

**COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
BULLITT COUNTY  
ORDINANCE NO. 24-14**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 17-11  
RELATING TO THE CONTROL OF ANIMALS  
WITHIN BULLITT COUNTY, KENTUCKY**

**WHEREAS**, the Fiscal Court of Bullitt County, Commonwealth of Kentucky has determined it necessary to provide regulations regarding animal control.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE FISCAL COURT OF BULLITT COUNTY, COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY:**

An Ordinance amending a previous Ordinance providing for the control of animals on premises, within county wide, including incorporated cities, for the protection of the public; penalties for violation.

**SECTION I  
DEFINITIONS**

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

***ABANDON.*** Leaving an animal for a period in excess of twenty-four (24) hours without providing someone to tend to the animal's basic necessities and humane care as defined by Ordinance; or by leaving an animal on public or private property without the consent of the property owner.

***ABANDONMENT.*** The relinquishment of all rights and claims by the owner to the animal.

***ANIMAL.*** Any domestic dog or cat, other than community cats.

***ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER.*** An individual employed or appointed by Fiscal Court and tasked with enforcing the provisions of the Kentucky Revised Statutes relating to cruelty, mistreatment, sexual crimes against, or torture of animals, and local animal control ordinances. An Animal Control Officer shall be sworn in as a peace officer by the Bullitt County Judge Executive, or designee, for the purposes of animal control.

***ANIMAL SHELTER.*** Any facility used to house or contain animals, operated or maintained by the Bullitt County Animal Control & Shelter (hereinafter "BCACS") under the authority of Bullitt County Fiscal Court.

**ATTACK.** A dog's attempt to bite or successful bite of a human being. This definition shall not apply to a dog's attack of a person who has illegally entered or is trespassing on the dog owner's property in violation of K.R.S. 511.060, 511.070, 511.080, or 511.090.

**COMMUNITY CAT.** Any free-roaming cat without apparent owner or identification.

**CONFINEMENT.** Animal kept under verbal or physical control while on the owner's property or with consent of the property owner.

**DESIGNATED LICENSE FACILITY.** Any person, facility, or business designated by resolution of the governing body of the county to collect license fees under K.R.S. 258.135.

**EUTHANASIA.** The act of putting an animal to death in a humane manner by methods specified as acceptable for the species by that most recent report of the American Veterinary Medical Association Panel of Euthanasia, subject to the requirement provided by K.R.S. 258.505.

**IMPOUND.** To take an animal into the care and custody of BCACS by an Animal Control Officer or authorized agent thereof.

**KENNEL/PET SHOP.** Any person, partnership or corporation engaged in the business of breeding, buying, selling or boarding dogs and cats.

**OWNER.** Any person who has a right, claim, title, legal share, or right of possession to an animal or a person having lawful control, custody, or possession of an animal.

**PERSONAL PET.** Any domestic animal kept for pleasure rather than for commercial purposes.

**PARTNER PLACEMENT ORGANIZATION.** A 501(c)(3) or other non-profit organization partnered with BCACS for the purposes of rescue and re-homing homeless animals.

**POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS DOG.** Any dog which, when unprovoked, (1) commits a severe attack upon a human causing serious physical trauma; (2) bites, injures or kills another domestic animal while that animal is restrained in compliance with this Ordinance; (3) approaches in a terrorizing manner, any person in an attitude of attack upon streets, sidewalks or any public grounds or places or while upon private property not owned by the dog's owner, or; (4) has a known propensity, tendency or disposition to unprovoked attacks which endanger the safety of humans or domestic animals.

**PROTECTIVE CUSTODY.** Owner has been taken by EMS to the hospital or has been taken to jail and animals are left behind with no one to care for them.

**QUALIFIED PERSON.** A person granted a permit by the Secretary of Health and Family Services to vaccinate his own animal against rabies.

**QUARANTINE.** Confinement of an animal for the observation of clinical signs of illness indicating rabies infection, and the prevention of escape or contact with any unauthorized person or other animal, for a period of ten (10) days from the date the animal bit a person.

**RESTRAINT.** Confinement and/or physical control of an animal by their owner such that they may not present a risk to public safety or act as a nuisance.

**STERILIZATION.** Surgical removal of the reproductive organs.

**STERILIZED.** Any animal having had their reproductive organs surgically removed.

**UNCLAIMED.** Any animal impounded by the Bullitt County Animal Control & Shelter that remains unclaimed by an owner following the end of the appropriate hold period.

**VACCINATION.** The administration by a veterinarian or other qualified person of rabies vaccine approved by and administered in accordance with administrative regulations promulgated by the secretary for health and family services.

**VETERINARIAN.** A licensed practitioner of veterinary medicine.

**VICIOUS DOG** means any individual dog declared by a court of competent jurisdiction to be a vicious dog.

**WORKING ANIMAL.** Any domestic animal kept and trained for the purposes of performing a specific task or tasks.

## **SECTION II** **RESTRAINT REQUIRED**

- (A) All animals designated as either (1) personal pets or (2) working animals shall, at all times, be kept under restraint as defined by Ordinance except as otherwise provided herein.
- (B) Any area and/or property zoned for agriculture shall be exempt from the restraint requirements as specified in Section II (A).
- (C) Any area and/or property zoned for conservation shall be exempt from the restraint requirements as specified in Section II (A).

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

- (A) **RABIES VACCINATION.** Every owner shall have their dog, cat, or ferret vaccinated against rabies beginning at four (4) months of age and kept immunized for the remainder of the animal's natural life in accordance with K.R.S. 258.015. Any animal deemed as medically unfit for vaccination by a licensed veterinarian shall be exempt from this

provision. Vaccinations shall be performed by a licensed veterinarian or other qualified person.

A rabies tag bearing a serial number corresponding to the vaccination certificate and year of immunization shall be furnished by the party having administered the vaccine. Every dog owner shall affix the tag to a collar or harness worn by the animal for which the tag was issued. Every cat and ferret owner shall show proof of a valid rabies vaccination upon request of an animal control officer or designee.

(B) **PET LICENSE.** Every owner shall purchase an individual pet license for each dog and/or cat, other than community cats, in their possession. Individual pet licenses are required at four (4) months of age with proof of a valid rabies vaccination. Any animal deemed medically unfit for vaccination must be accompanied with a verification note by a licensed veterinarian. The cost of an individual pet license shall be set by Fiscal Court resolution and posted for the public by BCACS.

(C) **KENNEL LICENSE.** Any entity, whether public, private, or charitable, involved in the boarding, breeding, sale, rehoming, or display of animals shall apply for the purchase of a kennel license. Entities with multiple locations must apply to license each location separately. A kennel license shall in addition to, as opposed to a replacement of, a conditional use permit as issued by Bullitt County Planning and Zoning. Veterinary hospitals, municipal county animal control facilities, and government operated zoological gardens shall be exempt from this provision.

Kennel licenses shall be awarded following an inspection by an animal control officer of BCACS (hereinafter "ACO") to verify compliance with Ordinance and agency policies/standards. Entities and/or locations that fail this inspection shall be denied licensure.

The cost of a kennel license shall be set by Fiscal Court resolution and posted for the public by BCACS. Each license shall last a duration not exceeding one (1) year.

(D) **NON-APPLICABILITY TO NON-RESIDENTS.** Non-residents of Kentucky shall be exempt from licensing their dog and/or cat provided that the animal not be kept in Bullitt County for a period exceeding thirty (30) days and the owner exercise the proper restraint of their animal as defined herein.

#### **SECTION IV IMPOUNDING**

(A) An ACO or other peace officer shall have the authority to seize and impound any dog which is found running at large. Any dog so seized shall be impounded in the animal shelter and confined in a humane manner. If, after a reasonable effort, (1) the seizure of an unrestrained dog cannot be made, (2) the dog presents a hazard to public safety or property,

or (3) has an injury or physical condition which causes the dog to suffer, the ACO may immediately destroy the dog by the most reasonable and humane means then available.

- (B) An ACO or other peace officer shall have the authority to seize and impound any animal found to be kept in conditions that do not meet the standard of humane care as set forth in Ordinance. This shall include animals abandoned by their owner. The ACO or peace officer shall leave a written notice of seizure detailing the reason for impoundment and location of the animal.
- (C) Impounded dogs shall be kept for not less than five (5) days, unless reclaimed by the owner, custodian or other person entitled thereto. If a dog has an injury or physical condition which causes it to suffer, BCACS may immediately euthanize the animal, and, if a human being has been bitten by the dog, it shall be tested for rabies.
- (D) In the event BCACS is unable to humanely care for the animal for the length of the five (5) day hold, said animal may be immediately routed to the most appropriate outcome.
- (E) Owners reclaiming a personal pet impounded by BCACS shall produce proof of a valid rabies vaccination and individual pet license before the animal may be released. If unable to produce the required documentation, the owner shall purchase a rabies vaccination voucher and/or individual pet license. Owners shall additionally be responsible for all fees and/or fines associated with the impoundment of the animal. If the owner can be identified, said fees and/or fines are due even if the owner does not reclaim the animal.
- (F) Any dog, cat, or ferret that has bitten a person shall be maintained in quarantine by the owner for ten (10) days starting from the date the bite occurred. BCACS shall notify the Bullitt County Health Department of any bite inflicted by a dog, cat, or ferret upon learning of the incident. If the animal is destroyed or dies of its own accord before the end of ten (10) days it shall be tested for rabies.
- (G) Owners unable to properly quarantine their animal following a bite may have the offending animal impounded by BCACS for the remainder of the quarantine period. Owners shall be responsible for all fees associated with the impoundment and quarantine of the animal.
- (H) Owners who fail to properly quarantine their animal following a bite shall be subject to a citation for violation of K.R.S. 258.215 and the animal shall be impounded by BCACS for the remainder of the quarantine period. Owners shall be responsible for all fees and/or fines associated with the impoundment and quarantine of the animal.
- (I) All fees and fines pertaining to the impoundment and quarantine of animals by BCACS shall be set by Fiscal Court resolution and posted for the public by BCACS.
- (J) It shall be unlawful for any person to entice an animal from the yard or enclosure of its owner, or owner's designee, or to bring any animal into the County for the purposes of impoundment with BCACS.

**SECTION V**  
**ADOPTION**

All animals adopted by BCACS shall be sterilized, vaccinated in accordance with K.R.S. 258.015, and microchipped before possession and legal custody can be transferred into the adopter's name.

**SECTION VI**  
**DROP-OFF FEE**

- (A) BCACS shall permit the impoundment of animals during regularly scheduled business hours. To offset the costs incurred by the County in providing care to impounded animals, any individual that turns an animal over to BCACS shall be responsible for a "drop-off" fee. Said fee shall be set by Fiscal Court resolution and posted for the public by BCACS.
- (B) Any individual who (1) releases or abandons an animal on or in the vicinity of the animal shelter outside of regular business hours, (2) without paying the applicable fee, and/or (3) without following agency protocols for impoundment shall be in violation of this section.

**SECTION VII**  
**CONFINEMENT OF ANIMAL WHEN IN HEAT**

Any female animal in heat shall be confined by the owner in a building or secure enclosure in such a manner that the animal cannot come into contact with another animal of the same species except for instances of planned breeding under direct 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) Owners shall not fail to provide their animal with (1) good, wholesome food, (2) clean water, (3) appropriate shelter and protection from the weather, (4) veterinary care when needed to prevent suffering, and (5) humane care and treatment.
- (B) Appropriate shelter shall include a structure consisting of four walls, a roof, and a floor augmented with resting boards. The shelter shall be constructed to protect the animal from precipitation and of a material which provides insulation from temperature extremes. It shall be maintained in such a way so as to promote proper drainage of rainwater to prevent the accumulation of standing water and/or mud. It shall be cleaned regularly so as to promote the proper health for the animal being so kept, including clearing the space of

accumulated waste and debris so that the animal shall be free to walk or lie down without coming into contact with any such waste and/or debris. Insulation bedding materials shall be provided during inclement weather extremes.

- (C) Owners who keep an animal tethered by chain, leash, or similar physical restraint shall ensure that it is designed and placed in such a way as to prevent the animal from choking or strangulation. The restraint shall measure not less than ten (10) feet in length and shall connect via swivel or trolley so that the animal has free range of motion. The restraint shall not be placed in such a way that the animal is denied access to the provisions enumerated in (A) and (B) of this section.
- (D) Owners shall not abandon an animal. Any individual, whether owner, owner's designee, or other person tasked with the animal's care, that so abandons an animal shall be subject to a citation for violation of K.R.S. 525.130(1)(a).
- (E) No person shall willingly or maliciously inflict unnecessary or needless cruelty, torture, abuse or cruelly beat or strike any animal, or, by an act, omission or neglect, cause or inflict any unnecessary or unjustifiable pain, suffering, injury or death to any animal, except as provided by herein.
  - a. Reasonable use of force implemented in the self-defense, defense of another person, or the defense of one's personal pet and/or livestock against an animal behaving in a vicious or terrorizing manner shall exempt from this provision.
- (F) No person except a licensed veterinarian shall crop a dog's ears.

## **SECTION X** **ACTIONS PROHIBITED**

- (A) No person, firm, organization, or group shall raise or kill a dog or cat for food or the skin or fur.
- (B) No person, firm, organization, or group shall mutilate any animal, whether dead or alive. This provision shall not apply to accepted livestock practices concerning humane slaughter.

## **SECTION XI** **DISEASED ANIMALS**

Any animal with, or suspected of being afflicted with, a contagious disease shall be confined by the owner in such a manner as to limit exposure to those, whether human or animal, whose health may be so affected.

## **SECTION XII** **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 XIII**  
**EFFECTIVE DATE**

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

**SECTION XIV**  
**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 XV**

All ordinances and resolutions, to the extent they are inconsistent herewith, are hereby repealed.

**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 and public hearing at a Regular Meeting of the Bullitt County Fiscal Court on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of May, 2024.

Given second reading and voted upon at a Regular Meeting of the Bullitt County Fiscal Court on the 4<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2024.

  
Jerry Summers  
County Judge Executive


Date of Adoption: 6/04/24

Attested to:

Approved as to Form and Legality:



  
Fiscal Court Clerk

  
Bullitt County Attorney

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
BULLITT COUNTY  
ORDINANCE NO. 24-14

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 17-11  
RELATING TO THE CONTROL OF ANIMALS  
WITHIN BULLITT COUNTY, KENTUCKY

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

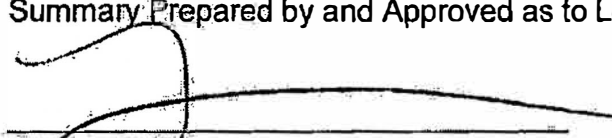
**SUMMARY**

1. Sets forth definitions.
2. Sets forth restraint required.
3. Sets forth dogs and cats to be licensed and vaccinated against rabies.
4. Sets forth impoundment procedures.
5. Sets forth that adopted animals shall be sterilized.
6. Sets forth drop-off fee and procedures.
7. Sets forth that animals shall be confined when in heat.
8. Sets forth that no animal shall be permitted to be a public nuisance.
9. Sets forth animals shall be treated humanely.
10. Sets forth prohibition of using dogs or cats as food or clothing.
11. Sets forth diseased animals shall be contained.
12. Sets forth interference prohibited.
13. Sets forth effective date.
14. Sets forth severability.
15. Sets forth inconsistent Ordinances repealed.
16. Sets forth penalty.

Given first reading at a Regular Meeting of the Bullitt County Fiscal Court on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of May, 2024.

To be given second reading at a Regular Meeting of the Bullitt County Fiscal Court on the 4<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2024.

Summary Prepared by and Approved as to Legality and Form by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Tammy R. Baker', written over a horizontal line.

Tammy R. Baker  
Bullitt County Attorney