

ORDINANCE NO. 2019 - ____

AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO SANTA ROSA COUNTY, FLORIDA, AMENDING CHAPTER 4 ANIMALS OF THE SANTA ROSA COUNTY FLORIDA CODE; RELATING TO THE CREATION OF AN ANIMAL SHELTER; THE APPOINTMENT OF ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICERS AND DEFINING THEIR RIGHTS, AUTHORITIES AND DUTIES; ESTABLISHING PROCEDURE FOR CITATIONS AND FINES; PROVIDING FOR RABIES VACCINATION OF ANIMALS AND THE WEARING OF TAGS COINCIDENT WITH THE VACCINATION; PROVIDING FOR THE IMPOUNDMENT OF UNVACCINATED ANIMALS; PROVIDING FOR THE DISPOSITION AND/OR REDEMPTION OF ANIMALS IMPOUNDED UNDER THIS ORDINANCE; PROVIDING FOR THE CARE OF DISEASED, AND INJURED ANIMALS; PROVIDING A PENALTY FOR THE POISONING OF ANIMALS; PROVIDING FOR THE CONTROL OF ANIMALS IN OR ON PUBLIC PLACES, SCHOOL PROPERTIES, PUBLIC PARKS, AND RECREATIONAL AREAS; DEFINING DANGEROUS OR VICIOUS ANIMALS AND PROCEDURE TO FOLLOW; PROVIDING FOR FEMALE ANIMALS IN SEASON; PROVIDING FOR THE DISPOSITION OF DEAD ANIMALS; PROHIBITING ANIMAL NUISANCES; PROVIDING FOR DIRECT CONTROL OF ANIMALS IN CERTAIN AREAS; PROVIDING PROCEDURE FOR PROHIBITING ANIMAL NEGLECT AND CRUELTY; PROVIDING FOR THE METHODS AND PROCEDURES FOR ENFORCEMENT OF VIOLATIONS OF ORDINANCE; PROVIDING FOR TAG REMOVAL PENALTIES; PROVIDING FOR ANIMALS TRAINED TO ASSIST THE LAW ENFORCEMENT, THE DISABLED OR OTHER SERVICE ANIMALS; PROVIDING THAT PERSONS WHO INTERFERE WITH THE ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER, WHO RELEASE IMPOUNDED ANIMALS, WHO DAMAGE COUNTY POUND SHALL BE IN VIOLATION OF THIS ORDINANCE; PROVIDING FOR EXEMPTIONS FROM ORDINANCE; DECLARING VIOLATIONS OF ORDINANCE TO BE MISDEMEANORS OR CIVIL INFRACTIONS AND PROVIDING FOR PENALTY; PROVIDING FOR ADOPTION OF ANIMALS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; REPEALING AND REPLACING ORDINANCE 2004-30 AS AMENDED; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; AND, PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SANTA ROSA COUNTY, FLORIDA:

SECTION 1. This Ordinance shall be known and may be cited as the "Santa Rosa County Animal Control Ordinance."

SECTION 2. DEFINITIONS

(1) "Owner" - The term "owner" as used in this Ordinance shall mean any person owning or keeping any animal or animals or if the owner is a person under the age of eighteen (18), that person's parent or guardian.

(2) "Animal" - The term "animal" as used in this Ordinance shall mean any male, female, or altered member of the canine or feline species, except those classified by the Florida Fish and Game Commission as wildlife.

(3) "Animal Control Officer" - The term "Animal Control Officer" as used in this Ordinance shall mean that person or persons designated by the Board of County Commissioners. Any authorized agents of the impounding Officer may carry out the functions of this Ordinance.

(4) "Community Cat" - Any free roaming cat that may be cared for by one or more residents of the immediate area who is/are known or unknown; a community cat may or may not be feral. Community cats that are ear tipped are sterilized and have received at least one

vaccination against rabies. Community cats are exempt from any licensing, stray, abandonment and at-large provisions directed towards owned animals. A community cat may also be defined as a cat ‘found’ outside that is brought to an animal shelter and not yet sterilized/ear tipped.

(5) “Community Cat Caregiver” - A person who provides care, including food, shelter or medical care to a community cat, while not being considered the owner, custodian, harbinger, controller or keeper of a community cat or to have care or charge of a community cat. Caregivers must make every effort to minimize the impact on local wildlife, feed the proper quantity of food for the number of cats in appropriate food containers, discard food containers daily and feed only on their property or with the permission of another landowner (city, state or federal public property). Community cat caregivers may redeem community cats from the shelter without proof of ownership and are exempt from any charges and/or fees.

(6) “County Commissioners” - The term "County Commissioners" as used in this Ordinance shall mean the Board of County Commissioners of Santa Rosa County, Florida.

(7) “Dangerous dog” - The term “dangerous dog” in this Ordinance shall have the same meaning as the definition of dangerous dog in F.S. § 767.11, which currently provides as follows:

- (a) "Dangerous dog" means any dog that according to the records of the appropriate authority:
 - i. Has aggressively bitten, attacked, or endangered or has inflicted severe injury on a human being on public or private property;
 - ii. Has more than once severely injured or killed a domestic animal while off the owner's property;
 - iii. Has been used primarily or in part for the purpose of dog fighting or is a dog trained for dog fighting; and
 - iv. Has, when unprovoked, chased or approached a person upon the streets, sidewalks, or any public grounds in a menacing fashion or apparent attitude of attack, provided that such actions are attested to in a sworn statement by one or more persons and dutifully investigated by the appropriate authority.

The foregoing definition shall be deemed to automatically incorporate any legislative changes to the statutory definition, from time to time.

(8) “Direct Control” - The term “direct control” as used in this Ordinance shall mean immediate, continuous physical control of an animal at all times such as by means of a fence, leash, cord, or chain of such strength to restrain the same;

(9) “Division” – Santa Rosa County Animal Services Division.

(10) “Ear tipping” - The removal of the ¼ inch tip of a community cats left ear, performed while the cat is under anesthesia, in compliance with any applicable federal or state law, and under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian, designed to be the universal identification that the community cat is sterilized and lawfully vaccinated against rabies at least once. Caregivers must make every effort to booster the rabies vaccination as per the manufacturers’ instructions.

(11) “Severe Injury” - The term “severe injury” in this Ordinance shall mean any physical injury which results in broken bones, multiple punctures, or disfiguring lacerations requiring sutures or cosmetic surgery.

(12) “Trap/Neuter/Return (TNR)” - The process of humanely trapping, sterilizing, vaccinating against rabies and eartipping community cats and returning them to their original location.

SECTION 3. ANIMAL SHELTER. The County Animal Shelter shall serve the purpose of having impounded therein animals in violation of this Ordinance, animals running at large or believed to be strays, or animals having or believed to have rabies or any infectious or contagious disease.

SECTION 4. ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER. The Animal Control Officers of Santa Rosa County shall have full and complete authority in the enforcement of this Ordinance and shall be authorized to pick up, catch, or procure any dog in violation of this Ordinance, roaming at large, or stray if the owner cannot be identified in the field, or any animal suspected of being infected with rabies and cause said animal to be impounded in the Animal Shelter provided hereinabove. If an owner refuses entrance to his premises to an Animal Control Officer attempting to enforce this Ordinance, such officer shall contact the Sheriff's Office and proceed on the owner's premises in the company of the Sheriff or his deputy with such legal warrant or other document of authority as is necessary to lawfully enter the owner's premises for the purpose of enforcing this Ordinance.

SECTION 5. CITATIONS. The Animal Control Officers are hereby authorized to issue citations and notices to appear for the violation of the Animal Control Ordinance when based upon personal investigation the officer has reasonable and probable grounds to believe that a violation has occurred.

Citations and notices to appear shall be in the form prescribed by the Board of County Commissioners and shall state:

1. The date and time of issuance.
2. The name and address of the person.
3. The date and time the civil infraction was committed.
4. The facts constituting probable cause.
5. The ordinance violated.
6. The name and authority of the officer.
7. The procedure for the person to follow in order to pay the civil penalty or to contest the citation.
8. The applicable civil penalty if the person elects to contest the citation.
9. The applicable civil penalty if the person elects not to contest the citation.
10. A conspicuous statement that if the person fails to pay the civil penalty within the time allowed, or fails to appear in court to contest the citation, he shall be deemed to have waived his right to contest the citation and that, in such case, judgment may be entered against the person for an amount up to the maximum civil penalty.

For violation of the following provisions of the Santa Rosa County Animal Control Ordinance, the Animal Control Officer or his designated agents shall have the discretion to either issue a warning with no civil penalty or issue a citation. The Board of County Commissioners shall establish by resolution the penalties for each infraction.

However, any person issued a citation for a first offense violation may purchase a pet license in lieu of the fine, the person must present proof of current vaccination and pet license to the clerk's office within ten (10) days of issuance of the citation.

The time period for repeat violations shall be measured based on the date of issuance of the citation. An owner shall be guilty of a repeat violation regardless of whether the original or repeat violations are attributable to the same animal.

Any person cited for violation of the Animal Control Ordinance under this Section shall be deemed to be charged with a non-criminal infraction. Any person cited for an infraction under this section shall sign and accept a citation acknowledging receipt of the citation and indicating a promise to appear in court if such person wishes to contest the charge(s).

Any person who willfully refuses to sign and accept a citation issued by an officer

shall be guilty of a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in Section 19.

Pursuant to Florida Statute 828.27(6), the Animal Control Officer may require a mandatory court appearance for any violation of this Ordinance: resulting in the unprovoked biting, attacking, or wounding of a person, or domestic animal; resulting in the destruction or loss of personal property; second or subsequent violations of animal cruelty provisions, or violations resulting in the issuance of a third or subsequent citations to a person.

The citation will clearly inform the person of the mandatory court appearance.

If a person receiving a citation fails to pay the civil penalty, fails to appear in court to contest the citation, or fails to appear in court for a mandatory court appearance, the court may issue an order to show cause upon the request of the county. This order shall require such persons to appear before the court to explain why action on the citation has not been taken. If any person who is issued such an order fails to appear in response to the court's directive, that person may be held in contempt of court.

Any person cited with a violation of this section of the Animal Control Ordinance may pay the civil penalty within ten (10) days of the date of receiving the citation. If the person cited follows the above procedure, he shall be deemed to have admitted the infraction and to have waived his right to a trial on the issue of commission of the violation.

If a person fails to pay the civil penalty within ten (10) days of receipt of the citation, the Clerk's Office shall issue a notice to appear. The Clerk's Office shall assess a \$10.00 late fee for each penalty paid after the initial ten (10) day period but paid prior to the day for which a court appearance is scheduled.

Failure to pay the civil penalty shall result in the recording of a lien in the amount of the civil penalty, late fee, and recording fees.

If the person fails to pay the civil penalty, fails to appear in court to contest the citation, or fails to appear in court as required, the court may issue an order to show cause upon the request of the governing body of the county or municipality. This order shall require such person to appear before the court to explain why action on the citation has not been taken. If any person who is issued such order fails to appear in response to the court's directive, that person may be held in contempt of court.

In the event an animal is impounded for violation of this Ordinance and the owner of the animal abandons the animal to the Division, the owner remains liable for the civil penalties imposed for violation of this Ordinance.

SECTION 6. VACCINATION OF ANIMALS REQUIRED. Every owner of an animal, four (4) months of age or older, shall cause such animal to be vaccinated against rabies by a licensed veterinarian with the U.S. approved rabies vaccine. Evidence of vaccination shall consist of a certificate signed by a license veterinarian administering the vaccine and containing pertinent data for identification of the animal. One copy of the certificate shall be given to the owner, one filed with the Division, and one retained by the person administering the vaccine.

SECTION 7. ANIMALS TO WEAR TAG. Coincident with the issuance of the Certificate of Inoculation as prescribed in Section 6, the person administering the vaccine shall be responsible for issuing a metal serially numbered rabies vaccination tag, which shall be valid for one (1) year period or three (3) year period from the date of vaccination. The animal owner must ensure that the tag is worn at all times. Animals under direct control while participating in an organized match, show, trial, hunt, or undergoing obedience training shall not be required to wear tags.

Exempt from Part: During legally declared hunting seasons, as they may be designated from year to year by the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission or the Legislature, hunting dogs will be exempt from the terms of this Code when engaged in a hunt or at-large as a result of a hunt.

SECTION 8. UNVACCINATED ANIMALS. The Animal Control Officer shall impound wherever found, any dogs not vaccinated as required by Section 6 of this Ordinance if the owner cannot be located/identified. Any animal found without his vaccination tag shall be presumed not inoculated until proved otherwise. An animal impounded under this section shall be released for vaccination to such veterinarian as the owner of the dog shall direct or to the owner, provided the owner pays for the vaccination of the dog, no later than 72 hours of release. The owner should be offered a financial incentive to sterilize, microchip and vaccinate the dog in lieu of a citation and boarding fees.

SECTION 9. IMPOUNDMENT. In the event the owner of any dog impounded under any section of this Ordinance fails to reclaim it within three (3) days from the impounding date, the County animal shelter may make such disposition of the animal as is in the public interest. Litters of kittens or puppies shall be held for one (day).

Dogs and cats impounded will be microchipped with appropriate information. After an animal has been impounded three (3) times animal services shall sterilize the animal prior to the owner reclaiming the animal. Written notice will be given each time an animal has been impounded to include the number of impoundments on the animal along with conditions for reclaiming.

Impoundment, redemption, and adoption fees shall be charged as established by resolution of the Board of County Commissioners. An owner claiming an unvaccinated dog will be required to have the animal vaccinated within seventy-two (72) hours as required in Section 8 of this ordinance if a veterinarian is not available at the shelter.

SECTION 10. DISEASED OR INJURED ANIMALS. In the event any animal is impounded because of any infectious or contagious disease or injury, the Animal Control Officer shall have full and complete authority to procure the services of a trained veterinary surgeon, in order to treat such disease or injury, if in the opinion of such persons it can be successfully treated. In the event the Animal Control Officer is of the opinion that the health and safety of the citizenry of Santa Rosa County would be jeopardized by the continued existence of such infected animal or injured animal or that the animal's condition requires that the animal be put to death in a humane manner, then such animal may be euthanized and the remains disposed of without compensation being paid to the owner.

SECTION 11. POISONING ANIMALS PROHIBITED. Any person who shall poison, or aid, abet or assist in the poisoning or putting out or placing of poison at any point or place outside of buildings where animals may secure the same shall be guilty of a misdemeanor of the second degree and punished as provided for in Section 21 of this Ordinance.

SECTION 12. ANIMAL CONTROL.

(1) Public Places: Animals are prohibited from entering public places in Santa Rosa County such as airports, hotels, restaurants, theaters, public conveyances, grocery stores, or other establishments serving food, beverages or staple foods. This section shall not apply to animals trained to assist law enforcement, the disabled or other service animals.

(2) Schools and Beaches: It shall be unlawful for the owner of an animal to allow an animal in public places of Santa Rosa County such as school grounds, beaches and playgrounds except dog friendly parks. List maintained at animal services and on webpage.

(3) The above subsections shall not be construed to prohibit the showing and training of dogs in appropriate locations of auditoriums, schools, parks, parking lots, armories, theaters, and similar public or privately-owned areas. The above two subsections shall not apply to animals utilized by law enforcement agencies.

(4) Damage by dogs; classification of dangerous dogs.

(a) Santa Rosa County adopts by reference as a part of this chapter all of F.S. Ch 767.12, as the same may be amended from time to time. In the event of a conflict between F.S. Ch. 767.12, and this chapter, the provisions of the statute shall control. The procedure for classification of dogs as dangerous as required by F.S. Ch. 767.12 are set forth below.

F. S. 767.012.

(b) After the investigation, the Division shall make an initial determination as to whether there is sufficient cause to classify the dog as dangerous and shall afford the owner an opportunity for a hearing prior to making a final determination. The Division shall provide written notification of the sufficient cause finding, to the owner, by registered mail, hand delivery, or service in conformance with the provisions of Chapter 48 relating to service of process. The owner may file a written request for a hearing within seven (7) calendar days from the date of receipt of the notification of the sufficient cause finding and, if requested, the hearing shall be held as soon as possible. Further, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 767 of the Florida Statutes, individuals may provide duly sworn formal complaints to Animal Control requesting that a dog be classified as "dangerous". The Division shall investigate reported incidents involving dogs that may be dangerous and shall require sworn formal complaints from individuals desiring to have a dog classified as dangerous. The Division may then seek to have the dog classified as dangerous. A committee consisting of the County Administrator, Public Safety Director, and County Risk Manager shall conduct the hearing and make the determination of whether the dog shall be classified as dangerous. The criteria specified in F.S. 767.11 of this Ordinance shall be used in making this determination.

Decisions of the committee shall be final and not appealable to the Board of County Commissioners but may be appealed by petition for Writ of Certiora to the Circuit Court. The decisions of the committee shall be issued in writing.

The provisions of F.S. 767.13, 767.135, and 767.136 and 767.716 are hereby adopted by this ordinance and incorporated herein by reference

(5) Animal Control Department to maintain list of dogs classified as dangerous.

- a) A publicly accessible list of all dogs classified as dangerous shall be maintained by the county animal control department.
- b) The list shall include:
 - (1) The dog's name;
 - (2) The address at which the dog resides;
 - (3) A physical description of the dog and the dog's breed (if known); and
 - (4) The dog's identification number.
- c) The department shall update this information when notified that a dog classified as dangerous has moved.

(6) **Female Animals in Season.** The owner of any female animal in heat which does not keep such animal confined in a building or secure enclosure, veterinary hospital, or boarding kennel in such a manner that such female animal cannot come in contact with another animal, except for intentional breeding purposes, shall be guilty of a civil infraction and punished as provided for in Section 21 of this Ordinance. Any female animal not confined as herein provided shall be impounded and shall not be redeemed during said period of heat. This section shall not apply to female animals while entered in organized shows.

(7) **Disposition of Dead Animals.** Any person may, on his own real property, bury or dispose of any dead animal, provided such person places not less than three (3) feet of earth over the carcass of the animal. The impounding officer shall not be responsible for disposing of dead animals found on private property. Such disposal shall be the responsibility of the animal owner or property owner.

(8) **Animal Nuisances Prohibited.** For purposes of this section, the term "animal" shall also include fowl, except in agriculturally zoned districts. Any animal or animals that habitually or continuously bark, howl, make noise, or otherwise disturb the peace and quiet of the inhabitants of Santa Rosa County or are kept or maintained in such a manner or in such numbers as to disturb by noxious or offensive odors or otherwise endanger the health and welfare of the inhabitants of Santa Rosa County are declared to be an animal nuisance. Furthermore, animals who damage private property or shall be deemed to create a nuisance. Any person who keeps, harbors, or maintains an animal nuisance as defined above shall be guilty of a civil infraction and punishable as provided in Section 21 of this Ordinance.

(9) **Direct Control.** It shall be a violation of this Ordinance for any animal to be off the premises of its owner or person responsible for said animal, without being in direct control of its owner, person responsible therefor, or other person. Dogs not under direct control shall be considered an animal nuisance and may be seized, restrained, impounded, and disposed of

as provided by this Ordinance for any unlicensed animal.

- (a) Direct control as required above shall apply only to the areas of Santa Rosa County which may be designated by Ordinance of the Board of County Commissioners duly adopted from time to time. These areas shall be referred to herein as "direct control" areas. Those areas specified in Santa Rosa County Ordinances 79-03, 79-09, 79-10, 80-02, 81-06, 81-09, 82-08, 83-01, 83-06, 84-06, 85-27, 86-20, 87-01, 87-02, 88-19, 89-14, 89-25, 90-26, 91-23, 91-29, 92-18, 93-27, 93-28, 94-18, 94-20, 95-13, 96-25, 99-06, 99-12, 2000-20, 2001-08, 2001-09, or any other ordinance are hereby designated direct control areas without adoption of any additional ordinance. Additionally, all incorporated areas subject to the provisions of this ordinance pursuant to Section 18 shall be direct control areas.
- (b) Additional ordinances adding certain areas to or deleting certain areas from the "direct control" area may be adopted from time to time. Such additional ordinances may be adopted on the Board's own motion or may be adopted after receipt of a petition from residents of an area requesting that such area be added to or deleted from the "direct control" area.

(10) **Animal Neglect / Cruelty.** Any owner or person, who neglects an animal by reason of failing to provide adequate food, drink proper medical care or shelter, which does not result in serious injury or death to the animal, shall be guilty of a civil infraction punishable as provided in Section 19 of this Ordinance.

Any person who overloads, overdrives, torments, deprives of necessary sustenance or shelter, or unnecessarily mutilates, or kills any animal, or causes the same to be done, or carries in or upon any vehicle, or otherwise, any animal in a cruel or inhumane manner, is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in Florida Statute 775.082 or a fine of not more than \$5,000, or both.

Any person who intentionally commits an act to any animal which results in the cruel death, or excessive or repeated infliction of unnecessary pain or suffering, or causes the same to be done, is guilty of a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in Florida Statute 775.082 or by a fine of not more than \$10,000, or both.

(11) **Animals in Motor Vehicles.**

A. The owner or operator of a motor vehicle shall not place or confine an animal, nor allow an animal to be placed or confined in an unattended motor vehicle without sufficient ventilation or under conditions which may endanger the health or well-being of the animal due to heat, lack of water or any other circumstances which may cause suffering, disability or death.

B. Any Animal Control Officer or law enforcement officer who observes an animal in a motor vehicle in obvious danger or distress may enter the motor vehicle by any means necessary to remove and impound the animal or take the animal to a veterinarian if necessary. If the owner of said animal cannot be contacted, the Animal Control Officer or law enforcement officer shall leave in a prominent place in or upon the vehicle a written notice as to the reason for removal of the animal. The owner of the animal and the owner of the motor vehicle are responsible for any costs incurred.

C. Any person violating the provisions of this Section shall upon conviction be guilty of a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided for in Florida Statutes.

SECTION 13. ENFORCEMENT FOR VIOLATION.

- (1) The impounding Officer shall impound:
 - (a) Any animal found to be cruelly treated as defined in Section 12(9), or any animal suspected or believed to be infected with rabies or any infectious disease. Each animal so apprehended which is suspected to have or exhibits symptoms of having rabies or an infectious or contagious disease shall be segregated from other animals so as to prevent said animal from coming in contact with any animal.
- (2) The Animal Control Officer shall, in the event an animal is deemed in violation of this Ordinance or is owned, kept, harbored, or maintained in violation of this

Ordinance:

- (a) Issue a "Citation" to the owner of such animal; such "Citation" shall be in the form specified in Section 5; and/or
- (b) Impound such animal.

SECTION 14. TAG REMOVALS. No person, except the owner, or his authorized agent, shall remove any vaccination tag from a dog's collar or remove any collar with a tag attached thereto from any dog. No person shall keep or harbor a dog with a fictitious, altered or invalid tag, or a tag not issued in connection with the vaccination of the animal wearing the same. No license tag issued for one animal shall be transferable to another animal.

SECTION 15. ANIMALS TRAINED AS SERVICE ANIMALS. It shall be unlawful for any person owning, operating, or maintaining any public place of business or conveyance into which the general public is invited for any business purpose to exclude therefrom any animal which has been trained as service animals, provided that such animal be in the company of the person whom it was trained to assist.

SECTION 16. INTERFERING WITH THE ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER; DAMAGING COUNTY POUND; RELEASING ANIMALS PROHIBITED. Any person who shall in any manner interfere with, hinder, resist, obstruct, or molest the Animal Control Officer in the performance of his duty, or without authority of a Court having jurisdiction to try violations of this Ordinance or without authority under this Ordinance seek to release or remove any animal from the custody of the Animal Control Officer, or tear down, burn, deface, destroy, or otherwise injure any County Pound or enclosure thereof shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and punished as provided for in Section 21 of this Ordinance.

SECTION 17. EXEMPTIONS FROM PROVISIONS OF ORDINANCE. The tag and vaccination requirements of Sections 6, 7, and 8 of this Ordinance shall not apply to any animal belonging to a non-resident of the County and kept within the County for not longer than thirty (30) days; provided the animal had been vaccinated against rabies and the owner shall at all times comply with all other provisions of this Ordinance. Community cats are exempt from wearing a rabies tag on a collar.

SECTION 18. OPERATIVE IN UNINCORPORATED AREA; ADOPTION OF TERMS BY MUNICIPALITIES. This Ordinance shall apply to and be enforced in all unincorporated area of Santa Rosa County and any incorporated area of Santa Rosa County that adopts an ordinance incorporating the terms of this Ordinance.

SECTION 19. ADOPTION. All cats and dogs placed for adoption shall be vaccinated and sterilized as required by Florida Statute 823.15.

SECTION 20. QUARANTINE REQUIREMENTS. Quarantine is an official order that limits the freedom of movement and actions of animals as set forth in the document "Rabies Prevention and control in Florida, 2000". For this section any animal that bites a human will require a ten (10) day Quarantine. With a Memorandum of Understanding with Santa Rosa County Health Department the Santa Rosa County Animal Control Officers have the authority to:

- (1) Certify the adequacy of the quarantine site.
- (2) Assure the owner of the animal signs a home quarantine responsibility statement. Failure to adhere to the home quarantine requirements will require the animal to be quarantined at the County facility.
- (3) If animal is unvaccinated the officer has the discretion to require the animal to be quarantined at the Santa Rosa County Animal Services Shelter. The owner may choose to quarantine the animal at a Santa Rosa County Veterinarians Facility. The owner is responsible for all expenses related to the quarantine.
- (4) The Santa Rosa County Health Department will be responsible for the termination of the Quarantine process.
- (5) If the animal is impounded there will be a redemption fee for the ten (10) day

quarantine period and an impound fee for each additional day after the ten (10) days. Charges shall be established by the Board of County Commissioners.

SECTION 21. PENALTY. Any person who shall violate any of the provisions of this Ordinance or amendments thereto, who shall fail, neglect or refuse to comply with order or notice or in pursuance and by authority of this Ordinance shall be guilty of a civil infraction as provided for in Resolution 2019-24.

SECTION 22. SEVERABILITY. The provisions of this Ordinance shall be deemed to be separate and independent of all other provisions herein and if any provisions of this Ordinance are declared invalid or void for any reason, the validity thereof shall not affect the remaining provisions of this Ordinance.

SECTION 23. REPEALER. Santa Rosa County Ordinance 2004-30 is hereby repealed and replaced by this Ordinance.

SECTION 24. CODIFICATION. The provisions of this Ordinance shall become and be made a part of the code of laws and ordinances of the County of Santa Rosa. The sections of this Ordinance may be renumbered or relettered to accomplish such, and the word “ordinance” may be changed to “section”, “article”, or any other appropriate word.

SECTION 25. EFFECTIVE DATE. A certified copy of this Ordinance shall be filed in the office of the Secretary of State within ten (10) days after enactment, and this Ordinance shall take effect upon receipt of official acknowledgment from that office that said Ordinance has been filed.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by a vote of 5 yeas, 0 nays, and 0 absent of the Board of County Commissioners of Santa Rosa County, Florida, on the 12th day of September, 2019.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SANTA ROSA COUNTY, FLORIDA**

By: _____
Sam Parker, Chairman

ATTEST:

Donald C. Spencer, Clerk of Court

I, Donald C. Spencer, Clerk of Court of Santa Rosa County, Florida, do hereby certify that the same was adopted and filed of record and sent electronically to the Secretary of the State of Florida, on this _____ day of _____, 2019.

Donald C. Spencer, Clerk of Court