

CITY OF ST. GEORGE

BY COUNCILMEMBER COOK:

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-003

AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE POSSESSION, REGISTRATION, AND CONTROL OF ANIMALS, ENFORCEMENT THEREOF TO PROVIDE FOR RELATED MATTERS.

WHEREAS, the City of St. George (“St. George”) desires to adopt an ordinance to further assure the healthy and humane treatment and care of domestic pets within St. George and to enhance the safety of citizens and pets within St. George against the threats of nuisance, potentially dangerous, dangerous or vicious domestic animals

BE IT ORDAINED by St. George City Council:

Section 1: Enactment

Title 3 of the Code of Ordinances is hereby enacted to read as follows:

**Title 3
ANIMALS
CHAPTER 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

Sec. 3:1. Definitions.

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this Chapter, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Abandon means to completely forsake and desert an animal previously under the custody or possession of a person, without making reasonable arrangements to provide for its proper care, sustenance, shelter and medical care.

Animal means any live or dead vertebrate creature, not to include fish, or homo sapiens.

Animal Control Center or Center means the animal control center established by the Metropolitan Council, its Director, agents, and employees. The Center shall have jurisdiction in to enforce any applicable law or ordinance.

Animal Control Director or Director means the Animal Control Center’s director, whose powers, duties and responsibilities shall be delegated to him by the St. George City Council and the Mayor and who shall be responsible to the St. George City Council and the Mayor in the discharge of such duties and responsibilities.

Animal Establishment means a facility operated as a pet shop, grooming shop, private shelter, commercial or private kennel, boarding dogs or cats or training of dogs for any purpose. Animal shelters operated by public jurisdiction or veterinary medical facilities, accredited zoos or accredited institutions of higher learning are exempt from this definition.

Animal Shelter means a facility operated by a public body for the purpose of impounding, harboring, selling, placing or destroying seized, stray, distressed, homeless, abandoned or unwanted animals in compliance with the standards set forth and amended in Article 9, Animal and Animal Products, Chapter 1, Animal and Plant Health Services, United States Department of Agriculture Animal Welfare Act of 1970 (Public Law 91-579).

Cat means any member of the species *felis domesticus*, excluding any and all other members of the family *felidae* or hybrids of *felis domesticus*.

Cat yard means an owner's yard or an enclosure which shall be used to retain or confine a cat.

Commercial kennel means any person engaged in the commercial breeding of dogs or cats, or both, for sale, individually or in litter lots; or in the boarding, training, sale or hire of dogs and cats for compensation. Animal hospitals, maintained by a veterinarian licensed by the state as part of the practice of veterinary medicine, shelters operated by a public jurisdiction, tax-exempt humane organizations or private kennels shall not be considered commercial kennels.

Common carrier means any airline, railroad, motor carrier, shipping line or other enterprise which is engaged in the business of transporting things for hire.

Cruel means any act or failure to act, whereby unjustifiable physical pain or suffering is caused or permitted.

Dog means any member of the species *canis familiaris*, excluding any and all other members of the family *canidae* or hybrids of *canis familiaris*.

Dog pen means any enclosure used for retaining a dog or dogs having an area of less than 1,200 square feet per animal.

Dog yard means an enclosure for restraining or retaining a dog, whether by use of a fence, a tether which shall be a minimum of five times the length of the animal as measured from nose to the base of the tail, a proper invisible fence or other means; having an area of 1,200 square feet or greater for one dog, plus a minimum of 300 square feet for each additional dog. Enclosed patios in apartments or multi housing situations are exempt as long as the area is kept clean, disinfected and odor free and does not cause a nuisance.

Excessive barking means animal noises of such a loudness, intensity, and duration as to prevent or interfere with a person's ability to enjoy his property, including but not limited to, situations where:

- (1) On more than one occasion has awakened the complainant up from sleep; or

- (2) Continues in such a manner so as to cause mental anguish or suffering, loss of sleep, or a disturbance of the peace.

Excessive noise making means animal noises of such a loudness, intensity, and duration as to prevent or interfere with a person's ability to enjoy his property, including but not limited to, situations where:

- (1) On more than one occasion has awakened the complainant up from sleep; or
- (2) Continues in such a manner so as to disturb the comfort or repose of persons, dwelling in the vicinity of where the animal or bird is kept.

Excessive odor means odor of such intensity and duration as to prevent or interfere with a person's ability to enjoy his property, including but not limited to situations where the odor continues in such a manner as to cause mental anguish and suffering or such as to disturb the comfort or repose of persons dwelling in the vicinity of where the animal or bird is kept.

Exotic animal means all species of vertebrate animals not naturally occurring, either presently or historically, in any ecosystem in the United States, including hybrids thereof, including but not limited to, lions, tigers, jaguars, leopards, cheetahs, jackals, hyenas, ocelots, margay, primates (excluding homo sapiens) bears, elephants, rhinoceros, hippopotamuses, wildebeests, buffalo, bison, warthogs, antelope, deer, or poisonous snakes, excluding avians (birds) and nonpoisonous reptiles, excluding caimans and gavials.

Hunting or show animals mean animals used for hunting or for exhibitions, shows, trials, or events.

Livestock means any horse, mule, donkey, bovine, sheep, pig, goat, or llama.

Nuisance means damaging, soiling, defiling, or defecating on property other than its owner's or on public sidewalks, excessive noise making, excessive odor, excessive barking, molesting, threatening, attacking or interfering with persons on public or private property, chasing automobiles or other means of conveyance, attacking other animals and disturbing or turning over garbage containers or running at large or interfering with another person's enjoyment of his property is hereby declared a nuisance.

Owner means any person having a right of property or custody of an animal or who keeps, harbors, finds or knowingly permits the animal to remain on or about his premises shall be deemed the owner of the animal.

Person means any individual, business, partnership, corporation, firm, organization or association or other legal entity.

Pet shop means a person who obtains animals for sale, exchange, barter or hire to the general public as a principal or agent, or who holds himself out to be so engaged.

Primary enclosure means any structure used to immediately restrict an animal to a limited amount of space, such as a room, pen, run, cage, compartment, or hutch.

Private animal welfare society means an organization organized and operated exclusively for the prevention of cruelty to animals.

Private kennel means any person who maintains within or adjoining his residence a kennel housing more than 12 dogs or cats over four months of age, such animals to be for that person's recreational use or for exhibition in conformation shows or field or obedience trails, and where the sale of offspring is not the primary function of the kennel.

Proper invisible fencing means any such fencing utilizing an electronic restraining correction system, which when combined with conditioning, prevents any dog from leaving the owner's property.

Severely injured means any animal which because of major trauma, broken bones, blood loss, or other easily apparent life-threatening condition, will not be expected to live and is in severe pain or suffering.

Standards means the requirements with respect to the humane handling, care, treatment, and transportation of animals by persons.

State means a state of the United States, the District of Columbia, Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, or any other territory or possession of the United States.

Stray means any dog or cat that is found, observed, or impounded while at large or secured by a complainant and is not physically wearing a rabies license tag or any other means of identification.

Tag means the metal rabies tag, supplied at the time of registration and rabies vaccination.

Terminally ill means any animal that, because of apparent sickness or condition, is not expected to live and is in dire physical distress.

Vaccinate means the administration of an antirabies vaccine to an animal by a licensed veterinarian in accordance with the latest compendium of animal rabies vaccines and recommendations for immunization published by the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians.

Veterinarian means any licensed veterinary practitioner.

Wild animal means any living member of the kingdom animalia, including those born or raised in captivity, occurring naturally either presently or historically, within the boundaries of the United States, including hybrids thereof, except the following:

- (1) The species *Homo sapiens* (human beings).
- (2) Licensed and legally antirabies-vaccinated:
 - a. Ferrets.

- b. The species *canis familiaris* (domestic dogs, excluding hybrids and other wild canids).
 - c. The species *felis domesticus* (domestic cats, excluding hybrids).
 - (3) The species *equus caballus* (domestic horses or hybrids thereof).
 - (4) The species *equus asinus* (asses/donkeys or hybrids thereof).
 - (5) The species *bos domesticus*, *bos indicus*, *bos taurus* (cattle).
 - (6) The subspecies *ovis ammon aries* (sheep).
 - (7) The species *capra hircus* (goats).
 - (8) The subspecies *sus scrofa domestica* (swine).
 - (9) Domesticated races of the species *gallus gallus* or *meleagris allopavo* (poultry).
 - (10) Domesticated races of the species *mesocricetus auratus* (golden hamsters).
 - (11) Domesticated races of the subspecies *cavia aperea procelus* (guinea pigs).
 - (12) Domesticated races of rats or mice, gerbils (white or albino, trained, laboratory raised).
 - (13) Domesticated races of the species *oryctolagus cuniculus* (rabbits), chinchillas.
 - (14) Avians (birds).
 - (15) Nonpoisonous reptiles, excluding alligators and crocodiles.
- Worked* means using an animal for hunting, obedience training, or showing.

Sec. 3:2. Animal control officers.

- (a) The East Baton Rouge Parish Animal Control Center shall have the authority to appoint animal control officers and such other personnel as it deems proper for maintaining a public animal shelter and to enforce the provisions of this Chapter.
- (b) The Director shall appoint and duly commission animal control officers, who shall have the following limited police powers:
 - (1) Issue citations for the enforcement of this ordinance, as well as take action necessary to enforce state statutes regarding animal cruelty.
 - (2) Obtain warrants for such violations and assist law enforcement personnel in making arrests for such violations.
 - (3) Submit affidavits to the courts regarding such violations.

Secs. 3:3—3:18. Reserved.

CHAPTER 2. DOMESTICATED ANIMALS

Sec. 3:19. Requirements for possession.

No person shall own, keep, or harbor any dog or cat over the age of three months within St. George without having:

- (1) The dog or cat vaccinated for rabies on a yearly basis by a licensed veterinarian, except in case of injury or any other medical condition that would preclude proper vaccination of the dog or cat or endanger the health of the animal and only upon receipt by the Center of a letter signed by a licensed veterinarian requesting an exception until the medical condition is resolved to the point that vaccination is no longer a threat to the health of the dog or cat;
- (2) Registered the dog or cat with the Center upon presentation of a certificate of such rabies inoculation; and

(3) Tagged or licensed the dog or cat as hereinafter specified.

Sec. 3:20. Registration.

- (a) It shall be the duty of the owner of every dog or cat to register same with the Center, to pay all pertinent fees and to obtain and to retain at all times the certificate of registration, giving the name and address of the owner, a description of the dog or cat by sex, color, date of birth or estimated approximate age and weight; and the breed of the dog or cat if known; and the Center shall record all such information. The tag referred to herein shall be securely fastened at all times to a collar or harness which must be worn at all times by the dog or cat for which the tag was issued. Law enforcement dogs, hunting dogs and show dogs or cats while being worked and/or shown under the supervision of their owner or agents or employees, are exempted from wearing the above-stated tag. Dogs or cats while under veterinary care or kept by institutions of higher learning are also exempted.
- (b) The registration renewal date shall be one year from the date of vaccination and initial registration, on an annual basis, for both the one-year and the triennial vaccination option. No animal shall be licensed without a current rabies vaccination. A licensed veterinarian will perform the registration upon proof of rabies vaccination. New residents must make application for registration and license within 30 days of establishing residence in St. George.
- (c) The requirements imposed by this section shall not apply to dogs or cats kept by regularly chartered medical colleges, veterinary schools or other educational or scientific institutions and used for scientific purposes; or veterinary hospitals or public animal control centers or private animal welfare societies; or dogs used for law enforcement purposes by law enforcement agencies; or registered dogs used by the blind, deaf or disabled.
- (d) Persons failing to obtain a license within the yearly period specified in this section will be subjected to a fine of \$50.
- (e) A 30-day grace period shall apply to owners who have failed to fulfill the requirements of section 3:19, after their license due date has expired. If the owner fulfills the requirements of that section, the \$50 fine shall be waived; however, all other fees shall still apply.
- (f) All ferrets shall be licensed and vaccinated against rabies using USDA-approved vaccine at three months of age and yearly thereafter. A license registration form shall be used by the administering veterinarian to prove vaccination.
- (g) All veterinary hospitals, clinics, animal feed stores, pet supply facilities, animal establishments and any establishment, where animal vaccines are sold shall post a sign, supplied by the Center, in a conspicuous location stating:
"For The Public Health And Safety, the St. George Animal Control Ordinance Requires All Dogs, Cats And Ferrets Over Three Months Of Age To Be:
 - 1. Vaccinated against rabies by a licensed veterinarian on a yearly basis.
 - 2. Registered with the Center on a yearly basis.
 - 3. Tagged with the rabies license tag on a collar or harness. Exception: Ferrets shall be exempt from wearing tags.
 - 4. Prevented from running at large and/or causing a nuisance.

For your convenience, your veterinarian collects the registration fees. These fees fund the Animal Control and Rescue Center's public health and safety function by administering the rabies program, investigating cruelty, dog-fighting and dangerous

animal cases and conducting animal rescues, stray animal, leash law and nuisance animal investigations involving domestic, exotic, wildlife and livestock animals.

Penalty: Up to \$500.”

Sec. 3:21. Registration tags.

- (a) It shall be the duty of the Center to furnish veterinarians with tags containing the registration number and the year for which such tag is issued. The color and shape of such tags shall be changed each year. Each registration and the tag issued pursuant thereto shall be valid from that date for a period of one year.
- (b) Any person who attaches the tag to any dog or cat other than the dog or cat for which it was issued shall be subject to the penalties provided herein.
- (c) For the purpose of compensating veterinarians who account for and remit rabies license fees, an amount equal to two percent of the amount of the fees due shall be allowed as a deduction when remitting such fees to the city/parish.
- (d) The Center shall recognize tags issued by legal licensing authorities of other parishes of this state and counties of another state, provided the animal owner is able to produce a certificate of registration as defined in section 3:20 issued within the preceding year by such licensing authority.

Sec. 3:22. Minimum requirements for pens and yards.

- (a) *Minimum requirements for dog and cat pens.* Dog and cat pens shall meet the following minimum requirements:
 - (1) Pen floors shall be constructed of concrete or other impervious material and shall be constructed so as to prevent animal escape.
 - (2) Dogs housed in any primary enclosure shall be provided, as a minimum, floor space equal to the mathematical square of the sum of the length of the dog in inches as measured from the tip of the nose to the base of its tail plus six inches, expressed in square feet. Cats housed in a primary enclosure shall be provided a minimum of 2½ square feet of floor space.
 - (3) Dog pens shall be sloped to a drain connected to a sanitary sewer or an approved individual sewerage system. This requirement shall not apply to dog pens containing less than two dogs.
 - (4) Dog pens shall be equipped with a curb at least three inches high around the perimeter. The top of the curb shall be at such elevation that the surrounding surface water cannot drain into the pen.
 - (5) Dog pens shall be provided with a hose bib and water under pressure.
 - (6) Cleanliness.
 - a. All dog pens shall be hosed down, thoroughly cleaned and disinfected as often as needed and in no case less than once a day.
 - b. It shall be unlawful for any person keeping or harboring animals to fail to keep the dog or cat pen where such animals are kept free from offensive odors to the extent that such odors are disturbing to any person residing within reasonable proximity of said premises.

- c. It shall be unlawful to allow animals or pens where animals are kept to become infested with ticks or fleas or other animal-related parasites, by failing to diligently and systematically apply accepted methods of insect/parasite control as indicated.
 - (7) Dog pens shall be located a minimum of ten feet from the nearest property line and a minimum of 50 feet from any residence other than that of the owner.
 - (8) The pen must meet all subdivision restrictions or zoning laws or ordinances.
 - (9) The above requirements shall only apply to pens located in recognized subdivisions in St. George.
 - (10) Pens located outside of a recognized subdivision shall meet the specifications as set forth in subsections (a)(2), (6), (7), and (8) of this section.
 - (11) Town houses, apartments or condominiums need only comply with subsections (a)(2) and (6)b and c of this section.
 - (12) The Center shall be empowered to order all animals removed from affected pens until the owner comes into compliance with this section. The Center shall be entitled to charge a reasonable boarding fee for animals so held.
 - (13) Animal establishments are exempt from the requirements of this section.
 - (14) This section shall only take effect upon receipt by the Director, of a written complaint stating what the problem is and the name, address, and phone number of the complainant.
- (b) *Minimum requirements for dog and cat yards.*
- (1) It shall be unlawful for any person keeping or harboring animals to fail to keep the premises or dog or cat yard where such animals are kept, free from offensive odors to the extent that such odors are disturbing to any person residing within reasonable proximity of said premises.
 - (2) It shall be unlawful to allow the premises or dog or cat yards where animals are kept to become unclean and a threat to the public health or comfort by failing to diligently and systematically remove all animal waste and fecal material from the premises.
 - (3) It shall be unlawful to allow dogs or cats or premises where dogs or cats are kept to become infested with ticks, fleas, flies or other animal-related parasites, by failing to diligently and systematically apply accepted methods of insect/parasite control as indicated.
 - (4) Dog yards shall be fenced in such a manner as to prevent escape of the animal.
 - (5) Proper invisible fencing shall have warning signs posted on all sides of the dog yard warning persons that a dog is present. Signs shall be plainly marked and visible. Dogs in estrus and dangerous dogs or dogs that have escaped in the past and threatened or bitten a human or other animal are banned from utilizing this system. Electric fences are illegal. Animals that escape more than once may not be allowed to utilize this system at the discretion of the Director.
 - (6) Tethers used to restrict the animal to the confines of its owner's property shall be minimum length of five times the length of the animal, as measured from the nostrils to the base of the tail. Tethers shall restrict the animal to its owner's property. The area shall be kept free of obstructions to prevent entanglement. No tethered animal shall be allowed to endanger the health, safety or welfare of others.
 - (7) The Center shall be empowered to order all animals removed from the affected premises and dog and cat yards until the owner comes into compliance with this section. The Center shall be entitled to charge a reasonable boarding fee for animals so held.

- (8) This section shall only take effect upon receipt by the Director of a written complaint stating what the problem is and the name, address, and phone number of the complainant.

Sec. 3:23. Owner's responsibility.

- (a) The owner or possessor of any animal shall be held responsible and liable for any and all actions taken by said animal.
- (b) All dogs shall be kept, at all times, from running at large.
- (c) All cats shall be kept, at all times, from running at large.
- (d) Female dogs or cats in estrus shall be secured in such a manner so as to prevent contact with a non-neutered adult male of the same species except for planned breeding.
- (e) No dog or cat shall cause a nuisance.
- (f) The owner or possessor of a dog or cat shall be held responsible for any behavior of the dog or cat that is deemed a nuisance under the provisions of this division.
- (g) The owner of any animal shall be responsible for any veterinary bills incurred by the Center as a result of veterinary care rendered to that animal.
- (h) No dog shall cause any excessive noise making or excessive barking.
- (i) The Center will respond to excessive noise making and excessive barking dog complaints in the following manner:
 - (1) A complaint shall be logged into the dispatcher's logbook, giving the owner's or possessor's address and the complainant's name, address and phone number.
 - (2) The complainant shall then write a letter to the Center with the owner's or possessor's address and stating what the problem is and how it is affecting the complainant.
 - (3) Upon receipt of complainant's letter, the Center may dispatch an officer to the owner's or possessor's address, advising the owner or possessor of the complaint and requesting that the nuisance be abated. A warning notice will be left as documentation.
 - (4) If the complainant makes another complaint which is received by the Center within 15 days of the previously issued warning notice, an animal control officer will then be dispatched to the owner's or possessor's house to issue a summons regarding a violation of this Chapter.

Sec. 3:24. Impounding procedure.

- (a) *Duty to impound.* It shall be the duty of the Center through its Director and agents to seize and impound any dog or cat which is not inoculated, not licensed, not currently tagged, or is running at large as noted below:
 - (1) Upon a park, school ground or into a public building, airport or bus terminal, hotel, restaurant, public conveyance, or place of like character, unless the dog is held by a leash not longer than six feet in the case of a dog or in the case of a cat in the physical possession of its owner.
 - (2) No dog or cat, whether licensed, registered or otherwise, shall be permitted to run or be at large on any street, road or other public place within St. George.
 - (3) The Center through its agents, upon call, complaint or otherwise, shall answer complaints and patrol the streets, roads, private or public places of St. George with proper and suitable equipment and shall have the authority to perform all such acts that may be deemed necessary to catch and impound all dogs or cats which are found running at large in the streets or roads or public or private property in St. George.

(b) *General provisions.*

- (1) The Center shall charge a reasonable fee to be set by the Director for a copy of any departmental complaint or impoundment record or other records, and a receipt shall be given to the person requesting said information.
- (2) A complainant's name, address or phone number cannot be given out over the telephone.
- (3) Cruelty or dangerous animal complaints can be processed based on an anonymous complainant. All other complaints shall require the complainant's name, address and phone number.
- (4) Any animal control officer in hot pursuit of any animal may follow said animal onto private property to seize such animal if said animal is, in the judgment of said officer, deemed a nuisance or a threat to public health or safety.
- (5) If any animal deemed a threat to public health or safety is seized by the owner and put inside a place of residence to prevent impoundment, the following course of action may be undertaken:
 - a. A search and seizure warrant may be obtained from a court of competent jurisdiction authorizing a law enforcement officer to accompany an animal control officer to seize such animal.
 - b. A warning notice notifying the owner of the above procedures can be left at the door, giving the owner 48 hours to turn said animal over to the Center.
- (6) No animal shall be left unattended in a vehicle if it subjects the animal to cruel conditions. An animal control officer, upon a complaint of this nature and in the presence of at least one witness, shall be permitted to use all reasonable means, including breaking a window, in order to free a suffering animal in the following circumstances, all of which must be met:
 - a. The animal shows physical signs of heat exhaustion, convulsions, or other symptoms which require immediate action by the animal control officer in order to save the animal's life.
 - b. Any such action by the animal control officer will require prior approval from a supervisor, provided that a supervisor is readily available and obtaining prior approval will not seriously impede the rescue of the animal. Prior approval is not necessary if, in the judgment of the animal control officer, the delay in obtaining such approval would jeopardize the life of the animal.
 - c. Reasonable effort to contact the owner or driver of the vehicle has been attempted and unsuccessful.
 - d. If all of the above circumstances are met, the animal control officer, Center supervisor, the Center and St. George, its officers and agents will be immune from liability for any property damage as a result of such action taken so long as the intent was to save the animal from suffering and the damage to the personal property was limited to what was reasonably necessary.

Sec. 3:25. Notification of owner.

Whenever an animal has been impounded and the owner thereof is known or can be ascertained from the registration tag or identifying collar, or any other means, such as a tattoo or brand, the Center must, within a reasonable period of time, advise the owner of the conditions upon which the animal may be released.

Sec. 3:26. Redemption of impounded animals.

- (a) All redemptions shall be payable in cash, cashier's check or money order.
- (b) Impounded dogs and cats may be released to the owner or keeper upon payment of all relevant fees and fines as set forth by the director of the animal shelter based upon the fee set by East Baton Rouge Parish.
- (c) Owners of dogs and cats impounded at the animal shelter who cannot produce proof of rabies vaccination and licenses will be required to pay the fees as established by state law and/or the animal shelter in addition to any fines imposed for failure to vaccinate the animal(s).
- (d) Upon proof of current rabies inoculation from other parishes or states, the animal shelter will apply only those requirements as stated in section 3:20.
- (e) Any animals that are seized, except dogs and cats, livestock or wildlife and exotics, may be released to the owner upon payment of a thirty dollar (\$30.00) fine.
- (f) All other animals, except dogs and cats and livestock, may be held for a period of time as determined by the director of the animal shelter before disposing of said animal in the reasonable discretion of the animal shelter.
- (g) The director of the animal shelter may reduce the adoption cost of animals for special events in which the Center or animal shelter is involved, as long as the licensing, vaccination and spay/neuter requirements are met.
- (h) Any animal which has no identification and has been held for 3 days or any animal which has identification and has been held for 5 days, inclusive of the day of impoundment, and which is not reclaimed, redeemed and physically removed after payment of fees or fines by the owner or keeper, is considered abandoned and may be forfeited and disposed of by the animal shelter, in the reasonable discretion of the animal shelter. Holidays are not included in the calculation of this holding period.
- (i) Any animal impounded in the animal shelter which is not weaned and has no mother at the time of impoundment and is considered stray or abandoned may be cause for the animal shelter to humanely dispose of such animal as soon as possible after impoundment in the reasonable discretion of the animal shelter.
- (j) A stray, seriously injured, diseased or terminally ill animal impounded at the animal shelter shall be cause for the animal shelter to waive the six- or four-day holding period, as the case may be, and euthanize said animal in a humane manner as soon as possible. Euthanasia shall only be performed in the reasonable discretion of the animal shelter director.
- (k) The Center is empowered to euthanize severely injured, terminally ill, stray or untagged animals in the field whose owners are unknown and which animals are suffering severe pain without having to hold said animal for the required four- or six-day period. Euthanasia shall only be performed after a decision is made by the impounding officer if in the field. Euthanasia shall only be performed in the reasonable discretion of the animal shelter, if the animal is in the shelter.