

Chapter 92 – Animal Shelter

Section

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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 INITIAL 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 canine needs. By enacting this Chapter, the County intends to initiate the process of preserving and promoting 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 first:

- (A) Establishing a legal entity by which future animal shelter measures within the County shall receive and organize donations and other sources of funding, distinct from funding sources allocated for existing animal control measures.
- (B) Establishing a multi-year strategic plan document for future animal shelter measures within the County and their staged implementation as funding levels allow.

The future goals of a fully operational County animal shelter would be 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, providing effective measures for the humane and lawful adoption procedures for certain stray and unwanted dogs impounded from Pike County and its incorporated municipalities, and 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. However, the County recognizes that none of these goals are attainable without adequate funding sources and a mechanism to receive and process specified funds.

(Res. passed xx-xx-xx)

92.03 COORDINATION WITH FRIENDS OF PIKE CO. ANIMALS ORGANIZATION

The Pike County Animal Shelter Advisory Board, the County Animal Control Officer, the County Manager, and the Board of Commissioners shall coordinate and integrate with the existing, non-profit organization "Friends of Pike County Animals" in order to better direct resources for future County animal shelter measures.

(Res. passed xx-xx-xx)

92.04 DEFINITIONS

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

(A) 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.

(B) 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 future Pike County Animal Shelter.

(C) 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.

(D) BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS. The Board of Commissioners of Pike Co., Georgia.

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

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

(G) 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. The initial component of the future SHELTER FACILITY.

(H) 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, unless otherwise noted.

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

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

(Res. passed xx-xx-xx)

92.05 DONATION FUNDING

There shall be established a Donation Fund, governed in part by the Animal Shelter Advisory Board, the County Manager, and the Board of Commissioners, providing a legal mechanism whereby citizens can officially 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. Such donations shall be intended only for expenses associated with the implementation of future County shelter facility and shall not be used to implement or offset daily operational costs of the current animal control impoundment facility. Distinct budget line items shall be established for receiving donations and other funding for future animal shelter measures.

(Res. passed xx-xx-xx)

92.06 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)

92.07 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)