

## **Chapter 92 – Animal Shelter**

### **Section**

- 92.01 Title
- 92.02 Statement of Purpose
- 92.03 Applicability and Joint Government Services
- 92.04 Definitions
- 92.05 Scope of Shelter Services and Times of Operation
- 92.06 Hierarchy and Standards for Shelter Staff
- 92.07 Procedures for Citizen Complaints and Intake of Dogs
- 92.08 Notice for Impounded Animals
- 92.09 Dog Care and Cleaning of Shelter Facility
- 92.10 Role of the Volunteer Coordinator and Standards for Volunteers
- 92.11 Adoption Procedures for Qualified Dogs
- 92.12 Visitation Procedures
- 92.13 Impoundment Ratios for Dogs
- 92.14 Procedures for Unadoptable Dogs
- 92.15 Euthanization Procedures
- 92.16 Disposal of Remains
- 92.17 Donation Funding
- 92.18 Schedule of Fees
- 92.19 State Licensing and Inspections
- 92.20 Submittal of Reports
- 92.21 Severability and Conflict
- 92.22 Effective Date

### **92.01 TITLE**

This Ordinance shall hereafter be known and cited as the “Pike County Animal Shelter Ordinance.”

(Res. passed xx-xx-xx)

## **92.02 STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

Historically, Pike County has been negatively affected by significant numbers of stray dogs, the illegal dumping or abandonment of dogs within its borders, and a lack of adequate resources to effectively address both citizen and animal needs. By enacting this Chapter, the County intends to preserve and promote the public health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Pike County and the welfare of certain pet animals within Pike County, and its incorporated municipalities, through:

- (A) Reducing, through controlled measures, the number of stray and unwanted dogs within Pike County and its incorporated municipalities.
- (B) Providing controlled measures of relief and protection for citizens within Pike County and its incorporated municipalities from the effects of stray dogs running at large.
- (C) Providing effective measures for the humane and lawful adoption procedures for certain stray and unwanted dogs impounded from Pike County and its incorporated municipalities.
- (D) Providing humane and lawful procedures for the euthanization and disposal of certain stray and unwanted dogs, impounded from Pike County and its incorporated municipalities, which have been deemed to be unadoptable

(Res. passed xx-xx-xx)

## **92.03 APPLICABILITY AND JOINT GOVERNMENT SERVICES**

Unless otherwise stated, the regulations set forth in this Ordinance shall apply and govern in all zoning districts in unincorporated Pike County and any of its incorporated municipalities which have entered into formal agreements with Pike County for animal shelter services. The Pike County Board of Commissioners and the representatives of any municipality within Pike County, or any combination of them, may contract and enter into such formal agreements with each other for joint animal shelter services and codes for the shared use of personnel, facilities, and equipment used in the provision of such services.

(Res. passed xx-xx-xx)

## **92.04 DEFINITIONS**

For the purposes of this Ordinance, the following terms shall apply:

- (A) ABANDON. The intentional and unlawful leaving of domesticated animals by their owner or

his/her agents on public or private property, not belonging to the owner of the animals. Also, the intentional neglect or refusal to provide or perform the legal obligations for care and support of an animal by its owner or his/her agents. Also, the leaving or relinquishing of an unauthorized animal at the shelter facility, or the leaving or relinquishing of a dog at the shelter facility by giving false information about the identity of ownership.

(B) ABANDONED ANIMAL. Any domesticated animal that has been intentionally placed upon public or private property without the express permission of the property owner, custodian, or tenant and is unattended or uncared for. Any domesticated animal that has been left unattended and without adequate food and water for a period in excess of 48 hours.

(C) ABUSED ANIMAL. Any animal which is (1) mistreated, beaten, or tormented, (2) deprived of water, food, or shelter for sustained periods, (3) kept under unsanitary conditions, (4) abandoned, (5) tethered, and (6) subjected to forced fighting or combat.

(D) ADEQUATE FOOD AND WATER. Food and water which is sufficient in an amount and appropriate to prevent starvation, dehydration, or a significant risk to a domesticated animal's health from a lack of food or water.

(E) ADEQUATE SHELTER. A structure having three (3) sides, a top, and an impervious floor, suitable for a domesticated animal's size to protect it from the elements with sufficient bedding inside the shelter during cold weather.

(F) ADULT. A domestic canine over 12 months of age.

(G) ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER. The person(s), office, or agency designated or employed by the Pike County Manager and the Pike County Board of Commissioners for the purposes of administration and enforcement of the provisions of this Ordinance and the Pike County Animal Control Ordinance, Chapter 91. Also, the DIRECTOR of the Pike County Animal Shelter.

(H) ANIMAL SHELTER ADVISORY BOARD. A Board appointed by the Pike County Board of Commissioners to assist the Animal Control Officer(s) with formulating shelter policies and locating and administering sources of funding and other resources. See Chapter 33, Code Section 33.07.

(I) BAD HEALTH. The condition of a dog, at the potential point of intake, in which the Animal Control Officer observes external signs of disease, malnourishment, or serious injury.

(J) BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS. The Board of Commissioners of Pike County, Georgia.

(K) BREED. A particular strain of dog that was purposefully bred by humans for certain desirable attributes.

(L) COUNTY MANAGER. The County Manager of Pike County, Georgia.

(M) CRUELTY. Any and every act, omission or neglect whereby unjustifiable pain, suffering, maiming, or death may be caused or permitted to any animal.

(N) CUSTODIAN. Any person that cannot document ownership of a dog, but that has exercised care or control of a dog for seven (7) or more consecutive days, and shall be held liable of the actions of that dog.

(O) DANGEROUS DOG. Per current State regulations, any dog that:

- a) Causes a substantial puncture of a person's skin by teeth without causing serious injury; provided, however, that a nip, scratch, or abrasion shall not be sufficient to classify a dog as dangerous under this subparagraph;
- b) Aggressively attacks in a manner that causes a person to reasonably believe that the dog posed an imminent threat of serious injury to such person or another person although no such injury occurs; provided, however, that the acts of barking, growling, or showing of teeth by a dog shall not be sufficient to classify a dog as dangerous under this subparagraph; or
- c) While off the owner's property, kills a pet animal; provided, however, that this subparagraph shall not apply where the death of such pet animal is caused by a dog that is working or training as a hunting dog, herding dog, or predator control dog.

(See Chapter 91.)

(P) DEPUTY ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER. The person(s), office, or agency designated by the Pike County Manager and the Animal Control Officer to assist in the administration and enforcement of the provisions of this Ordinance and the Pike County Animal Control Ordinance, or to act on the behalf of the Animal Control Officer in their absence.

(Q) DISPOSITION. A dog's observed temperament, based on breed and other individual factors.

(R) DONATION FUND. A fund governed by the Animal Shelter Advisory Board for legally processing donations to the shelter facility.

(S) EUTHANIZATION. The legal act of humanely putting to death dangerous and vicious dogs through the intravenous administering of lethal drugs by a State licensed veterinarian. Euthanization procedures shall follow the standards provided for in O.C.G.A. 4-11-5.1.

(T) EXOTIC ANIMAL. Any wild or imported animal not customarily confined or cultivated by humans for domestic or commercial purposes, including but not limited to, those animals listed in Georgia Code Section 27-5-4.

(U) FERAL. An animal in a wild state, especially after escape from captivity of domestication.

(V) GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE. A State agency dedicated to, among other things, the education, regulation, and licensing of anyone who sells, breeds, trains, boards, grooms, rescues, or shelters companion animals or equines.

(W) GOOD HEALTH. The condition of a dog, at the potential point of intake, in which the Animal Control Officer observes no external signs of disease, malnourishment, or serious injury.

(X) HUMANE CARE OF ANIMALS. The provision of adequate heat, ventilation, sanitary shelter, adequate food and water consistent with the normal requirements and feeding habits of a dog size and breed, and necessary veterinary care for the treatment of life-threatening injuries and illnesses.

(Y) IMPOUNDMENT FACILITY. The area designated by the Pike County Board of Commissioners as the location for the confinement of confiscated dogs, the euthanization of dangerous and vicious dogs, and the storage of records and materials relative to animal control. A distinct component of the SHELTER FACILITY.

(Z) INHUMANE CARE OF ANIMALS. Any act, omission, or neglect which causes unjustifiable physical pain, suffering, or death to an animal.

(AA) INTAKE. The collection and processing of certain qualified dogs at the County shelter facility, either through the citizen complaint process, certain qualifying incidents, or through voluntary relinquishment.

(BB) INOCULATION. The injection of a specified dose of anti-rabies vaccine by a veterinarian into the proper site of a dog or cat, such vaccine having the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Veterinary Biologics Control Section license number approval stamped on the label of the container and having been approved by the Georgia Department of Human Resources.

(CC) LARGE DOG. An adult dog weighing over 50 pounds.

(DD) LIVESTOCK. Animals, including, but not limited to, equines, cattle, swine, goats, sheep, ratites, and rabbits, managed for agricultural pursuits. Considered separate from POULTRY.

(EE) LOCAL GOVERNMENT. Any county or municipality of the State of Georgia.

(FF) MEDIUM DOG. An adult dog weighing from 26 pounds to 50 pounds.

(GG) MICROCHIP IMPLANT. An identifying integrated circuit placed under the skin of an animal for the purposes of owner identification.

(HH) MIXED BREED. A dog that does not totally belong to one officially recognized breed, usually through unintentional breeding.

(II) NECESSARY MEDICAL CARE. The amount of medical care required to adequately assess and sustain dogs during their stay in the shelter premises, but not including invasive surgeries and other advanced medical procedures.

(JJ) NEUTER. A medical procedure to remove the testicles of a male dog.

(KK) NUISANCE. A dog shall be deemed a nuisance if it:

(1) Attacks or acts so as to menace citizens off its owner's property, or attacks or acts as to menace pedestrians or other persons using public ways.

(2) Attacks or acts so as to menace pets, livestock, or poultry off its owner's property.

(3) Repeatedly runs at-large, causing damage, destruction or theft of personal property while at-large, causing an accumulation of waste on another person's property while at large and/or harassing a property owner while at large; or

(4) Is left in unsanitary conditions causing excessive odors, etc.

(5) Is a female dog in heat, left unconfined by its owner, except for intentional breeding purposes.

(See Chapter 91.)

(LL) OWNER. The person, partnership, or corporation owning, possessing, keeping, harboring, or having custody or control of one (1) or more dog(s). A dog shall be deemed to be harbored if it is fed or sheltered for seven (7) or more consecutive days. In the case of a dog owned by a minor, the term owner shall include the parents or person in loco parentis with custody of the minor.

(MM) PET. Any animal that is customarily obtained as a pet and includes, but is not limited to, the following: domesticated dog, housecat, bird, equine, fish, reptile, rodent, chinchilla, rabbit, hamster, guinea pig, or miniature pig. Any animal described in O.C.G.A. Sections 27-1-2, General Provisions, and 27-5-5, Wild Animals, are not considered a pet, except where specifically mentioned herein.

(NN) POULTRY. Animals, including, but not limited to, chickens, hens, and turkeys, managed for agricultural pursuits. Considered separate from LIVESTOCK.

(OO) PUREBRED. Dogs bred from parents of the same breed.

(PP) RATITES. Any members of the ratite family, including, but not limited to, ostriches, emus, and rheas, which are not indigenous to this state and which are raised for the purpose of producing meat, fiber, or animal by-products or as breeding stock.

(QQ) RELINQUISHMENT. The act of legally giving over possession or control of a dog to the Animal Control and / or Volunteer Coordinator, and to yield all further rights of control over the subject dog.

(RR) RUNNING-AT-LARGE. Any animal which is off the property of its owner and not under the control of a competent person.

(SS) SHELTER FACILITY. The area designated by the Pike County Board of Commissioners as the location for the IMPOUNDMENT FACILITY and the separate intake, relinquishment, care, possible adoption, and / or possible euthanization of stray dogs generally not involved with animal control ordinance violations.

(TT) SMALL DOG. An adult dog weighing 25 pounds or less.

(UU) SPAY. A medical procedure to remove the uterus and ovaries of a female dog.

(VV) SPONSOR. A person or persons who formally choose to be physically and financially responsible for the present and future needs of a Type 3 dog at the shelter facility.

(WW) STRAY DOG. A dog that lives and runs at-large, for which an owner or custodian cannot be documented.

(XX) TETHERING. For the purposed of this chapter, the restraint of a dog on a chain, rope or cable, which is shorter than three times the length of the animal from the nose to the tip of the tail; Also, the restraint of a dog on a chain in which the weight of the chain would cause unreasonable pain or stress; Also, the restraint of a dog on any type of tether for the purpose of making the dog pull the weight, except in cases of utilizing or training sport and working dogs.

(See Chapter 91.)

(YY) TYPE 1 DOG. A small to medium sized dog, deemed to be in general good health, having a good disposition and capable of being easily adopted.

(ZZ) TYPE 2 DOG. A large sized dog, deemed to be in general good health, having a good disposition and capable of being easily adopted.

(AAA) TYPE 3 DOG. Any sized dog, deemed to be in general bad health - malnourished, or with serious external or internal injuries.

(BBB) TYPE 4 DOG. Dogs of any size or health, of the following specified breeds, whether purebred or mixed breed: Akita, Bullmastiff, Chow Chow, Doberman Pinscher (not miniature), German Shepherd and similar sized breeds, Mastiff, "Pit Bull" (American Pit Bull Terrier and/or Staffordshire Bull Terrier), Rottweiler, Siberian Husky and similar breeds.

(CCC) TYPE 5 DOG. Dogs of any size or health, which have been previously classified as dangerous or vicious dogs, or are awaiting a dangerous or vicious dog hearing, or are awaiting euthanization based on a hearing; also, a dog of any size or health, which has been convicted of three or more nuisance incidents in Pike County.

(DDD) VETERINARIAN. Any person who holds a license to practice the profession of veterinary medicine in the State of Georgia and has a degree of Doctor of Veterinarian Medicine.

(EEE) VICIOUS DOG. Per current State regulations, any dog that inflicts serious injury on a person or causes serious injury to a person resulting from reasonable attempts to escape from the dog's attack.

(See Chapter 91.)

(FFF) VOLUNTEER. A person or persons appointed by the Animal Shelter Advisory Board with input by the Animal Control Officer, working on a pro-bono basis, to assist shelter supervisors in the care of certain impounded dogs at the shelter facility.

(GGG) VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR. A person appointed or employed by the Board of Commissioners, with input by the Animal Control Officer, to assist the Animal Control Officer with the intake, care, and adoption of dogs and the supervision of appointed volunteers at the shelter facility.

(Res. passed xx-xx-xx)

## **92.05 SCOPE OF SHELTER SERVICES AND TIMES OF OPERATION**

Unless otherwise directed by the Board of Commissioners, the shelter facility shall be solely for the intake and /or legal relinquishment of qualified dogs for either impoundment, adoption, or euthanization purposes. The intake or relinquishment of other types of animals at the shelter facility, including, but not limited to, wild and exotic animals, livestock, poultry, equines, ratites, rabbits, ferrets, and other non-canine pet animals shall be strictly prohibited.

Illegal relinquishing or abandonment of dogs or other animals at the shelter premises shall be prosecuted.

The shelter premises shall be monitored by closed circuit surveillance cameras.



The normal days and hours of operation for the shelter premises shall be set by the Board of Commissioners. Visitation to the shelter facility by the general public shall only occur during set hours within the normal days and hours of operation and visitation hours shall be posted in a conspicuous place on the shelter premises. Only the Animal Control Officer, Deputy Animal Control Officer, Volunteer Coordinator, designated volunteers and other authorized staff shall be on the shelter premises before or after the normal days and hours of operation, and only for the purposes of the care of impounded dogs and the emergency intake of dogs. Access to the entrance of the shelter property shall only be through a keyed gate, and the gate shall only remain open during normal days and hours of operation, when authorized shelter staff are present on the premises to receive visitors. The County Manager and the Animal Control Officer may set limited Saturday adoption hours when the situation warrants.

(Res. passed xx-xx-xx)

#### **92.06 HIERARCHY AND STANDARDS FOR SHELTER STAFF**

Unless otherwise directed by the Board of Commissioners, the shelter facility shall conform to the following descending order of authority:

- 1) The Board of Commissioners
- 2) The County Manager
- 3) The Animal Control Officer as Director of the shelter facility.
- 4) The Deputy Animal Officer as Deputy Director of the shelter facility.
- 5) The Volunteer Coordinator of the shelter facility.
- 6) Authorized volunteers of the shelter facility.

The Volunteer Coordinator may assist the Animal Control Officer or Deputy Animal Control Officer with the processing of stray dogs for intake or relinquishment, but shall have no involvement with Animal Control Ordinance violations, i.e. cases involving potential dangerous, vicious, or nuisance dogs.

All shelter staff, excluding volunteers, shall be dressed in County approved uniforms and shall carry proper identification at all times. Volunteers may be dressed in their normal clothes (at discretion of Animal Control Officer), but they must wear a brightly colored badge or other similar item on their person at all times, designating themselves as a "County Shelter Volunteer". Only authorized volunteers are allowed to wear the identification badges.

All shelter staff shall treat the general public with courtesy and professionalism and treat all animals with human care.

All shelter employees shall be adequately trained to fully perform their duties and shall have adequate and necessary equipment onsite to fully perform their duties, per guidelines set forth by the Georgia Department of Agriculture, Companion Animal/Equine Division. The annual animal control / animal shelter budget shall be reviewed and assessed by the Animal Control Officer, the County Manager, and the Board of Commissioners in terms of annual need for training, equipment, and care of impounded dogs.

(Res. passed xx-xx-xx)

### **92.07 PROCEDURES FOR CITIZEN COMPLAINT AND INTAKE OF DOGS**

This Section does not apply to dogs impounded for animal control ordinance violations. Refer to Chapter 91 Animal Control Ordinance for procedures of these types of dogs.

For stray and unwanted dogs, only formal, Pike County resident complaints to the Animal Control Officer, Deputy Animal Control Officer, and / or Volunteer Coordinator will be addressed. With the exception of government-owned properties, County personnel are prohibited from picking up stray dogs from public or private thoroughfares or private property without a formal complaint or request by a Pike County resident.

The Animal Control Officer, Deputy Animal Control Officer, and / or Volunteer Coordinator shall use official forms to record complaints and requests; however, only the Animal Control Officer and Deputy Animal Control Officer shall address complaints or requests in the field. Personnel should use official County vehicles and equipment for requested field visits and shall always carry official identification. They shall announce their presence to the complainant upon arrival. The information received for complaint investigations in the field shall include the following:

1. Name, address, and contact of complainant.
2. Number, size, and breed of dog(s) addressed in complaint.
3. Field determination of type of dog, as defined in this Chapter.
4. What is the nature of the complaint? Is it an unwanted stray? Is it a case of necessary pet relinquishment? Is it a case of injury, illness, or cruelty? Does it involve an animal code ordinance violation?
5. How long has the problem been occurring?

6. Is the complainant the owner or custodian of the subject dog? If not, does the complainant know the owner or custodian of the subject dog.

The Animal Control Officer shall check the subject dog for a microchip in the field, and, in the event of no documentable ownership information in the field, shall have the authorization to ask residents of properties adjacent to the complainant information about the subject dog.

In determining whether or not a dog complaint qualifies for capturing and intake to the shelter facility, the following questions must be answered by the Animal Control Officer, especially given the limited resources of the shelter facility and possibility of addressing multiple complaints in a short timeframe:

- 1) What is the seriousness of the complaint? Does it involve a threat to the life or safety of a citizen or a citizen's pets, livestock, property, etc?
- 2) What is the current rate of vacancy at the shelter impoundment area? Will the impoundment ratios of Section 92.13 be exceeded?
- 3) In the case of multiple complaints within roughly the same timeframe, what is the complaint of greatest need?

Complaints of greatest need will be handled first. Other complaints of a lesser degree can be put on a waiting list, in order of date received, until such time that County staff can adequately address the complaint. In the interests of the health of dogs already impounded at the shelter, the Animal Control Officer shall have the right to refuse the intake of a diseased dog. When the Animal Control Officer determines that a dog must be captured for intake into the shelter facility, all established safety protocols must be observed. The complainant may not take part in the physical capture. Only County authorized equipment and vehicles shall be used for capture, transport, and intake of the subject dog(s). A case file shall be made for each dog subject to intake. If the complainant is relinquishing a pet dog, whether at their residence or at the shelter facility, the complainant must sign a relinquishment agreement prior to intake, relinquishing all legal rights to the dog. Owners / custodians wishing to relinquish dogs at the actual shelter facility shall do so only by appointment, and the Animal Control Officer and / or Volunteer Coordinator must be present. The Animal Control Officer shall reserve the right to refuse intake of dogs in these instances.

It is established that a dog that has been convicted of three or more nuisance incidents (as defined in Chapter 91) may be impounded at the shelter facility at the discretion of the Animal Control Officer and the order of the Magistrate Court, depending on the severity of the nuisance incidents. During the

impoundment, a strategy for resolving the ongoing nuisance dog case, whether through paying fines, euthanization, or other measures, shall be implemented. Weekend intake of dogs shall be for potential dangerous and vicious dogs only.

Complaints concerning dead animals on public thoroughfares shall be referred to the Department of Public Works.

(Res. passed xx-xx-xx)

### **92.08 NOTICE FOR IMPOUNDED ANIMALS**

During the impoundment period and prior to euthanization, the Animal Control Officer shall scan dogs for possible microchips and also post on various local, social media sites in an attempt to locate possible owners or custodians of the impounded dogs. If an owner or custodian is found and documented, and the subject dog is part of an Animal Control Ordinance violation, then the owner or custodian shall follow the animal control violation procedures of Chapter 91. If an owner or custodian is found and documented, and the subject dog is not part of an Animal Control Ordinance violation, then the dog shall be promptly returned to the owner's property by the owner, and the owner shall be billed for the care of the subject dog during its impoundment period and the costs shall be paid before the dog being released to the owner.

The Pike County Animal Shelter shall create its own social media page for the purposes of providing information to citizens about the current inventory of dogs impounded at the shelter and procedures for adoption, etc. A link to the shelter social media page shall be provided on the official Pike County government website.

Neither the shelter facility nor shelter staff shall be held liable for the intake and /or euthanization of a pet dog if all reasonable methods (scanning for microchips, contacting nearby owners, posting on social media) have been employed within a specified timeframe.

(Res. passed xx-xx-xx)

### **92.09 DOG CARE AND CLEANING OF SHELTER FACILITY**

Upon arrival at the shelter facility, authorized shelter staff shall do a walkthrough of the kennel areas to

do a visual examination of all dogs that are currently confined at the facility. The daily walkthrough is to check general health and of the impounded dogs. Any observance of dead, sick, or injured animals should be reported to the Animal Control Officer and the County Manager. Written observations concerning the affected dog(s) shall be recorded in the file for the impounded dog and shall also be part of the monthly reports submitted to the Board of Commissioners and the Pike County Animal Shelter Advisory Board. Any incidents will be handled according to Georgia Department of Agriculture and Pike County regulations. Except for weekends and holidays, multiple walkthroughs are needed throughout the day to check for excessive waste buildup and inadequate drinking water levels.

The cost for necessary medical care for dogs impounded at the shelter facility shall not exceed a threshold formally established by the Animal Control Officer and the County Manager. Emergency amounts exceeding this threshold shall require approval by the County Manager.

After all animals' conditions are verified, authorized shelter staff shall feed the dogs. Only the Animal Control Officer and Deputy Animal Control Officer are authorized to feed, water and care for dangerous and vicious dogs and disease quarantined dogs.

Procedures for the caring of impounded dogs and the cleaning of impoundment areas shall be set forth in an internal manual prepared by the Animal Control Officer. All solids shall be properly removed from the shelter property weekly and shall not be allowed excessive buildup. Trash shall be stored temporarily at the back of the property and well away from the dog kennels.

(Res. passed xx-xx-xx)

### **92.10 ROLE OF THE VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR AND STANDARDS FOR VOLUNTEERS**

The full-time Volunteer Coordinator position is vital to the successful functioning of the shelter in that the role is intended to provide significant administrative assistance to the Animal Control Officer and the Deputy Animal Control Officer during their time in the field. While the Volunteer Coordinator is not authorized to physically assist with dangerous dog and other animal control ordinance violations, his or her duties including, but not limited to:

- 1) Receiving citizen complaints either at the shelter office or via phone or email concerning stray dogs and other animal control related issues.
- 2) Coordinating times for qualified citizens and agencies to assess dogs for possible adoption.
- 3) Coordinating times for authorized owners and custodians to visit impounded dogs.
- 4) Coordinating times for authorized veterinarians to perform euthanizations and necessary medical care to impounded dogs.
- 5) Keeping the shelter social media page(s) updated weekly, with current statuses of impounded dogs.
- 6) Organizing and filing of case files for impounded dogs.
- 7) The providing of helpful information, such as adoption procedures, inoculation, and spaying / neutering resources, to citizens upon request.
- 8) Coordinating the schedule of authorized volunteers on the premises for the proper care of impounded dogs.
- 9) Training of new volunteers for the shelter.
- 10) When necessary, providing food and other care for impounded dogs.

The Volunteer Coordinator shall be a minimum 21 years of age, a citizen of Pike County, and shall undergo the standard background check procedure required of all Pike County employees. In addition, the Coordinator shall not have committed any prior offenses regarding any kind of animal cruelty and shall not have been convicted of any County animal control ordinance violations in the past three years. At the discretion of the Board of Commissioners, the Volunteer Coordinator may be a full-time, paid position. Volunteers may apply for consideration to the County Manager and / or the Animal Control Officer and shall then be forwarded to the Animal Shelter Advisory Board for selection based on their qualifications. Volunteers shall be a minimum 18 years of age, a citizen of Pike County, and shall undergo a background check. Volunteers ages 15 to 17 years of age may be utilized at the shelter facility with a signed waiver by a parent and shall be supervised on premises at all times by an adult over 18 years of age. In addition, volunteers shall not have committed any prior offenses regarding any kind of animal cruelty and shall not have been convicted of any County animal control ordinance violations in the past three years. Volunteer work shall be strictly pro-bono, and volunteers shall perform their assigned duties under the supervision of the Volunteer Coordinator, or, in his or her absence, the supervision of the Animal Control Officer and / or Deputy Animal Control Officer. When caring for impounded dogs, volunteers shall wear any

protective gear specified by the Animal Control Officer and are not authorized to feed and care for dangerous, vicious dogs and disease quarantined dogs. Per a formal agreement with County and City courts, shelter volunteers may be sourced from County citizens who have been convicted of misdemeanors (not involving animal cruelty) and have been assigned a specified term of community service. The presiding Judge may recommend to the County Manager, the Animal Control Officer, and the Animal Shelter Advisory Board suitable and willing candidates to fulfill community service requirements at the shelter facility. Any incidents of insubordination to shelter staff, mistreatment of impounded dogs, or improper interaction with the general public shall be grounds for dismissal from the shelter volunteer program and shall be promptly referred back to the relevant Court.

Per a formal agreement with the adjacent West Central Prison, inmates approved and overseen by the prison supervisor may participate in the care of impounded dogs at the shelter facility. However, inmates and appointed volunteers shall not serve at the shelter facility at the same time.

(Res. passed xx-xx-xx)

### **92.11 ADOPTION PROCEDURES FOR QUALIFIED DOGS**

Qualified Pike County citizens and citizens from other municipalities outside of Pike County may be eligible for the adoption of certain dogs at the shelter facility, but an emphasis for the adoption of dogs from the shelter facility shall also be given to “puppy pipeline” rescue foundations in Georgia and other states. Local and other rescue agencies for certain purebred breeds shall be given high priority.

#### **92.11 (a) “Puppy Pipeline” Rescue Foundations (for out of state adoptions)**

The Animal Control Officer and / or Volunteer Coordinator shall arrange for frequent visits from foundations of this nature to efficiently assess impounded Type 1 and Type 2 dogs for adoption in other localities outside of Pike County. The credentials and contact information for authorized agents of these foundations shall be kept on file at the shelter office. In the event that

such foundations cannot make a timely visit to the shelter facility, a video call may be utilized to perform a prompt assessment of the overall adoptability of Type 1 and Type 2 dogs currently impounded at the facility. Qualified dogs may leave the shelter premises with authorized foundation agents the day of a visit, provided that vaccination and spay / neuter agreements are signed and copies filed in the dog's case file.

#### **92.11 (b) Local Rescues and Societies**

No local rescues or societies, whether in Pike County and its municipalities, or in nearby municipalities, are authorized to take all dogs at the shelter facility not impounded for animal control ordinance violations. Only local rescues and shelters on the approved list maintained at the shelter facility shall be authorized to take certain qualified dogs from the shelter facility, and only then by the discretion of the Animal Control Officer and /or Volunteer Coordinator, on a case by case basis. In the event that such rescues or societies cannot make a timely visit to the shelter facility, a video call may be utilized to perform a prompt assessment of the overall adoptability of Type 1 and Type 2 dogs currently impounded at the facility. A written plan of action for the desired dog(s) shall be presented, confirming that the dog(s) shall be adopted and live outside of Pike County and its municipalities. Qualified dogs may leave the shelter premises with authorized rescue staff the day of a visit, provided that vaccination and spay / neuter agreements are signed and copies filed in the dog's case file.

#### **92.11 (c) Adoptions for County and non-County residents**

Adoption times for qualified residents shall be offered on limited times each week at the shelter facility, as specified by the County Manager and the Animal Control Officer. The County Manager and the Animal Control Officer may set limited Saturday adoption hours when the situation warrants. Adoption times shall be posted in a conspicuous place on the shelter premises, on the shelter social media page(s), and the County website. Potential adopters shall be at least 18 years of age with a valid form of identification. (Note: Qualified adopters who are documented to adopt a dog "by proxy" for a non-qualified resident, shall be prosecuted in local



Magistrate Court and shall be prohibited from participating in the adoption process in the future.) Once the potential adopter finds a Type 1 or Type 2 dog that they want to adopt, the completed application shall be filled out to be reviewed by the Animal Control Officer and /or Volunteer Coordinator. The application reviewer will determine if the applicant is qualified to adopt an animal based on the answers given. The application can be approved or denied based on the applicants' answers, including age and any animal-related incidents that the County has had with the adoption candidate in the past. The potential adopter is required to disclose any charges of animal cruelty past or present, in or out of state. The adopter is also required to sign a spay/neuter agreement and vaccination agreement that gives a period of 30 days to have an adopted dog sterilized and up to date on its required vaccinations. A licensed veterinarian must sign off on the agreement stating they performed the surgery and the vaccinations. The signed agreement must be returned to Pike County Animal Control as proof of successful surgery and vaccinations and placed in the subject dog's file. (A rabies vaccine is required by the State for all dogs over 12 weeks of age.) The fee for adoption of a shelter dog shall be as specified on the most current, approved Schedule of Fees. The adopter is responsible for all costs associated with care of an adopted dog. The adopter is required to inform landlords/roommates of a pending adoption if there is a lease involved at their current place of residence.

#### **92.11 (d) Type 3 Dog Sponsors**

Residents or agencies desiring to sponsor and eventually adopt an injured or infirm dog (Type 3) impounded at the shelter facility shall sign an adoption agreement prior to the incurring of medical expenses beyond necessary medical care. The sponsor is then responsible for all past and future costs associated with the care and treatment of the subject dog. Upon the signing of the adoption agreement and as soon it is physically able, the subject dog shall be transferred from the shelter facility to the sponsor's residence or, if necessary, a veterinary facility for continued medical care beyond necessary medical care on the shelter premises. Potential sponsors shall be at least 21 years of age, have a valid form of identification, and not involved in any charges of animal cruelty, past or present, in and out of State. The

sponsor is also required to sign a spay/neuter agreement and vaccination agreement that gives a period of 30 days to have an adopted dog sterilized and up to date on its required vaccinations. A licensed veterinarian must sign off on the agreement stating they performed the surgery and the vaccinations.

#### **92.11 (e) Type 4 Dog Assessments**

At the discretion of the Animal Control Officer, law enforcement and other service agencies may be contacted when stray Type 4 dogs are impounded at the shelter facility for an onsite visit and assessment of the subject dog(s) for suitability in training in certain service programs. Qualified dogs may leave the shelter premises with authorized agents the day of the visit, provided that vaccination and spay / neuter agreements are signed and copies filed in the dog's case file.

#### **92.11 (f) Repeat Offender Nuisance Dogs**

Repeat offender nuisance dogs (per Section 92.07) shall be released back to their owner / custodian only upon resolution of their Magistrate Court case if the subject dog is not ordered to be euthanized. Upon release, the owner / custodian is required to sign a spay/neuter agreement and vaccination agreement that gives a period of 30 days to have the subject dog sterilized and current on its required vaccinations. A licensed veterinarian must sign off on the agreement stating they performed the surgery and the vaccinations. The signed agreement must be returned to Pike County Animal Control as proof of successful surgery and vaccinations and placed in the subject dog's file. (A rabies vaccine is required by the State for all dogs over the age of 12 weeks.) The owner / custodian is responsible for all costs associated with the impounded dog.

(Res. passed xx-xx-xx)

#### **92.12 VISITATION PROCEDURES**

Visitation by the general public for either impounded dogs or dogs to be adopted at the shelter facility shall be limited to certain hours on weekdays only. The specific visitation times shall be set by the County Manager and the Animal Control Officer and posted in a conspicuous place on the shelter premises, including, but not limited to, the entrance to the shelter property. Weekend hours at the shelter

facility are limited to the care of impounded dogs by authorized staff and the emergency intake of dogs for Animal Control Ordinance violations. The Animal Control Officer, at his or her discretion, may prohibit visitation for impounded dogs in certain cases. The County Manager and the Animal Control Officer may set limited Saturday adoption hours when the situation warrants.

(Res. passed xx-xx-xx)

### **92.13 IMPOUNDMENT RATIOS FOR DOGS**

The Pike County shelter facility currently contains 14 dog cages / enclosures, for the use of animal control violations, quarantining and the intake of certain stray or relinquished dogs. While the County recognizes that impoundment requirements of animal control violations and quarantining in the interests of public health, the County also desires to utilize the majority of the remaining cages for the most adoptable (Type 1 and Type 2) dogs, in order to maintain an efficient “pipeline” of dogs out of Pike County and thereby reduce the total number of dogs in the County. The following ratio shall be maintained in non-emergency situations for the types of dogs held at the shelter facility.

- Two cages minimum, regardless of being empty or filled, for possible dangerous or vicious dog (Type 5) cases that may occur, or nuisance dogs with three or more convictions for nuisance incidents.
- Two cages minimum, regardless of being empty or filled, for possible quarantining of dogs due to diseases such as rabies or parvovirus.
- 4 cages minimum, for the impoundment of Type 1 dogs for potential adoption outside of the County.
- 2 cages maximum, for the impoundment of Type 2 dogs for potential adoption outside of the County.
- 2 cages maximum, for the impoundment and treatment of Type 3 dogs for potential adoption outside of the County.
- 2 cages maximum, for the impoundment and potential euthanization of Type 4 dogs.
- Puppies meeting the criteria of non-adult dogs in this Chapter, may be housed in the same cage at the discretion of the Animal Control Officer, especially if they are of small size, of the same litter, or still nursing from their mother.

The Animal Control Officer shall meet any Georgia Department of Agriculture requirements for the spacing of dangerous or vicious dogs, or dogs quarantined due to diseases such as rabies or parvovirus.

Otherwise, the spacing of impounded dogs shall be at the discretion of the Animal Control Officer.

However, impounded dangerous and vicious dogs, and dogs quarantined due to diseases such as rabies or parvovirus, shall not be impounded on the same side of the shelter as other types of dogs. Impounded dogs shall be clearly labeled as to their type on the front of their cages.

(Res. passed xx-xx-xx)

### **92.14 PROCEDURES FOR UNADOPTABLE DOGS**

Unless otherwise directed by the Board of Commissioners, the Pike County shelter facility shall be operated as a "kill" shelter, with limited impoundment terms. Euthanizations procedures per Section 92.15 shall be required for all dogs that have exceeded their impoundment terms, unless otherwise directed by the Animal Control Officer. The following impoundment terms shall be set for certain types of impounded dogs:

- 1) For court-ordered euthanizations for dangerous and / or vicious dog (Type 5) cases: within 3 days of the court order.
- 2) Severely aggressive (feral) dogs that pose an immediate threat to the public that are trapped or impounded are to be euthanized immediately.
- 3) For Type 3 dogs diagnosed with serious untreatable diseases, such as rabies and parvovirus: euthanized immediately upon diagnosis.
- 4) For Type 3 dogs with severe, life-threatening injuries or malnourishment, and no immediate sponsor, and sick or diseased owner surrenders: euthanized immediately.
- 5) For Type 3 dogs with slight to moderate injuries or malnourishment and no sponsor within an advertised time period: within 3 days after the expiration of the advertisement period.
- 6) For Type 4 dogs with no interest from contacted rescues or law enforcement or other agencies: within 3 days after the last uninterested contact.
- 7) For Type 1 and 2 dogs, determined to be unadoptable by rescue foundations or other similar agencies via either onsite visits or remote video calls and also, Type 1 and Type 2 dogs which generate no interest by qualified public during an advertised time period: within 7 days after the expiration of the advertisement period.
- 8) For multiple offender nuisance dogs ordered to be impounded at the shelter facility: within 3 days of any court order for euthanization.

(Note: Set advertisement times shall be a maximum of 7 days and shall include weekend days.)

Onsite visits by authorized veterinarians to perform euthanizations shall be coordinated by the Animal Control Officer in order to maintain the efficiency of the impoundment facility. Type 1, Type 2, and sponsored Type 3 dogs may be impounded longer than the terms set above, if they are committed in writing to leaving the shelter facility within an agreed upon timeframe.

(Res. passed xx-xx-xx)

### **92.15 EUTHANIZATION PROCEDURES**

Euthanizations at the shelter facility or an approved veterinary facility may be warranted in several different situations:

- 1) Court-ordered euthanizations for dangerous and / or vicious dog (Type 5) cases to provide final resolution to the case.
- 2) Severely aggressive (feral) dogs that pose an immediate threat to the public that are trapped or impounded.
- 3) Written consent by the owner of a dog that has been impounded for three or more nuisance violation convictions.
- 4) Written consent by the owner of a dog willingly relinquished to the shelter facility and incapable of adoption.
- 5) Relief for a severely injured or malnourished dog (Type 3) incapable of being easily rehabilitated or incapable of being sponsored, including owner surrenders of these type of dogs.
- 6) Dogs with confirmed but untreatable diseases, such as rabies.
- 7) Dogs that have demonstrated to be incapable of adoption (Types 1, 2, or 4) and have exceeded their impoundment term.

If the euthanization occurs at the County shelter facility, the euthanization process shall require the presence of three people – the authorized veterinarian, the Animal Control Officer as restrainer, and either the Deputy Animal Control Officer or Volunteer Coordinator as record keeper. Volunteers are not authorized to participate in or observe euthanizations. The dog scheduled to be euthanized shall be matched up with its onsite file by the record keeper, weighed again, and the final weight shall be recorded in the dog's file.

The authorized veterinarian shall administer the proper dosage of injection fluid time based on the dog's final weight reading and shall follow all State protocols for intravenous injection. The veterinarian shall check for a heartbeat and pupil reflex to ensure the subject dog is deceased. The time of death shall be recorded in the subject dog's file. The files for euthanized dogs shall be kept on hand for the next Georgia Department of Agriculture inspection and after said inspection may be stored off the shelter premises in a secure location.

At the discretion of the Animal Control Officer, owners of certain dogs to be euthanized may be present to observe the euthanization upon request. After euthanization, upon written owner request, the dog may be taken off of the shelter premises and buried at a proper location by the owner. The dog will be triple bagged and turned back over to the owner who must agree in writing to bury the pet a minimum of 3 feet underground.

Euthanizations on the shelter premises shall not occur during weekend times of operation. Veterinary facilities conducting County authorized euthanizations on their own premises shall contact the shelter facility with the time of death and other pertinent information to be put in the subject dog's file.

Pike County shall enter into a service agreement with one or more State licensed veterinarians to

administer euthanizations to specified dogs at the shelter facility or at their veterinary facility. The qualified veterinarian shall be contracted by the Board of Commissioners for a two-year term to perform euthanizations at the shelter facility, after which the contract shall be re-evaluated for either renewal or selection of another veterinarian. If a contracted veterinarian, for whatever reason, cannot fulfill his or her two-year contract, the Board of Commissioners may select an alternate veterinarian to fulfill the remainder of the unfulfilled term. Upon completion of the unfulfilled term, the County Manager and the Board of Commissioners may restart the selection process. The contracted veterinarian shall formulate a regular schedule for the euthanizations of qualified dogs at the shelter facility with the Animal Control Officer.

(Res. passed xx-xx-xx)

#### **92.16 DISPOSAL OF REMAINS**

Remains of euthanized dogs not claimed by owners, or dogs that died on the shelter premises by any other means, shall be incinerated in the provided incinerator at the shelter facility on a weekly basis. Euthanized remains waiting to be incinerated shall be placed in cold storage in a freezer provided on the shelter premises. Ashes from cremation shall not be dumped on the shelter premises, nor on adjacent properties, or in nearby Elkins Creek. Arrangements shall be made with the Pike County Transfer Station for proper disposal of cremated remains. Burial of cremated or non-cremated remains of dogs on the shelter property is strictly prohibited. The incinerator and freezer on the shelter premises shall be maintained in good working order at all times.

(Res. passed xx-xx-xx)

#### **92.17 DONATION FUNDING**

There shall be established a Donation Fund, governed by the Animal Shelter Advisory Board, providing a legal mechanism whereby citizens can legally donate money and materials to the shelter facility. Citizens may contact the Animal Control Officer and /or County Manager about potential donations to the shelter program, and the request for donations shall be considered for approval by the Animal Shelter Advisory Board at their next available meeting. Donations shall not be used to offset daily operational costs of the shelter, such as utilities, building maintenance, employee pay and benefits, etc.

(Res. passed xx-xx-xx)

### **92.18 SCHEDULE OF FEES**

Associated fees for various shelter activities, including, but not limited to, boarding, vaccinations, and adoptions shall be approved by the Pike County Board of Commissioners as part of a separate document, which shall be updated as necessary from time to time by the same process. The most current Schedule of Fees document shall be on file at the shelter facility office and the office of the Pike County Board of Commissioners.

(Res. passed xx-xx-xx)

### **92.19 STATE LICENSING AND INSPECTIONS**

The shelter facility shall be subject to annual licensing and inspection requirements by the Georgia Department of Agriculture, Companion Animal/Equine Division. All State required data logs shall be submitted promptly to the State inspector by the Animal Control Officer. The Animal Control Officer and /or Deputy Animal Control Officer shall be present on the premises during all State inspections, and submit copies of the State inspection reports to the Pike County Board of Commissioners and the Pike County Animal Shelter Advisory Board. All required State licenses shall be posted in a conspicuous location at the shelter facility.

(Res. passed xx-xx-xx)

### **92.20 SUBMITTAL OF REPORTS**

The Animal Control Officer and /or Shelter Volunteer Coordinator shall submit monthly reports concerning activities at the shelter facility to the Pike County Board of Commissioners and the Pike County Animal Shelter Advisory Board.

(Res. passed xx-xx-xx)

### **92.21 SEVERABILITY AND CONFLICT**

(A) Severability.

This Ordinance is declared to be severable. In the event any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this Chapter shall be declared or adjudged invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such adjudication shall in no manner affect the other sections, subsections, sentences, clauses or phrases of this Chapter, which shall remain of full force and effect, as if the section,

subsection, sentence, clause or phrase so declared or adjudged invalid or unconstitutional were not originally a part hereof. The County hereby declares that it would have passed the remaining parts of this Chapter if it had known that such part or parts hereof would be declared or adjudged invalid or unconstitutional.

**(B) Conflict.**

If any part of this Ordinance is found to be in conflict with any other Ordinance of this County or any state or federal statute, the most restrictive or highest standard shall prevail. If any part of this Ordinance is explicitly prohibited by state or federal statute, that part shall not be enforced.

(Res. passed xx-xx-xx)

**92.22 EFFECTIVE DATE**

This Ordinance shall become effective upon the second reading of the proposed ordinance and upon the affirmative vote of at least three (3) Pike County Commissioners.

(Res. passed xx-xx-xx)