

**COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BULLITT COUNTY
ORDINANCE NO. 12-11**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 09-23
RELATING TO THE CONTROL OF ANIMALS
WITHIN BULLITT COUNTY, KENTUCKY**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE FISCAL COURT OF COUNTY OF BULLITT,
COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY AS FOLLOWS:

**SECTION I
DEFINITIONS**

As used in this Ordinance, the following terms shall mean:

OWNER - Any person, partnership or corporation owning, keeping or harboring animals;

KENNEL - Any person, partnership or corporation engaged in the business of breeding, buying, selling or boarding dogs and cats;

PET SHOP - Any person, partnership or corporation engaged in the business of breeding, buying, selling or boarding animals of any species;

ANIMAL - Any dog or cat, domestic or feral;

ANIMAL SHELTER - Any premises designated by the Bullitt County Fiscal Court for the purpose of impounding and caring for animals held under authority of this Ordinance;

RESTRAINT - An animal shall be deemed to be under restraint if attached to a leash of any type or being kept in an enclosure;

PERSON - An individual, partnership, company or corporation;

QUARANTINE - To isolate or detain by order.

**SECTION II
ANIMALS**

RESTRAINT REQUIRED - All animals shall be kept under restraint at all times, except in areas zoned for agriculture and conservation.

SECTION III
DOGS AND CATS TO BE LICENSED AND VACCINATED AGAINST RABIES

(A) LICENSE FEES - Effective February 6, 1996, and on July 1 each year thereafter, every owner of animals regulated by this Section shall apply to the Department of Animal Control and Protection for the appropriate license. Proof of a valid rabies vaccination shall be firmly attached to a harness or collar worn by the animal. Dog and cat licenses are required at six (6) months of age. The application shall be accomplished by a license fee as follows:

(1) For each unaltered dog or cat over six (6) months: \$20.00.

(2) For each altered dog or cat or each dog or cat under six (6) months: \$10.00. Altered animal license applications must be accompanied by a verification statement from a licensed veterinarian.

In the following categories, each separate location must be inspected and meet the requirements of this Ordinance prior to being issued a license, and each location must be licensed separately:

(3) For any kennel or cattery shop having ten (10) animals or less on its premises during the year beginning July 1st - \$40.00. For any kennel or cattery having in excess of ten (10) animals during the year beginning July 1st - \$50.00.

(4) For any pet shop, animal dealer, circus or theatrical exhibit - \$50.00.

(5) For any humane society - no fee.

(6) No license shall be required for any veterinary hospital, municipal animal control facility, or zoological garden operated by a governmental agency.

(B) VACCINATION FEES - On or before July 1st of each year, every owner of a dog or cat six (6) months of age or older shall have it vaccinated against rabies. It is further provided that the owner of a dog or cat reaching six (6) months of age shall have such animal vaccinated by the tenth (10) day after the date the dog or cat attained this age or by July 1st of the year of its birth, whichever comes first. Such vaccination shall be in accordance with the vaccination requirements prescribed by the Department of Health Services. Vaccinations shall be performed by a licensed veterinarian or qualified person.

The veterinarian or qualified person administering the vaccination shall issue to the dog or cat owner a vaccination certificate on a form prescribed by the Department for Health Services. The vaccination certificate shall be prepared and issued in triplicate, one copy to be forwarded by the veterinarian or qualified person to the Bullitt County Health Department, and one copy to be given to the owner of the dog or cat. Each certificate shall bear the name and address of the issuing party, and a serial number and a brief description of the animal vaccinated.

The veterinarian or qualified person shall also furnish each owner with a metal tag bearing the certificate number and the year of vaccination. The tag may also bear the name of the person issuing it.

SECTION IV **IMPOUNDING**

Unrestrained animals shall be taken by the Animal Control Officer (hereinafter "ACO"), Assistant ACO, or other peace officer and impounded in the Animal Shelter, and there confined in a humane manner. However, if after a reasonable effort, the seizure of any such unrestrained animal cannot be made, or should the animal present a hazard to public safety or property or have an injury or physical condition which causes the animal to suffer, the ACO or his agent may immediately destroy the animal by the most reasonable and humane means then available.

Impounded stray animals shall be kept for not less than five (5) days, unless reclaimed by their owners. If the owner can be identified by means of a license tag or otherwise, the impounding agency shall immediately notify the owner by the most expedient means available of the impoundment of the animal. Animals not claimed by their owners within five (5) days of their impoundment or notice to the Owner, and those not placed in suitable new homes or rescues after such time, may be humanely euthanized by the agency. Owner-relinquished animals shall be kept for not less than three (3) days. If an owner returns to reclaim his/her relinquished animal, he/she must be approved through the Adoption Process. Upon approval, all associated fees must be paid prior to the return of the animal. Owner-relinquished animals not placed in suitable new homes or rescues after three (3) days may be humanely euthanized by the agency. However, if an impounded stray or owner-relinquished animal has an injury or physical condition which causes the animal to suffer, the ACO or his agent may immediately humanely euthanize the animal.

Every owner reclaiming an impounded animal which is subject to the terms of this Ordinance shall pay the following fees:

- (1) Altered dogs and cats - \$20.00 plus \$5.00 per day;
- (2) Unaltered dogs and cats - \$25.00 plus \$5.00 per day;
- (3) Quarantined dogs and cats - \$30.00 plus \$5.00 per day;

Proof of vaccination against rabies and a current license shall be required before any dog, cat or other small animal is released. If no proof of vaccination or current license is shown, a rabies vaccination voucher or license must be purchased before the animal is released.

Any animal which has bitten or scratched someone shall be quarantined by the Bullitt County Health Department for ten (10) days from the time the bite or scratch occurs. The ACO

or his agent is to contact the Bullitt County Health Department upon informational response to animal bite. Any owner who fails to properly isolate their animal(s) is subject to citation for violation of this Section, and the animal(s) shall be removed to the Animal Shelter for the remainder of its quarantine period. The owner will be responsible for all quarantine fees.

An animal whose owner is unavailable or incapable of isolating the animal may be taken by the ACO or his agent and quarantined at the Animal Shelter for the prescribed period of time.

SECTION V
- DROP-OFF FEE

Dogs and cats may be dropped off at the Animal Shelter to be placed for adoption during regular business hours. Any individual who releases an animal in the vicinity of the Animal Shelter after regular business hours is in violation of this section. Due to the costs associated with caring for these abandoned animals, an individual who relinquishes a dog or cat to the Animal Shelter will be charged a drop-off fee. The amount of the drop-off fees to be assessed are as follows:

- (1) Cats - \$10.00 each
- (2) Dogs - \$15.00 each
- (3) Litter of Kittens or Puppies - \$25.00

SECTION VI
ISSUANCE OF CITATIONS

In addition to, or in lieu of, impounding an unrestrained animal, any enforcement officer so authorized may issue a citation to the owner of such animal specifying the section or sections of this Ordinance so violated and indicating the specific nature of the violation. Such citation shall impose upon the owner the obligation of appearance to answer the charges specified in the citation in the Bullitt County District Court at the time and place indicated on the citation.

SECTION VII
CONFINEMENT OF ANIMAL WHEN IN HEAT

Every female dog or cat in heat shall be confined in a building or other secure enclosure in a manner that such female dog or cat is reasonably prohibited from contact with another animal, except for planned breeding or under supervision of the owner.

SECTION VIII
NUISANCE

It shall be unlawful for any owner to fail to exercise proper care and control of his or her animal(s) to prevent them from becoming a public nuisance. Excessive, continuous or untimely barking, molesting passersby, chasing vehicles, and habitually attacking in such manner as to damage property shall be deemed a nuisance.

SECTION IX
HUMANE TREATMENT OF ANIMALS

(A) GENERAL: No owner shall fail to provide his or her animal(s) with good, wholesome food and water, proper shelter and protection from the weather, veterinary care when needed to prevent suffering, and humane care and treatment. Any owner or keeper of animals shall maintain a clean and healthful shelter and living area for any animal being kept, which area shall be free of accumulated waste and debris so that the animal(s) shall be free to walk or lie down without coming in contact with any such waste or debris. All such shelters or living areas must be cleaned and maintained regularly so as to promote proper health for the animal(s) being kept.

If any animal is restrained by a chain, leash or similar restraint, it shall be designed and placed to prevent the animal from choking or strangulation. Such chain or restraint shall not be less than ten (10) feet in length and either on a swivel designed to prevent the animal from choking or strangling itself or else on a chain run.

No owner shall abandon any animal. Abandonment consists of leaving such animal(s) for a period in excess of twenty-four (24) hours without providing for someone to feed, water and check on the animal's condition, or by leaving an animal by a roadside or other area or leaving the animal on public or private property without the property owner's consent. In the event that an animal is found so abandoned, such animal may be taken by the ACO or his agent or other peace officer and impounded in the Animal Shelter or other facility maintained by a humane society, and there confined in a humane manner. Such animal, if taken from private property, shall be kept for not less than five (5) days in accordance with the procedures set forth in Section IV herein (Impounding). In the event that an animal is so abandoned, the owner or the person, if any, whom he has charged with the animal's care, shall be liable for citation for violation of this section.

No person shall crop a dog's ear except a licensed veterinarian.

SECTION X
ACTIONS PROHIBITED

No person, firm, organization or group shall raise or kill a dog or cat for food or the skin or fur.

No person, firm, organization or group shall mutilate any animal, whether dead or alive.

SECTION XI
DISEASED ANIMALS

No domestic animal afflicted with a contagious disease shall be allowed to run at large or to be exposed in any public place whereby the health of man or beast may be affected. Nor shall such animal be shipped or removed from the premises of the owner except under the supervision of the ACO or his agent.

SECTION XII
NON-APPLICABILITY TO NON-RESIDENTS

The sections of this Ordinance requiring a license shall not apply to non-residents of Kentucky who are keeping only domestic pets, provided that the animal(s) of such owners shall not be kept in Bullitt County longer than thirty (30) days and that the animal(s) shall be kept under restraint. No non-resident shall, however, keep any pet in Bullitt County over the age of six (6) months that has not been vaccinated against rabies.

SECTION XIII
INTERFERENCE WITH ENFORCEMENT PROHIBITED

No person shall in any manner interfere with, hinder, molest or abuse any officer or individual authorized to enforce the provisions of this Ordinance.

SECTION XIV
EFFECTIVE DATE

This Ordinance shall take effect upon passage and publication in accordance with the law.

SECTION XV
SEVERABILITY

Should any section, subsection, sentence or clause of this Ordinance be held unconstitutional or invalid for any reason by any court of competent jurisdiction, than such portion shall be deemed a separate, distinct and independent provision, and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance.

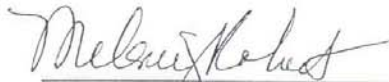
SECTION XVI
PENALTY

Any person, firm or corporation violating any provision of this Ordinance shall be fined not less than five dollars (\$5) nor more than five hundred dollars (\$500). A separate offense shall be deemed committed on each day during or on which a violation occurs or continues.

Given first reading at a Regular Meeting of the Bullitt County Fiscal Court on the 21st day of August, 2012.

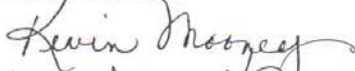

Given second reading, voted upon and passed at a Regular Meeting of the Bullitt County Fiscal Court on the 4th day of September, 2012.

BULLITT COUNTY FISCAL COURT



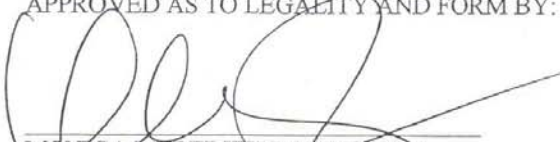
MELANIE J. ROBERTS
BULLITT COUNTY JUDGE/EXECUTIVE

ATTESTED TO:

KEVIN MOONEY
BULLITT COUNTY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO LEGALITY AND FORM BY:



MONICA MEREDITH ROBINSON
BULLITT COUNTY ATTORNEY
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