number or type is offensive or dangerous to the public health, safety, or welfare.
 - vii. Is diseased or dangerous to the public health.
- n. Owner: A person having the right of property of an animal.
- o. Person: Any individual, corporation, partnership, organization, or institution commonly recognized by law or unit.

- p. Stray: Any domestic animal not under restraint and found off the property of its owner or keeper. This does not include domestic animals used in hunting with the proper ID and vaccinations as described in N.C.G.S. 130A-185 and 113-291.2.
- q. Suspected of Having Rabies: An animal which is unvaccinated against rabies or has bitten a person.
- r. Veterinary Hospital: Any establishment maintained and operated by a licensed veterinarian for surgery, diagnosis, and treatment of diseases and injuries of animals.
- s. Restraint: Any animal shall be considered under restraint if it is within the real property limits of its owner, or secured by a leash or lead, or otherwise confined.

ARTICLE II

ESTABLISHMENT AND FUNCTION OF A

WASHINGTON COUNTY ANIMAL CONTROL DEPARTMENT

2.1 Agency Authority and Responsibility.

- a. Authority is hereby granted to the Sheriff's Office to establish and maintain an Animal Control Program, to employ Animal Control Officer(s) and such other employees as shall be determined necessary by the Washington County Board of Commissioners, and to appoint and compensate Animal Control Officer(s) and such other employees in accordance with policies of Washington County.
- b. The employees of the Animal Control Department shall:
 - i. Have the responsibility along with law enforcement agencies to enforce all laws of North Carolina and all ordinances of Washington County pertaining to animals and shall cooperate with all law enforcement officers within Washington County in fulfilling this duty.
 - ii. Enforce and carry out all laws of North Carolina and all ordinances of Washington County pertaining to rabies control.
 - iii. Be responsible for the investigation of all reported animal bites, for the quarantine of any dog or cat involved and suspected of having rabies, for a period of not less than ten (10) days, and for reporting to the MTW District Health Director and Sheriff's Office as soon as practicable the occurrence of any such animal bite and the condition of any quarantined animal.
 - iv. Be responsible for the operation of the animal shelter.
 - v. Be responsible for enforcing any and all penalties related to the violation of this ordinance.
 - vi. Be responsible for the seizure and impoundment, where deemed necessary, of any dog or other animal in Washington County involved in a violation of this or any other county ordinance or state law.
 - vii. Investigate cruelty or abuse with regard to animals.
 - viii. Make such canvasses of the county, including the homes in the county, as necessary for the purpose of ascertaining compliance with this ordinance or related state statutes.
 - ix. Keep, or cause to be kept, accurate and detailed records of:
 - 1. Seizure, impoundment, and disposition of all animals coming into the custody of the animal control program.

2. Bite cases, violations and complaints, and investigations thereof.
 3. All monies belonging to Washington County which were derived from fees, penalties, sales of animals, or other sources.
 4. Any other matters deemed necessary by the Sheriff's Office or MTW Health Director.
- x. Be empowered to issue notices of violation of this ordinance in such form as the Sheriff's Office and/or MTW Health Director may prescribe.

2.2 Interference with Enforcement.

- a. It shall be unlawful for any person to interfere with, hinder or molest the employees of the Washington County Animal Control Department or person(s) duly authorized by this ordinance, or to seek to release any animal in the custody of such persons, except as otherwise specifically provided.

2.3 Destruction of Wounded, Diseased, Unweaned, or Unseizable Animals.

- a. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Ordinance, any animal seized and impounded which is badly wounded, diseased (not a rabies suspect), or unweaned and has no identification shall be destroyed immediately in a humane manner. If the animal has identification, the Animal Control Department shall attempt to notify the owner or keeper before disposing of the animal. If the owner or keeper cannot be reached readily, and the animal is suffering, the Animal Control Department may destroy the animal at its discretion in a humane manner.
- b. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Ordinance, an animal which cannot be seized by reasonable means may be humanely destroyed by order of the Animal Control Department or Sheriff's Office.
- c. Any dog or cat left at the animal shelter may be impounded or euthanized at the discretion of the Animal Control Officer, provided however that any such destruction of animals must be in full compliance with the required holding periods and euthanasia protocols of N.C.G.S. 19A-32.1 and/or other applicable laws including without limitation the other provisions of this Ordinance.

ARTICLE III

IDENTIFICATION AND PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMS

MANAGED BY ANIMAL CONTROL

3.1 Dog or Cat Identification Tags.

- a. It shall be unlawful for any person to own, keep or harbor any dog or cat over the age of four (4) months within the corporate limits of the County unless such dog or cat is properly tagged as provided herein.
 - i. The tag requirements herein shall not apply to any dog or cat being kept exclusively in a confined residential dwelling structure, in a kennel, in a cattery, or in another holding facility or used as a seeing eye dog or governmental police dog or belonging to a nonresident of the County and kept within the boundaries of the County for not longer than thirty (30) days; provided that all dogs or cats of nonresidents shall at the time of entry into the County be properly vaccinated

against rabies, and while being kept within the County, shall meet all other requirements of this chapter.

- b. The Board of County Commissioners may set fees for initial and/or replacement tags in its Fee Schedule which may be amended from time to time.
- c. Upon payment of the dog and/or cat tag fee to the Animal Control Department or other duly authorized agent to receive such payment, a numbered metal identification tag shall be issued to the owner of the dog or cat. The metal tag shall be securely fastened to the animal's choke chain, collar or harness, and it shall be unlawful for the owner of the animal to allow the dog or cat to be unconfined anywhere within the County without the tag.

3.2 Collecting Dogs and Cats for Resale.

- a. It shall be unlawful for any person to collect any dog or cat for the purpose of resale unless a permit for the same shall have been obtained from the Sheriff's Office or Animal Control Department in accordance with the provisions of this section and unless such permit shall remain un-suspended and un-revoked.
- b. The Board of Commissioners shall promulgate regulations and applicable fee schedule for the issuance of permits and shall include requirements for humane care and transportation of all cats and dogs and for the compliance with the provisions of this ordinance and applicable laws. The Board of Commissioners may amend such regulations from time to time as deemed desirable for public health and welfare and for the protection of collected dogs and cats.
- c. The Sheriff's Office or Animal Control Department may revoke any permit if the person holding the permit refuses or fails to comply with this ordinance, other regulations promulgated by the Board of Commissioners, or any law governing the protection and keeping of animals.

3.3 Vaccination of Dogs, Cats, and Other Pets and Vaccination Tags.

- a. All dogs, cats, and ferrets must be vaccinated against rabies pursuant to G.S. 130A-185.
- b. Should it be deemed necessary by the Health Director that other pets be vaccinated in order to prevent a threatened epidemic or to control an existing epidemic, it shall be unlawful for an owner or keeper to fail to provide current vaccination against rabies for that pet.
- c. A rabies vaccination shall be deemed current for a dog or cat if the first two (2) doses of vaccine are administered twelve (12) months apart and each subsequent booster dose of vaccine administered as per the vaccine manufacturer's recommended schedule.
- d. Upon complying with the previous two provisions of this Ordinance, there shall be issued to the owner or keeper of the dog or cat vaccinated a rabies tab stamped with a number and the year for which issued, and a rabies vaccination certificate.
- e. It shall be unlawful for any dog or cat owner or keeper to fail to provide the dog or cat with a collar or harness to which a current rabies tag issued under this section is securely attached. Except as otherwise permitted by law, the collar or harness, with attached tag must be worn at all times.

- f. It shall be unlawful for any person to use for any animal a rabies vaccination tag issued for an animal other than the one using the tag.
- g. In addition to all other penalties as prescribed by law, a dog or cat is subject to impoundment in accordance with the provisions of this ordinance if the dog or cat is found not to be wearing a currently valid rabies tag.
- h. All dogs or cats shipped or otherwise brought into this county, except for exhibition purposes where the dogs or cats are confined and not permitted to run at large, shall be securely confined and vaccinated within one (1) week after entry, and shall remain confined two (2) additional weeks after vaccination unless accompanied by a certificate issued by a licensed veterinarian showing that said dog or cat is apparently free from rabies and has not been exposed to same and that said dog or cat has received a proper dose of rabies vaccine not more than six (6) months prior to the date of issuing the certificate.

3.4 Rabies Notification Procedures.

- a. When a person has been bitten by an animal having rabies or suspected of having rabies, it shall be the duty of such person, or his parent or guardian if such person is a minor, and the person owning such animal or having the same in his possession or under his control, to notify the Sheriff's Office or Animal Control Department and the MTW Health Director immediately and give their names and addresses.
- b. The owner or person having such animal in his possession or under his control shall immediately securely confine it for ten (10) days at the expense of the owner in such a place as may be designated by the Animal Control Department or Sheriff's Office or Health Director. Animals confined this way shall not be released from confinement except by permission from the County Emergency Management Coordinator or MTW Health Director. In the case of an animal whose owner or keeper is not known, the animal shall be kept for the supervised confinement period required by this ordinance at the animal shelter or in such place as the Sheriff's Office or Animal Control Department or MTW Health Director designates.
- c. If the owner of or a person who has in his possession or under his control an animal having rabies or suspected of having rabies refuses to confine the animal as required by this ordinance or by G.S. 130A-196, the Sheriff's Office or Animal Control Department or the MTW Health Director may order seizure of the animal and its confinement for ten (10) days in such a place as the Animal Control Department or Sheriff's Office or Health Director designates.
- d. It shall be the duty of every physician, after his first professional attendance upon a person bitten by any animal having rabies or suspected of having rabies, to report to the Health Director the name, age and sex of the person so bitten, and precise location of the bite wound, within twenty-four (24) hours after first having knowledge that the person was bitten.
- e. Law enforcement agencies investigating animal bites shall report such bites immediately to the MTW Health Director and County Emergency Management Coordinator and give the names and addresses of person(s) bitten and owner of the animal.

3.5 Destruction/Confinement of Animals Suspected to be Exposed of Rabies.

- a. Animals not vaccinated against rabies which are exposed to a known or suspected rabid animal shall be treated as provided in N.C.G.S. 130A-192, unless approved in writing by the MTW Health Director.
- b. If the animal has a current rabies vaccination, it shall be re-vaccinated and returned to the owner or keeper.

3.6 Postmortem Diagnosis.

- a. A licensed veterinarian, the Health Director, or Animal Control Department or Sheriff's Office may authorize any animal to be killed for rabies diagnosis.
- b. Badly wounded, diseased, or suffering animals suspected of having rabies may be humanely euthanized immediately. The head shall then be submitted to the Laboratory Section of the North Carolina Division of Health Services for examination, using the MTW District Health Department's state courier service.
- c. If an animal dies while under observation for rabies, its head shall be submitted to the Laboratory Section of the North Carolina Division of Health Services for rabies diagnosis, using the MTW District Health Department's state courier service.
- d. The carcass of any animal suspected of having died from rabies shall be surrendered to the Animal Control Department and sent to the Laboratory Section of the North Carolina Division of Health Services for rabies diagnosis, using the MTW District Health Department's state courier service.

3.7 Area-Wide Rabies Quarantine.

- a. When reports indicate a positive diagnosis of rabies to the extent that lives of persons are endangered, the Health Director may declare an area-wide quarantine for such period as deemed necessary pursuant to N.C.G.S. 130A-145. Upon invoking such emergency quarantine, no dog or cat may be taken or shipped from the county without written permission of the Animal Control Department, Sheriff's Office, or MTW Health Director. During such quarantine, the Animal Control Department, Sheriff's Office, or MTW Health Director may seize and impound any dog or cat found running at large in the county.
- b. During the quarantine period, the MTW Health Director in coordination with the County Manager, Animal Control Department, and Sheriff's Office shall be empowered to provide for a program of mass immunization by the establishment of temporary emergency rabies vaccination facilities strategically located throughout the county.
- c. In the event there are additional positive cases of rabies occurring during the period of quarantine, such a period of quarantine may be extended at the discretion of the Health Director.

ARTICLE IV
ADOPTION PROGRAMS MANAGED BY THE ANIMAL CONTROL DEPARTMENT

4.1 Impoundment and Retrieval.

- a. Any animal which appears to be lost, stray or unwanted, or not wearing a currently valid dog identification tag and a currently valid rabies vaccination tag, as required by state law or this ordinance, or not under restraint in violation of this ordinance, may be seized, impounded, and confined in a humane manner in an animal shelter.
 - i. Impoundment of such an animal in this way shall not relieve the owner or keeper thereof from any penalty which may be imposed for violation of this ordinance.
- b. Upon impounding an animal, notice of such impoundment shall be posted for a minimum of seventy-two (72) hours at a publicly accessible bulletin board located at the County Animal Shelter (if applicable) and/or at the County Courthouse, beginning with the time the animal enters the animal shelter, or until the animal is disposed of. Reasonable effort shall be made to identify the owner or keeper and inform such owner or keeper of the conditions whereby the animal may be redeemed.
 - i. Such notice shall be prominently displayed by a bulletin board at the Washington County Courthouse, with the time and place of the taking of the animal and the placement of the notice stated therein. If a separate bulleting board is utilized at the County Animal Shelter, or if electronic notices are to be used, then a separate notice describing the location and manner of all such notices shall be permanently provided at the County Courthouse to help citizens to locate any/all actual notices.
- c. The owner or keeper of an animal impounded under this ordinance may redeem the animal and regain possession thereof within seventy-two (72) hours after notice of impoundment is posted as required by this ordinance by complying with all applicable provisions of this ordinance and paying any applicable fees as determined by the Board of Commissioners.
- d. No owner or keeper may be permitted to adopt his own animal under the provisions of this ordinance, but he must comply with the provisions of this Ordinance in order to reclaim an animal that has been impounded pursuant to state law or this Ordinance.

4.2 Adoption or Destruction of Unredeemed Animals.

- a. If an impounded animal is not redeemed by the owner or keeper within the period described in section 4.1, it shall become the property of the animal shelter and offered for adoption to a responsible adult who is willing to comply with this Ordinance and other policies promulgated by the Washington County Board of Commissioners, Washington County Sheriff's Office, or otherwise destroyed in a humane manner.
- b. Any animal surrendered by its owner to the Washington County Animal Control Department may be immediately placed for adoption or otherwise destroyed in a humane manner when:
 - i. The owner directs in writing that the animal be placed for adoption if possible. If not adopted within a reasonable length of time, the animal may be humanely destroyed.
 - ii. The owner states in writing that he or she is in fact the legal owner of said animal.
 - iii. The owner agrees that he or she will indemnify and hold the Washington County Animal Control Department harmless from any loss or damage it may sustain,

- including attorney's fees, by reason of the destruction or placement for adoption of said animal; and
- iv. The owner transfers ownership of said animal to Washington County and releases Washington County from any and all future claims with respect to said animal.
 1. Upon receiving said assurances, the Washington County Animal Control Department may rely on the same and place said animal for adoption, or destroy said animal, as it sees fit. The waiting periods provided in 4.1(b) and (c) above shall not apply to immediate adoption or destruction as provided for in this section.
 - c. Before an owned animal is destroyed for failure of the owner to respond, the Animal Control Department shall provide written notice to the last known address of the owner, and allow a minimum of seventy-two (72) hours from the time of notice for the owner to claim or contest the disposition of the animal. Destruction shall not occur until this period has lapsed without response.
 - d. No animal which has been impounded by reason of being stray or unclaimed by an owner/keeper shall be allowed to be adopted from the animal shelter during a period of emergency rabies quarantine invoked pursuant to Section 3.7 of this Ordinance, except by special authorization of the MTW Health Director.

4.3 Adoption of Unvaccinated Animals.

- a. Unless proof of a current rabies vaccination can be furnished, every person who either adopts or redeems a dog or cat at the animal shelter will be given a "Proof of Rabies Vaccination Notice" at the time of the redemption or adoption. This notice will be stamped with a date stating the maximum time limit allowed to take the dog or cat to the veterinarian of the new owner's choice for rabies vaccination. The time limit for dogs and cats four (4) months and older will be seventy-two (72) hours, with Sundays and holidays excluded. For puppies and kittens under four (4) months, the time limit will vary according to their age.
- b. Payment for rabies vaccination provided for in this section will be the responsibility of the person redeeming or adopting the animal.
- c. The "Proof of Rabies Vaccination Notice" will be completed by the veterinarian and returned to the Animal Control Department by the animal owner or keeper.

ARTICLE V **RIGHTS OF ANIMALS AND OWNERS**

5.1 Penalizing Inhumane Treatment of Animals.

- a. It shall be unlawful to commit animal cruelty or luring, or to own, keep, or have within the county a nuisance, noisy animal, or non-domesticated animal as each term is defined in section 1.2 of this Ordinance.
- b. It shall be unlawful for any person to kill or release any animal under observation for rabies, or any animal under observation for biting a human, or to remove such animal from the county without written permission from the Health Director or Animal Control Department or Sheriff's Office.

- c. It shall be unlawful for any person injuring an animal to fail to immediately notify the owner or keeper of said animal, or the Animal Control Department, or a local humane society.
- d. It shall be unlawful for any person in the county knowingly and intentionally to harbor, feed, keep in possession by confinement, or otherwise allow to remain on his property any animal which does not belong to him, unless he has, within seventy-two (72) hours from the time such animal came into his possession, notified the Animal Control Department. Upon receiving such notice, the Animal Control Department or Sheriff's Office or person duly authorized by such shall take such animal and place it in the animal shelter and deal with it as provided by the Board of Commissioners.
 - i. It shall be unlawful for any person to refuse to surrender any such stray animal to the Animal Control Department or person duly authorized by such upon demand.

5.2 Muzzling and Confinement of Vicious Domestic Animals.

- a. It shall be unlawful for any person to keep any vicious, fierce or dangerous domestic animal(s) within the county unless it is confined within a secure building or enclosure, or it is securely muzzled and under restraint by means of a leash, chain or rope and firmly under control at all times.
- b. Any vicious/public nuisance animal(s) without any recognizable identification may be destroyed after the Animal Control Officer has been unsuccessful in his attempt to catch, trap or tranquilize (within a closed area) the animal.
- c. Any declaration that a domestic dog is dangerous or potentially dangerous shall follow the procedures set forth in N.C.G.S. 67-4.1. The owner shall be given written notice of the proposed designation and an opportunity for a hearing before an impartial decision-maker. The owner may appeal the decision to the District Court in accordance with N.C.G.S. 67-4.1(c) and (d).

ARTICLE VI ENFORCEMENT, PENALTIES, AND REMEDIES

6.1 Penalty for Violation.

- a. The violation of any provision of this Ordinance shall be a misdemeanor and any person convicted of such violation shall be punishable as provided in N.C.G.S. 14-4. Each day's violation of this Ordinance is a separate offense. Payment of a fine imposed in criminal proceedings pursuant to this Article does not relieve a person of their liability for civil penalties or other fees imposed under this Ordinance. Civil penalties issued under this section are authorized pursuant to N.C.G.S. 153A-123.
- b. In addition, enforcement of this Ordinance may be by appropriate equitable remedy, injunction or order of abatement issuing from a court of competent jurisdiction pursuant to G.S. 153A-123 (d) and (e) or any other applicable laws.
- c. In addition to and not in lieu of the criminal penalties and other sanctions provided in this ordinance, a violation of this ordinance may also subject the offender to the civil penalties hereinafter set forth. Such civil penalties may be recovered in a civil action in the nature of debt or may be collected in such other amounts as prescribed herein within the prescribed time following the issuance of notice for such violation.

- d. Such notice shall:
- i. State upon its face the amount of the penalty is such penalty is paid within seventy-two (72) hours from and after the issuance of the notice and the late fee (\$10.00) if paid more than seventy-two (72) hours after its issuance.
 - ii. Notify such offender that a failure to pay the penalties within the prescribed time shall subject such offender to a civil action in the nature of debt for the stated penalty plus an additional penalty in the amount of twenty-five dollars (\$50.00), together with the cost of the action to be taxed by the court.
 - iii. Further provide that such offender may answer the said notice by mailing said notice, and stated penalty to the County Manager, Washington County Courthouse, at the appropriate address, and that upon payment, such case or claim and right of action will be deemed compromised and settled.
 - iv. State that such penalties must be paid within seventy-two (72) hours from issuance of such notice. Such notice shall further state that if such notice of violation is not paid within said seventy-two (72) hours period, court action by the filing of a civil complaint for collection of such penalty may be taken.
- e. The County Manager, Sheriff's Office, or Animal Control Department are authorized to accept such payments in full and final settlement of the claim or claims, right or rights of action which may be enforced by such penalty by civil action in the nature of debt. Acceptance shall be deemed a full and final release of any and all such claims, or rights or action arising out of such contended violation or violations.
- f. The civil penalty for violation of this ordinance is twenty-five dollars (\$50.00). Said penalty shall be paid within seventy-two (72) hours from and after the issuance of the notice referred to above.
- i. In addition to the penalty prescribed in the section above, a ten dollar (\$10.00) penalty shall be imposed in all those cases in which the above penalty has not been paid within the authorized seventy-two (72) hour period. Should it become necessary to institute a civil action to collect any penalty hereunder, then the violation shall also be subject to an additional penalty of twenty-five dollars (\$50.00).
- g. The notice of violation referred to herein may be delivered to the person violating the provisions of this ordinance in person, or may be mailed by registered or certified mail to said person at his last known address.
- h. All penalties paid to the Animal Control Department, Sheriff's Office, or County Manager or as may be recovered in a civil action in the nature of debt as herein provided shall be paid into the Animal Control Department monies of the Washington County Budget.

ARTICLE VII
MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

7.1 Severability.

- a. If any section, clause, or provision of this Ordinance shall be found invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such finding shall not affect the remaining provisions of this Ordinance, and such remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

7.2 Repeal of Conflicting Ordinances.

- a. After the effective date of this Ordinance, any Ordinance governing any aspect of animal control operations within Washington County in conflict with this Ordinance shall be null and void.

7.3 Effective Date.

This Ordinance shall become effective on June 2, 2025.

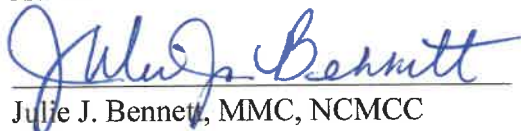
Adopted this 2nd day of June, 2025.



Carol Phelps, Chair

Washington County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:



Julie J. Bennett, MMC, NCMCC
Clerk to the Board

