

**MEADE COUNTY, KENTUCKY
ORDINANCE NO. 2023-08**

**ANIMAL CONTROL ORDINANCE
(REPEALING AND REPLACING ORDINANCE 2013-4)**

**AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO
ANIMAL CARE, CONTROL AND WELFARE**

WHEREAS, Meade County has experienced and continues to experience a large population growth with a corresponding growth in its animal population.

WHEREAS, the Fiscal Court of Meade County hereby recognizes that Meade County is a rural agricultural/farming community and that this Ordinance in no way is intended to hinder or restrain the livelihood of our livestock producing farmers.

WHEREAS, the Fiscal Court of Meade County hereby finds, determines and declares that this Ordinance is necessary for the preservation of the public welfare, health and safety.

NOW THEREFORE, be it ordained by the Fiscal Court of Meade County, Commonwealth of Kentucky, as follows:

SECTION 1

DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this Ordinance, the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning.

1. **Animal.** Any living non-human creature, domestic or wild, including but not limited to livestock, canines, felines, pet rodents, pet birds, bovine, equine, swine, and poultry.

2. **Animal Control Director (ACD).** The Director reports directly to the Meade County Judge/Executive and manages the Meade County Animal Shelter and the daily operations of the shelter. The Director has direct supervision over all ACOs. The Director is responsible for enforcing this Ordinance, budget, enforcing state and local laws, maintaining policies and procedures of the shelter, safeguarding controlled drugs, promote public awareness on the humane treatment of animals and maintain records and files on every animal entering and exiting the shelter.

3. **Animal Control Officer (ACO).** All employees of the Animal Shelter are ACOs and work under the direction of the ACD. ACOs maintain and operate the Shelter and enforce provisions of Kentucky, the Kentucky Animal Control Officer Training Manual, the Association of Shelter Veterinarians' Guidelines for Standards of Care in Animal Shelters, and the American Veterinarian Medical Association (AVMA) Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals, this Ordinance, and other duties as assigned.

4. **Animal Shelter.** Any premises designated and/or operated by the Fiscal Court of Meade County for the purpose of impounding and caring for animals held under authority of this Ordinance.

5. **At-Large.** Not restrained by leash, cord, chain or otherwise confined in an enclosure.

6. **Barrier Reactive Behavior.** When a dog barks, growls, or rushes forward in response to a stimulus when they are behind a barrier. The barrier may be a fence, baby gate, window, screen door, car window, or any other physical item that stands between them and the stimulus. The trigger for this behavior might be another dog, cat, person, or squirrel, just to name a few.

7. **Commercial Boarding Stable.** Any facility for boarding, livery, training or riding school that maintains equine for the purpose of housing, feeding, riding, training, driving, or riding lessons for a fee or gratuitous, must be licensed, regardless of the number of animals it may house.

8. **Bovines.** Cattle including bulls, cows, bullocks, steers, heifers, calves and buffalo.

9. **Cat.** Any domestic feline six (6) months of age and over (less than six months is considered a kitten). A feral cat is a stray or abandoned cat that has reverted back to a wild state.

10. **Commercial Animal Care Facility.** Any for-profit or non-profit entity or business operating in the care of, or sale of animals listed as dogs or cats; entities include rescues, fosters, dog groomers, pet stores, pet brokers and dog walkers. Veterinarian Care facilities are exempt.

11. **Commercial Kennel or Cattery.** An establishment where canines and/or felines are kept for the purpose of breeding, buying, selling, or boarding such animals, or engaged in the training of dogs for guard or sentry purposes for a fee, and which establishment is so constructed so that the animals cannot stray from its premises. Commercial kennels or catteries must be licensed, regardless of the number of animals it may house.

12. **County.** The unincorporated areas of Meade County, Commonwealth of Kentucky.

13. **Cruelty.** Shall mean failing to provide adequate food and water; or failing to detect the need for or withholding veterinary care; creating or allowing unhealthy living conditions; infliction of pain, injury or death to an animal by striking, beating, dropping, kicking, dragging, choking or use of object of weapon; causing pain, injury or death by means of caustic, flammable, boiling or heated substances; causing suffocation or drowning; failure to provide health-related grooming; conducting or allowing to conduct animal fighting; mutilation by performing ear cropping, tail docking or castration on an animal (other than livestock) by someone other than a licensed veterinarian. Standard livestock practices shall not constitute cruelty.

14. **Dog.** This term shall be intended to mean both male and female of the canine species. Any domestic canine six (6) months of age or over (less than six months is considered a puppy). Wolf hybrids are considered to be wildlife and are prohibited in Meade County.

15. **Dog Groomer:** A person, partnership, or corporation who operates for profit in the care and maintenance of dogs or feline's grooming within Meade County.

16. **Domesticated Animal.** An animal adapted to live in a human environment or to be of use to humans.

17. Enclosure. An uncovered fence or structure of at least six (6) feet in height OR a covered fence or structure of sufficient height and width so each animal will have sufficient space to stand, lie down and turn around without touching the sides or top of enclosures. The enclosure should be suitable so as to prevent the entry of young children and yet suitable to confine a vicious dog in conjunction with other measures which may be taken by the owner or keeper, such as tethering of the vicious dog. Further, the fence or structure shall be sufficiently embedded in the ground to prevent the dog from digging under the fence or structure. The enclosure shall be securely enclosed and locked and designed with secure sides, top and bottom and shall be designed to prevent the dog from escaping from the enclosure.

18. Equine. Horses, ponies, mules, donkeys (jackasses/ jennies), and burros, and all miniature versions thereof.

19. Humane Society. Any organization existing for the purpose of prevention of cruelty to animals incorporated under the laws of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Such an organization must be an IRS 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

20. Keeper. Any person to whom a dog is entrusted.

21. Livestock. Equine, bovine, sheep, goats, swine, llamas, alpacas, vicunas, ostriches, emus, rheas, and poultry. For the purposes of this Ordinance, equine is addressed independent of livestock.

22. Non-Commercial Kennel. An establishment or residence where dogs are kept for the purpose of sporting use, showing, companionship, rescue or for a hobby. Non-commercial kennels require a kennel license.

23. Owner. Any person, owning, keeping, or harboring an animal, as per KRS.

24. Person. An individual, partnership, company or corporation.

25. Pet Shop/Pet Store. Any person, partnership or corporation engaged in the business of buying or selling at wholesale or retail any non-livestock species not prohibited by law for profit-making purposes.

26. Quarantine. Humane Confinement for the observation of symptoms of rabies of a dog, cat, or ferret that has bitten a human being. The animal will be held at the Meade County Animal Shelter, or other approved facility, in a secure enclosure that prevents contact with other animals or humans for a period of up to ten (10) days from the date of a bite incident or as directed by the Meade County Health Department or other legal authority (KRS 258.085).

27. Rabies Vaccination. The injection by a veterinarian or other qualified person of rabies vaccine approved by and administered in accordance with the regulations of the Kentucky State Board of Health.

28. Restraint. An animal shall be deemed to be under restraint if within fences adequate for that species or on the premises of its owner, or if accompanied by a responsible person and under that person's control.

29. Standard Accepted Livestock Practices. For purposes of this Ordinance, acts/actions by livestock owners/producers to maintain herd and/or breed standards and health are considered to

be normal and acceptable standards for livestock care, and does not constitute animal cruelty/neglect. These practices include, but are not limited to, castration of cattle, hogs, goats, and sheep, dehorning cattle, sheep and goats, natural/field birthing, calf pulling, ear tagging for identification or fly control, hog teeth and tail trimming/clipping, wing clipping of poultry or fowl. This Ordinance will have no effect on acceptable livestock practices as determined by the Kentucky Revised Statute (KRS).

30. Veterinarian. A licensed practitioner of veterinary medicine, accredited by the Bureau of Animal Husbandry, United States Department of Agriculture.

31. Veterinary Hospital or Clinic. Any establishment maintained and operated by a licensed veterinarian for the diagnosis and treatment of diseases and injuries of animals, or for the boarding of animals. A Veterinarian Hospital or Clinic is not required to purchase a "kennel license" for boarding animals overnight when the boarding is required as a result of surgery.

32. Vicious Dog. A vicious dog is any dog that meets one or more of the following:

a. Any dog which constitutes a physical threat to human beings or other domestic animals by virtue of a known propensity to endanger life by an unprovoked assault or bite so as to cause serious bodily harm.

b. Any dog which when unprovoked, in a vicious or terrorizing manner approaches any person in an attitude of attack upon the streets, sidewalks, or any public grounds or places.

c. Any dog which bites (to extent of puncturing or severely bruising skin), inflicts injury, assaults, or otherwise attacks a human being or domestic animal without provocation on public or private property.

d. Any dog which has behaved in a manner that the owner or keeper thereof knows or should reasonably know that the dog is possessed of tendencies to attack or to bite human beings other than the type of which would be justified hereunder.

e. Any dog certified by a doctor of veterinary medicine, after observation thereof, as posing a danger to human life or property if not kept in the manner required by this Ordinance upon the basis of reasonable medical probability.

f. Any dog which has been classified as vicious by the Animal Control Director, or a Peace Officer, after observation thereof, as posing a danger to human life or property if not kept in the manner required by this Ordinance.

g. Any dog which has been trained as an attack or guard dog, except dogs which are employed by any police department within the Commonwealth of Kentucky, or

h. An animal shall not be deemed vicious solely because:

(1) It bites, attacks, or menaces anyone assaulting its owner or keeper, or any person or other any animal that has tormented or abused it.

(2) It is otherwise acting in the defense of any attack from a person or other animal upon its owner or any other person.

- (3) It is protecting or defending its young or the young of any other animal, or
- (4) Where a person has broken into or entered, without permission, the enclosure of the dog.

33. Wildlife. Any animal not domesticated, not ordinarily tame, or which by nature lives apart from human beings in a wild state. This includes any animal which is part wildlife, not to include emus, ostrich, rhea (ratites) llama and alpaca. Wolf hybrids are wildlife and prohibited in Meade County.

SECTION 2

LICENSES

Dog tag licenses are to be obtained and renewed annually, one year from the date of issuance; and are available at the Meade County Animal Shelter or other persons or entities so designated. Proof of rabies vaccination is required when purchasing your dog tag license.

The ACD will provide a License Requirement Checklist for Kennels, Boarding Stables, and Commercial Animal Care Facilities.

1. Dog Tag Licenses. Owners of a dog six (6) months of age or over and residents of Meade County, Kentucky ~~shall~~ ^{may} obtain a license for each individual dog owned for the required fee per metal tag (Exemptions: Dogs kept in the county by non-residents of Meade County or dogs kept in a facility that has a commercial kennel license).

Violation of the provisions of this Section 2, paragraph 1. Dog Tag Licenses shall carry a fine of \$50 per KRS 534.040 Fines for Misdemeanors and Violations.

2. Kennel License.

a. **Commercial Kennel or Cattery:** To operate, any person, partnership, or corporation, who keeps or operates a commercial kennel, or cattery at their establishment or residence, on any given day, will apply to the Meade County Animal Shelter for a kennel license. The living conditions of animals as well as the overall health of the animals in a kennel must be inspected and approved by an ACO prior to issuance of a kennel license. Proof of rabies vaccination for every animal four (4) months of age or older will be required as per Kentucky Revised Statute (KRS). Additional vaccinations may be used by any of the above to protect their personal interests but are not required to maintain a kennel license. Kennel licenses expire one year from date of issuance. (Exception: A licensed veterinarian clinic, office, or hospital which houses animals over night ONLY for illness or surgical purposes. If boarding for convenience and/or for profit, a kennel license will be required.)

b. **Non-commercial Kennel or Cattery:** Any person who owns or cares for ten (10) or more dogs or cats at their establishment or residence, on any given day, will apply to the Meade County Animal Shelter for a non-commercial kennel license. Anyone conducting such activity will ensure all animals are rabies vaccinated for every animal four (4) months of age or older and have a current Meade County dog license. The living conditions of animals as well as the overall health of the animals must be inspected and approved by an ACO prior to issuance of a kennel license. Kennel licenses expire one year from date of issuance.

c. Commercial Animal Care Facility. Any for-profit or non-profit entity or business operating in the care of, or sale of animals listed as dogs or cats. A kennel license will be required for these entities which include rescues, fosters, dog groomers, pet stores, pet brokers and dog walkers. Veterinarian Care facilities are exempt unless they are boarding animals for profit (not illness or surgical recovery).

Violation of the provisions of Section 2, paragraph 2, "Kennel Licenses" shall carry a maximum fine of \$250 as per KRS 534.040 "Fines for Misdemeanors and Violations."

3. Commercial Boarding Stable License. Boarding stables must be inspected and licensed by the Meade County Animal Shelter annually. The overall condition of the facility, fences, and the horses housed at the boarding stable will be evaluated prior to the issuance of a Stable License. Stable Licenses expire one year from the date of issue.

Violation of the provisions of this Section 2, paragraph 3. "Boarding Stable License" shall carry a maximum fine of \$250 per KRS 534.040 Fines for Misdemeanors and Violations.

4. License Revocation. The Animal Control Director may revoke any kennel or stable license due to any violation of state or federal law or this Ordinance if the violation is not corrected on-the-spot or within 30 days of being cited. Failure to permit kennel inspections as regulated by this Ordinance during reasonable hours shall be grounds for kennel license revocation. Upon receipt of revocation, the individual may request a "stay" to stay in business. An individual can request a stay in writing to the Judge Executive who will address this at the next Fiscal Court meeting or hold a special Fiscal Court meeting to address the stay, at his discretion. The Judge Executive can approve the stay until it comes before the Fiscal Court.

License revocation shall be in writing and shall state the grounds therefore. The ACO will provide a thirty (30) day written notice of non-compliance. Any person whose kennel or stable license is revoked may appeal such revocation to the Meade County Fiscal Court within thirty (30) days following the date of such revocation. Any person whose license is revoked may request a stay of the revocation to Meade County Fiscal Court, during the pendency of the action. Said appeal of revocation shall be in writing and shall state the grounds therefore, and shall be signed by either the person bringing the appeal or his authorized representative. Meade County Fiscal Court will conduct a hearing on this action. Thereafter, if requested by the appellant, a hearing shall be held on the issues raised by the appeal before the Meade County District Court.

5. Non-compliance of license requirement: ACO will provide the individual or entity a thirty (30) day written notice of such non-compliance in the form of a warning citation. If the individual/entity is still in non-compliance after thirty (30) days, the ACO will execute a citation and deliver to the Meade County Circuit Court Clerk or execute a criminal complaint through the Meade County Attorney's Office in order to begin a criminal case of violation of this Ordinance.

All court costs and fees for non-compliance will be paid by the specific person/entity in non-compliance with restitution to be paid to the Meade County Animal Shelter.

SECTION 3

RABIES VACCINATIONS

As per KRS 258.015, rabies vaccinations and tags shall only be given by licensed veterinarian or person granted a permit by the Kentucky Secretary for Health Services.

1. **Rabies Vaccination.** Every owner shall have their dog, cat, and ferret vaccinated by the age of four (4) months, and a certificate and metal tag be given to owner, as directed by the Cabinet for Health and Family Services. Re-vaccination is required by the expiration of the current vaccination.

2. **Affixing Tags.** The metal tag furnished shall be affixed to the collar or harness and shall be worn by the dog for which the certificate was issued. No one except the owner or duly authorized agent shall remove any tag from the collar or harness, as per KRS 258.212. Cats and ferrets are not required to wear a rabies tag. Legal proof of vaccination must be provided to the Meade County Animal Shelter ACO.

SECTION 4

CONTROL OF ANIMALS

All animals shall be kept under control or restraint at all times.

1. **Dogs and Cats in Heat.** Every female dog/cat (except feral cats) in heat shall be confined in a secure enclosure in such a manner that the animal cannot come into contact with an unaltered male dog/cat except for planned breeding. Tying, chaining, or staking an animal in heat in an unfenced area shall not constitute a "secure enclosure."

2. **Nuisance.** Owners shall control dogs to prevent excessive, continuous or untimely barking or howling, molesting of passerby, chasing of vehicles, spreading trash, attacking of persons and/or domestic animals, or trespassing upon school grounds or private property.

3. **Health and Sanitation.** Owners shall ensure that unsanitary and unpleasant odors do not waft onto neighboring property. This occurs when a person has more animals than they can feasibly take care of in a space that is not suited for the same. Owners shall ensure that animals do not urinate or defecate on the property of others. Allowing this to occur is a violation of this Ordinance.

4. **Restraint Required.** All animals must be under restraint by means of a fence, lead or leash and under control of a responsible person when off the premises of the owner. Animals shall not be required to be on lead or leash if confined to the premises of the owner. Hunting dogs will not be considered in violation while hunting with owner or if temporarily lost and promptly reported as missing to the Meade County Animal Shelter.

5. **Electronic or Underground Fence.** Property enclosed by a buried wire or wireless device which produces a signal received by a device attached to a collar worn by a dog or puppy which prevents the animal from leaving the property of the owner will be considered a proper enclosure, provided the device and signal are working and the animal does not leave the property

unrestrained. The enclosure must contain proper shelter from the weather. This type of enclosure is not acceptable for a female dog in heat or a dog judged to be a vicious dog.

6. Penalties for Violation of provisions of this Section 4 Control of Animals, paragraphs 1-5 shall carry a maximum fine of \$250 as per KRS 534.040 Fines for Misdemeanors and Violations. Violating Section 4, paragraphs 1-5 of this Ordinance is considered a violation.

7. Authority to Kill or Seize Dog. In accordance with KRS 258.235:

a. Any person, without liability, may kill or seize any dog which is observed attacking any person.

b. Any livestock owner or his agent, without liability, may kill any dog trespassing on that owner's property and observed in the act of pursuing or wounding his/her livestock.

c. Any owner whose dog is found to have caused damage to a person, livestock, or other property shall be responsible for that damage, in accordance with KRS.

8. Penalty. In accordance with KRS 258.990, the owner of any dog, cat, or ferret which bites a human being shall be liable to pay all damages for personal injuries resulting from the bite of the dog, cat, or ferret.

Vicious Dogs. All vicious dogs shall be seized by the ACO and the dog's owner cited for violating KRS 258.235(7), which is a Class B Misdemeanor, carrying the penalty of a maximum of 90 days in jail and a maximum fine of \$250.

SECTION 5

HUMANE TREATMENT OF ANIMALS

1. Abandonment. No person shall abandon any animal on public or private property or roadway, nor shall any person leave any non-pastured animal unattended for a period in excess of twenty-four (24) hours without providing an agent to feed, water and check on the animal's welfare. If an animal is found to be abandoned, such animal may be taken by the ACO or police and impounded in the Meade County Animal Shelter or other approved facility in accordance with this Ordinance.

2. Abuse. No person shall neglect, beat, cruelly ill treat, torment, leave non-pastured animals out in extreme weather, fail to provide proper nourishment, nor cause or permit any animal or bird to fight. In hot weather no animal shall be left unattended in any enclosed vehicle or trailer. In the event there is reasonable cause to suspect an animal has suffered any of the above forms of abuse, the animal may be taken by the ACO or Peace Officer and impounded, the owner shall be charged with animal cruelty, with said animal(s) held as evidence of abuse. Upon a finding by the court (the person either pleads guilty or is convicted through trial by jury) the animal has been abused, the animal shall become the property of Meade County. The Defendant can consent (in writing) to turn the animal over to Meade County before this occurs. If the person consents, Meade County Animal Shelter can place the animal up for adoption.

3. Restraint by Chain. If any dog is restrained by a chain or similar restraint, the restraint shall be no less than ten (10) feet long and either on a swivel chain run, and must be attached to a

properly fitted collar or harness, free of obstruction or debris. A choke chain does not constitute a "properly fitted collar." Livestock shall not be restrained permanently by use of a rope, chain, or similar restraint.

4. Animal Fighting. No person shall cause or permit any dog fight, cock fight, or other combat between animals whether for pleasure or for profit. No person shall own, possess, keep or train any bird or animal with the intent that such animal be engaged in fighting. Further, any person who is present at an exhibition fight shall be charged with Animal Cruelty for being a spectator in violation of this Ordinance. Animals shall be confiscated if found on the premises or in the immediate area of a dog fight, cock fight or other arranged combat between animals.

5. Mutilation. No person shall mutilate any animal whether dead or alive. Cropping ears, docking tails, and spaying or neutering of animals, shall only be performed by a licensed veterinarian. Accepted livestock practices shall not be considered mutilation.

6. Pens. Animals confined to outdoor pens or runs shall be provided shelter from the weather, shade during the summer, and constant access to fresh water. Pen(s) must be kept in good repair with sanitary conditions free of accumulated waste and debris so that the animal(s) shall be free to walk or lie down without coming into contact with said waste and debris. Pen size must be appropriate for the size and quantity of the animal(s) and permit proper exercise and adequate safety.

7. Poisons. No person shall place any poisonous substance which may be harmful to any domesticated animal in any location where it may be readily found and ingested by such animal.

8. Removal of Animal in Danger. Any animal observed by the ACO or Peace Officer to be in immediate danger shall be removed from such situation by the quickest and most reasonable means available and impounded for its safety and welfare. The individual may mitigate the danger and follow this Ordinance otherwise to have the animal returned to them.

9. Sex Acts. No person shall engage, cause, or allow any others to engage in sexual acts with animals.

10. Cruelty. A person shall be cited for Animal Cruelty for failing to provide adequate food and water, failing to detect the need for or withholding veterinary or health care that results in suffering, serious illness, or death; creating or allowing unhealthy living conditions; inflicting pain, injury or death to an animal by striking, beating, dropping, kicking, dragging, choking or use of object or weapon; causing pain, injury or death by means of caustic, flammable, boiling or heated substances; causing suffocation or drowning, failing to provide health-related grooming; performing ear cropping, tail docking, or castration on a dog, cat, ferret, or horse, by someone other than a licensed veterinarian (Exemptions are standard livestock practices); conducting or allowing to conduct animals fighting; failure to provide shade from sun or shelter from extreme cold temperatures.

Violators of the above Section 5 Humane Treatment of Animals will be prosecuted as the County Attorney sees appropriate, in conjunction with Meade County Animal Control. Violation of KRS 525.130 Cruelty to Animals in the Second Degree is Class A Misdemeanor. Violation of KRS 525.125 Cruelty to Animals in the First Degree is a Class D Felony. Violation of KRS 525.130 Torture of a Dog or Cat is a Class A Misdemeanor or Class D Felony depending on the facts of the case. Violation of KRS 525.137 Sexual Crimes Against an Animal is a Class D Felony.

Violation of the above Section 5 Humane Treatment of Animals that is not covered by statute is considered a violation of this Ordinance and shall carry a maximum fine of \$250 per KRS 534.040 Fines for Misdemeanors and Violations.

SECTION 6

CONFINEMENT OF ANIMALS

1. Impoundment. Unrestrained animals shall be taken by the ACO or Peace Officer and impounded in the Meade County Animal Shelter or other designated facility. Impounded animals shall be kept for not less than five (5) days unless reclaimed by their owners. (Exception: If an impounded animal has an injury or physical condition which causes it to suffer, the ACO or veterinarian may immediately humanely euthanize the animal).

2. Confiscation. Any animal found in violation of this Ordinance may be confiscated by any ACO or Peace Officer and impounded in a humane manner. The owner or person responsible for violation of this Ordinance, upon conviction in a court of law, shall surrender any confiscated animal which will become the property of Meade County, and such owner shall pay all veterinary fees, impoundment fees, and any charges incidental to maintaining the animal(s) up to the date of conviction.

3. Quarantine. Any animal which has bitten or scratched and broken the skin of a person or other animal shall be immediately impounded by the ACO of the Meade County Animal Shelter and immediately quarantined for the observation of symptoms of rabies; this impoundment shall be immediately followed by written notification to the Meade County Health Department. This quarantine shall be in a secure enclosure which prevents the animal from coming into unplanned contact with other animals or persons for a period of ten (10) days from the date of the incident or as directed by the Meade County Health Department per KRS 258.085. Quarantined animals will be held at the Meade County Animal Shelter, approved boarding facility, or veterinarian. There may be times when the animal does have a verified, current rabies vaccination and upon the direction of the Meade County Health Department – the animal may be allowed for a five (5) or ten (10) day quarantine on the owner's premises per KRS 528. 215. The animal owner shall be responsible for all quarantine fees and costs. Failure of an owner to cooperate with any representative of the Meade County Animal Shelter or Meade County Health Department to quarantine an animal pursuant to this subsection shall constitute a violation of this Ordinance with charges to be filed in the Meade County District Court. The Meade County ACD will ensure complete administrative documentation is maintained. Violation of this Ordinance Section 6 Confinement of Animals is a violation and shall carry a maximum fine of \$250 per KRS 534.040 Fines for Misdemeanors and Violations.

4. Reclaiming. Every owner reclaiming an impounded animal shall show proof of ownership and have verified proof of rabies vaccination (dogs, cats and ferrets), current dog license if canine, and pay reclaiming, boarding, and quarantine fees, and any veterinary medical costs before the animal is released from the Meade County Animal Shelter.

SECTION 7

STANDARDS OF CARE FOR ANIMALS

1. General Standards of Care. Facilities used to house animals include but are not limited to having Enclosures to provide adequate protection against weather extremes, including adequate shelter and containment area appropriate for each species; this standard is to be in compliance with Meade County Planning and Zoning Ordinances as well as subdivision regulations and the Kentucky Department of Agriculture. Building temperatures and ventilation must be maintained at a comfortable level for animals housed within a building. Food shall be free from contamination, wholesome and palatable and of sufficient quantity and nutritive value to meet the normal daily requirements for the condition and size of each animal. Fresh water must be available at all times. All areas housing and containment for animals shall be free of accumulated waste, debris and accumulated or standing water, and shall be maintained constantly to promote proper health. Living conditions for all animals shall be subject to inspection by an ACO with probable cause. ACO will request a search warrant upon a finding of probable cause in order to enter private property unless the owner consents to a search. The consent shall be in writing and signed by both the property owner and the ACO. Failure to meet standards shall be grounds for issuance of citations. See penalties Section 5 of this Ordinance.

2. Commercial Kennel or Cattery. In addition to the general standards of care, listed in #1 above, facilities shall have floors, enclosures, runs and walls of an impervious material to permit proper daily cleaning and disinfecting. Each animal shall have sufficient space to stand, lie down and turn around without touching the sides or top of enclosures. Cages are to be of material and construction that permit cleaning and sanitizing. Outdoor runs or enclosures may be used for adequate exercise and are to be kept clean, dry and in a sanitary condition. Veterinary care shall be provided to maintain good health and general welfare, and to prevent suffering. Proof of current rabies vaccination is required for all dogs housed or seen at the facility. Commercial kennels shall be inspected by the ACO annually for kennel license issuance.

3. Non-commercial Kennel. Owners shall comply with all general standards of care listed in #1 above. All animals shall be provided with proper veterinary care and humane treatment. All animals must have a current rabies vaccination. Non-commercial kennels must be inspected annually by the ACO for kennel license issuance.

4. Guard and Sentry Dog Confinement Areas. Due to the unique and potentially dangerous nature of guard and sentry dogs, the following additional safeguards shall be met: Runs, training areas and kennels must have fences at least eight (8) feet in height completely surrounding the dog(s). The tops of runs must be completely covered unless anti-climbers are added. All gates and entrances to the runs, kennel and training areas must be kept locked when not in use. Fences must be maintained to prevent escape. Dogs must be confined at all times unless under control of handler, and cannot be trained by use of chemical, electrical or mechanical devices which may cause extreme or excessive pain, injury or death. Any individual involved in training guard or sentry dogs must have completed a recognized course or be able to demonstrate equivalent training to the ACO or Peace Officer. (Exceptions: Livestock guard dogs for herding or protecting animals). All dogs housed at the facility must have a current rabies vaccination and dog license.

5. Livestock. Livestock shall be held on tracts or parcels of land as prescribed by the Meade County Land Use Ordinance. All livestock must be confined by a fence in good repair sufficient to prevent the animal(s) from leaving the owner's property. Livestock found not restrained and which present a threat to public safety may be removed and the owner charged with a violation of this Ordinance. All livestock must be provided adequate shelter against weather extremes, continuous access to fresh water, wholesome and palatable food of sufficient quantity and nutritive value to meet the normal daily requirements for the condition, size, and species of each animal. Pastures shall have adequate drainage to prevent the animal from having to continuously stand in mud or muck. See penalties Section 5 of this Ordinance.

6. Equine. The following additional standards are required for adequate care of all equine. Unrestricted access to a building, barn, shed or other structure must be provided for shelter during extreme weather. Pastures shall be free of debris and shall have adequate drainage to prevent the animal from having to continuously stand in mud or muck. Stallions are to be double-fenced in Meade County. See penalties Section 5 of this Ordinance.

SECTION 8

ANIMAL SHELTER STANDARDS

Standards for humane societies and animal shelter facilities used to humanely house animals include but are not limited to having enclosures to provide adequate protection against weather extremes. Building temperatures and ventilation must be maintained at a comfortable level; ventilation standards are to be maintained in accordance with Kentucky Animal Care and Control Association (KACCA) and AVMA standards. Food shall be free from contamination, wholesome and palatable and of sufficient quantity and nutritive value to meet the normal daily requirements for the condition and size of each animal. Fresh water must be available at all times. All areas housing animals shall be free of accumulated waste, debris and accumulated or standing water, and shall be maintained regularly to promote proper health. Animals must be provided daily exercise.

1. Records must be kept on a database on each animal housed, to include the following: Name, address of owner or person surrendering the animal or exact location the animal was found if picked up as a stray, date received, animal description, condition and medical information, date reclaimed, adopted or euthanized, name and address of new owner or reclaimed, date animal was neutered or spayed and name of veterinarian, or quarantined and other requirements as determined by the Meade County ACD.

2. Adoption. Any person adopting an animal from the Meade County Animal Shelter shall complete an Adoption Agreement to determine the prospective owner's ability to properly care for the animal. Adopter is required to comply with all stipulations and conditions set forth in the Adoption Agreement and the Meade County Animal Control Ordinance, as well as, pay the applicable fees and charges. Failure to comply may result in the issuance of a citation, penalty, and /or possible forfeiture of the animal. The Meade County Animal Shelter is not obligated to adopt an animal in its custody if it is deemed that a placement would not be in the animal's best interest. No vicious dog shall be adopted from the Meade County Animal Shelter.

3. Spaying and Neutering. All dogs or cats adopted from the Meade County Animal Shelter must be fully vetted prior to adoption.

4. Animal Surrender. Any person who requests to surrender an animal, will be required to complete an application for surrender. Terms for surrendering an animal will be (1) proof the animal is from Meade County, (2) is space available in the shelter, (3) is the animal spayed/neutered and up to date on vaccinations, and (4) is the animal healthy and free from illness. A surrender fee will be charged to the person surrendering the animal to cover the cost of boarding and animal care. If an owner reclaims the animal, they will pay reclaiming fees as well.

SECTION 9

DUTIES OF ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

The Animal Control Officers (ACOs) of Meade County, Kentucky will, under the direct supervision of the Meade County Animal Control Director and the Meade County Judge/Executive, be sworn in and deputized to enforce standards of animal care and control as required by Kentucky Animal Advisory Board (KRS 258.117) and this Ordinance. The ACOs shall ensure that all state laws, rules and regulations, and this Ordinance are upheld within Meade County.

1. Animal Shelter. The Director and ACOs will maintain and operate the Meade County Animal Shelter at standards required by state law, KACCA, AVMA and this Ordinance. A sign shall be posted in the Animal Shelter advising hours the facility is open for surrender, adoption, reclaiming, and issuance of licenses.

2. Reports of Money Collections. The Director shall keep an account of each animal entering or exiting the shelter. Files are to include Surrender/Stray Animal Reports, Lost & Found Reports, Abused Animal Reports, Bite Incident Reports, Adoption Application and Contract forms. All paperwork and records shall be kept on file at the shelter for a period of five (5) years, and all fees collected shall be accounted for and turned in to the Meade County Treasurer's Office. A monthly report is to be prepared for Fiscal Court.

3. Records and Reports. Records are to be created for each animal that enters the Meade County Animal Shelter from the date of entry until the final disposition of the animal.

4. Response to Calls. The ACOs will respond to emergency animal calls from the Meade County Dispatch or citizens and take action as deemed appropriate to the circumstances. All calls from the general public will be responded to in a timely manner. The ACOs will pick up stray dogs in Meade County ONLY. Cats will NOT be picked up except those reported as strays at schools. The ACOs will investigate reports of cruelty, abuse or neglect of all animals, including livestock, and obtain assistance from a licensed veterinarian and/or law enforcement agency when circumstances require. Any dog or cat that has bitten a person or other animal and does not have current rabies vaccination shall be quarantined at the Meade County Animal Shelter or approved boarding facility as directed by the Health Department. After hours emergency calls will be responded to the following morning UNLESS community or human safety are endangered.

5. Locate Owners. The ACOs will immediately contact owners of impounded animals via identification on license tag, detection of microchip, or coordination with local veterinarians or by other means, if available. If the owner is determined or known, the owner will be contacted immediately for reclaiming the animal. The owner will be responsible for all fees/charges incurred in the apprehension and sheltering of the animal. Verification of rabies vaccination and dog license will occur during reclaiming process.

6. Dog Licenses and Kennel Licenses. The Meade County Animal Shelter is the primary agent for the sale of licenses and will coordinate with the Meade County Judge/Executive's staff and county veterinary offices and other entities for the control, sale and accountability of all licenses. The ACOs will inspect kennel and boarding stable facilities to ascertain that they meet the standard requirements of this Ordinance.

7. Euthanasia. The ACOs shall employ only euthanasia methods required by the American Veterinary Medical Association (lethal injection) by a qualified person. Animals will be sedated prior to receiving the lethal injection. Euthanasia of an animal will ONLY be used at the direction of the Meade County Health Department, by a licensed veterinarian, by the ACD, by court order, or other legally authorized agency. Euthanasia will not be used as a means of lowering the population of the Meade County Animal Shelter unless directed by the Animal Control Director.

8. Enforcement. The ACOs will issue uniform citations to any individuals, partnerships or corporations found in violation of this Ordinance and the Kentucky Revised Statutes relating to animals, and will appear in Meade District Court as necessary to pursue a conviction. The ACD will provide the Meade County Attorney with sufficient administrative documentation to prosecute a case.

9. Private Property Rights. The ACOs will ensure "private property rights" of all Meade County residences are NOT violated by ensuring they (the ACO) obtain sufficient documentation to justify probable cause for obtaining a warrant authorizing entry onto the "private property" prior to such entry onto that specific property, unless the owner consents in writing to entry onto their property.

10. Vehicle. The ACOs shall maintain assigned vehicle in accordance with county vehicle maintenance standards and procedures. Vehicles shall be kept clean and disinfected, and be presentable at all times. ACOs will ensure a kennel is used in their assigned vehicle at all times when they are called to pick up an animal. The kennel should be thoroughly disinfected upon return to the Meade County Animal Shelter. Vehicle mileage log shall be maintained.

11. Animal Shelter Staff Supervision. The Animal Control Director will supervise the Animal Control Officers and other shelter staff in the daily operations of the animal shelter. Shelter staff may include inmates from the Meade County Detention Center and volunteers.

SECTION 10

ENFORCEMENT

1. Citations. Citations issued by the ACO or Peace Officer shall impose upon the individual the obligation to answer charges specified on the citation to the Meade County District Court at the time and place indicated.

2. Interference with Enforcement. No person shall in any manner interfere with, hinder, abuse, or molest any ACO or Peace Officer authorized to enforce the provisions of this Ordinance.

3. Penalties. Any person violating any provision in Section 5 or Section 7 of this Ordinance shall be charged with a Class A misdemeanor and shall upon conviction be punished by a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500) or be imprisoned for not less than ninety (90) days nor more than twelve (12) months in the Meade County Detention Center, or both. Any person violating the provisions of the remaining sections of this Ordinance shall be charged with a Class B

misdemeanor and shall, upon conviction, be punished by a fine not to exceed two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250) or be imprisoned for not more than ninety (90) days, or both. Each day that a violation persists constitutes a separate offense. Any county employee violating the provisions of this Ordinance, in addition to the penalties stated above, is eligible for dismissal.

4. In addition to any penalties and fines imposed upon conviction for animal cruelty, the abuser of the animal subjected to cruelty shall pay all costs and fees of housing and caring for the animal while in the care of the Meade County Shelter, including necessary veterinary treatment.

SECTION 11

ANIMAL CONTROL FEES

The following are the fees/charges relating to Animal Control in Meade County. (Note: At the discretion of the Animal Control Director, they shall waive or reduce fees as circumstances determine necessary).

Dog License	\$5.00 per dog, required for every dog over the age of 6 mos
Shelter Adoption Fee	\$90.00 per animal regardless of species, breed or age
Animal Surrender Fee	\$50.00 per animal regardless of species, breed or age
Reclaiming Fee	\$25.00 per animal plus any boarding fees
Boarding Fee	\$30.00 per animal per night
Quarantine Fee	\$40.00 per animal per day plus \$25.00 pick up fee
Commercial Kennel Fee	\$100.00 yearly for license (renew each year)
Non-commercial Kennel Fee	\$50.00 yearly for license (renew each year)
Commercial Animal Care Facility Fee	\$100.00 yearly for license (renew each year)
Commercial Boarding Stable Fee	\$100.00 yearly for license (renew each year)

SECTION 12

If any part of this Ordinance shall be held invalid, such part shall be deemed severable and the invalidity thereof shall not affect the remaining parts of this Ordinance. All other regulations and Ordinances of Meade County in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed. Any item within this Ordinance that conflicts with Kentucky Revised Statute (KRS), KRS will rule.

SECTION 13

EFFECTIVE DATE

Given First Reading on the 12th day of September 2023,

Given Second Reading on the 12th day of October, 2023,

Adopted by the Fiscal Court of Meade County, Kentucky, on the 12th day of October, 2023.

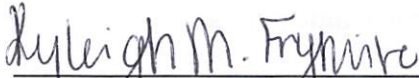
MEADE COUNTY FISCAL COURT

BY: 

TROY KOK

MEADE COUNTY JUDGE/EXECUTIVE

ATTEST TO:



KYLEIGH FRYMIRE
FISCAL COURT CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



SIDNEY SMITH DURHAM
MEADE COUNTY ATTORNEY