

Introduced by Council Member Arias and Co-Sponsored by Council Member Peluso and amended by the Neighborhoods, Community Services, Public Health and Safety Committee:

ORDINANCE 2025-811-E

AN ORDINANCE CONCERNING ANIMAL CARE AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES; AMENDING SECTION 462.106 (PROCEDURES), PART 1 (GENERAL), CHAPTER 462 (ANIMALS), *ORDINANCE CODE*, TO CLARIFY STANDARDS FOR ISSUANCE OF CITATIONS; AMENDING SECTIONS 462.201 (CRUELTY TO ANIMALS DEFINED GENERALLY), 462.203 (NEGLECTING OR ABANDONING ANIMALS), 462.204 (RESTRAINT BY TETHERING), 462.205 (DOG FIGHTING AND OTHER ANIMAL FIGHTING), 462.209 (CITATION), AND 462.210 (TAKING CUSTODY OF MISTREATED ANIMALS), PART 2 (CRUELTY TO OR NEGLECTING ANIMALS), CHAPTER 462 (ANIMALS), *ORDINANCE CODE*, TO REVISE AND CLARIFY PROVISIONS RELATED TO CRUELTY, NEGLECT, ABANDONMENT, AND TETHERING OF ANIMALS, TO SPECIFY THAT ANIMAL FIGHTING ACTIVITIES CONSTITUTE ANIMAL CRUELTY, AND TO ALIGN THE CODE WITH THE REQUIRED TIMELINES AND PROCEDURES FOR ANIMAL CUSTODY PETITIONS OUTLINED IN SECTION 828.073, *FLORIDA STATUTES*; AMENDING SECTIONS 462.301 (GENERAL), 462.302 (NOISE), 462.303 (ANIMALS AT-LARGE PROHIBITED), 462.304 (HABITUAL NUISANCE), AND 462.305 (DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY AND BITING), PART 3 (NUISANCES), CHAPTER 462 (ANIMALS), *ORDINANCE CODE*, TO SIMPLIFY LANGUAGE AND CLARIFY

STANDARDS FOR ISSUANCE OF CITATIONS; AMENDING SECTION 462.601 (IMPOUNDING OF ANIMALS), PART 6 (IMPOUNDMENT, SURRENDER, REDEMPTION AND ADOPTION), CHAPTER 462 (ANIMALS), ORDINANCE CODE, TO REDUCE THE REQUIRED "STRAY HOLD" PERIOD FROM SIX DAYS TO FIVE DAYS; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION INSTRUCTIONS; ESTABLISHING A PROSPECTIVE EFFECTIVE DATE OF JUNE 10, 2026, FOR THE CODE AMENDMENTS CONTAINED IN THIS ORDINANCE TO BECOME EFFECTIVE; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Jacksonville:

Section 1. Amending Section 462.106 (Procedures), Part 1 (General), Chapter 462 (Animals), Ordinance Code. Section 462.106 (Procedures), Part 1 (General), Chapter 462 (Animals), *Ordinance Code*, is hereby amended to read as follows:

CHAPTER 462 - ANIMALS

PART 1. - GENERAL

* * *

Sec. 462.106. - Procedures.

(a) An animal control officer is authorized to issue a citation to a person when the animal control officer has probable cause, based upon personal investigation, to believe the person has violated this Chapter, based upon observation or witness affidavit as authorized in this Chapter, to believe that the person has committed a civil infraction in violation of this Chapter and that the County Court will hear the charge. An animal control officer based upon the individual circumstances and available facts (including any known history), prior to issuing a citation, may issue a warning citation containing an

1 explanation of the circumstances and recommended corrective
2 action and establishing a reasonable time period in which the
3 person must correct the violation. If a warning citation is
4 issued, the animal control officer will perform a follow-up
5 investigation to determine whether the situation still exists.

6 * * *

7 **Section 2. Amending Sections 462.201 (Cruelty to animals
8 defined generally), 462.203 (Neglecting or abandoning animals),
9 462.204 (Restraint by tethering), 462.205 (Dog fighting and other
10 animal fighting), 462.209 (Citation), and 462.210 (Taking custody of
11 mistreated animals), Part 2 (Cruelty to or Neglecting Animals),
12 Chapter 462 (Animals), Ordinance Code.** Sections 462.201 (Cruelty to
13 animals defined generally), 462.203 (Neglecting or abandoning
14 animals), 462.204 (Restraint by tethering), 462.205 (Dog fighting and
15 other animal fighting), 462.209 (Citation), and 462.210 (Taking
16 custody of mistreated animals), Part 2 (Cruelty to or Neglecting
17 Animals), Chapter 462 (Animals), *Ordinance Code*, are hereby amended
18 to read as follows:

19 **CHAPTER 462 - ANIMALS**

20 * * *

21 **PART 2. - CRUELTY TO OR NEGLECTING ANIMALS**

22 **Sec. 462.201. - Cruelty to animals defined generally.**

23 It shall be unlawful for any person to intentionally cause,
24 procure or inflict cruelty to or upon animals, whether or not such
25 cruelty results in severe injury or death. For purposes of this Part,
26 ~~it shall be considered~~ causing, procuring and/or inflicting cruelty
27 ~~includes:, if one or more of the following occurs:~~

28 (a) Killing, beating, Beating, tormenting, torturing, mutilating,
29 molesting, sodomizing, maiming, overloading, overworking or
30 overdriving an animal; ~~or~~

31 (b) Riding, driving or working the animal when it is sick and

unfit to work; — or;

- (c) Intentionally trying (by use of a wire, pole, stick, rope or other) to cause a horse or a household pet to fall or lose its balance, or felling, roping or lassoing a horse's or a household pet's legs for the purpose of entertainment or sport;—or
- (d) Carrying any animal in or upon any vehicle in any way so as not to provide for the protection and, safety of the animal being carried including, but not limited to, carrying an animal in the back of an open truck or other open vehicle without being safely tethered in two or more locations so as to avoid injury or jumping from the vehicle and without protecting the animal from inclement weather or weather extremes;—or
- (e) Baiting, breeding, training, transporting, selling, owning, possessing or using an animal for the purpose of animal fighting;
- (f) ~~(e)~~ Any act, omission or neglect whereby unnecessary or unjustifiable pain or suffering is caused, permitted or allowed to continue when there is reasonable remedy or relief; and
- (g) Any act, omission or neglect leading to the death of the animal.
- (f) ~~A violation of this Section shall subject the violator to a civil fine of no less than the amount designated in Chapter 462, Part 18. Each separate incident is considered a separate violation. The animal control officer may cite the owner or custodian of such animal(s) for a violation of this Section when either the animal control officer has received, from two or more unrelated adult witnesses residing at different residences or from one adult witness with a recorded video or~~

1 photograph showing the alleged violation, a sworn affidavit
2 attesting to the neglect and/or abandonment of the animal(s)
3 pursuant to this Section, or the citing animal control officer
4 has directly observed the commission of such violation.

5 All fines collected from violations of this Part shall be
6 deposited into the Training and Cruelty Prevention Trust Fund.

7 * * *

8 **Sec. 462.203. - Neglecting or abandoning animals.**

9 It shall be unlawful for any person to neglect or abandon an
10 animal. For purposes of this Part, neglecting or abandoning an animal
11 includes: it shall be considered neglect or abandonment if one or
12 more of the following occurs:

13 (a) Failing to provide any one of the following: sufficient
14 potable water; sufficient wholesome food; adequate shelter
15 with a sufficient, level floor, at least three structurally
16 sound walls and a solid roof to protect the animal from the
17 weather, extreme temperature and direct sunlight; current and
18 active veterinary care/treatment to prevent suffering;
19 sufficient exercise and wholesome exchange of air; A
20 standard of usual and customary practice, based upon the
21 guidelines of the Jacksonville Veterinary Medical Society
22 (JVMS), the Florida Veterinary Medical Association (FVMA)
23 and/or the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA),
24 shall be used to define active veterinary care/treatment.

25 (b) Keeping an animal in an enclosure that is too small for the
26 animal. An animal's enclosure must allow the animal to fully
27 extend all limbs, stand fully erect without touching the walls
28 or top of the crate, fully turn around, and sit and lay down
29 without obstruction; which prevents the animal from free and
30 full movement with full extension of its limbs (including
31 standing fully upright) and/or without wholesome exercise and

1 ~~change of air.~~

2 (1) Nothing in this Section is meant to prohibit:

3 (i) ~~The the~~ temporary transport of animals in 'airline
4 crates' ~~or;~~

5 (ii) ~~The the~~ use of a temporary crate that may not allow
6 for full extension of all limbs and full movement
7 and to stand erect and turn fully around while
8 cleaning the enclosure or to separate animals while
9 feeding; ~~or.~~

10 (iii) ~~The Crates used for temporary holding of animals~~
11 ~~in crates for less than two (2) hours at a time in~~
12 ~~conjunction with or training for dog shows,~~
13 ~~performance events or hunting are not covered by~~
14 ~~this provision if such holding period does not~~
15 ~~include overnight or extended periods of more than~~
16 ~~two hours, while not in transport, in such confined~~
17 ~~spaces that may not allow for full extension and~~
18 ~~free movement. Nothing in this Section is meant to~~
19 ~~restrict the use of crates that allow the animal(s)~~
20 ~~to fully extend all limbs, allow the animal(s) to~~
21 ~~stand fully erect without touching the walls or top~~
22 ~~of the crate, allow the animal(s) to fully turn~~
23 ~~around, and allow the animal(s) sit and lay down~~
24 ~~without obstruction.~~

25 (c) ~~Confining~~ ~~Placing or confining an animal or allowing it to be~~
26 ~~placed or confined or to remain in an unattended vehicle~~
27 ~~without sufficient ventilation or under conditions that or~~
28 ~~for such a period of time as may reasonably be expected to~~
29 ~~endanger the health or well-being of such animal; due to heat,~~
30 ~~lack of water or such other circumstances as may be expected~~
31 ~~to cause suffering, debility or death.~~

(1) An officer or Animal Control Officer who finds an animal in a vehicle in violation of this Section may enter the vehicle by using the amount of force reasonably necessary to remove the animal. An officer or animal control officer who acts in substantial compliance with the provisions of this Section shall be immune from civil and criminal liability; and the City shall also be held immune from civil liability.

(2) Nothing in this Section shall be deemed to prohibit the transportation of horses, cattle, sheep, poultry or other agricultural livestock in trailers or other vehicles designed and constructed for such purposes.

(d) Caging or confining an animal and failing to supply the animal, during such caging or confinement, with sufficient water, with sufficient space to stand fully erect on all legs and/or to turn completely around within the cage or confinement and with sufficient wholesome food;

(d)-(e) Leaving the animal upon or beside any street, road or other public or private place; ~~or~~

(e)-(f) Forsaking entirely and leaving any animal to die; and to die any animal that is maimed, sick, infirm or diseased.

(f) Failing to perform the obligations necessary for rudimentary care and support of an animal.

(g) A violation of this Section shall subject the violator to a civil fine of no less than the amount designated in Chapter 462, Part 18.

Sec. 462.204. - Restraint of dogs by tethering.

The City of Jacksonville recognizes that there is a clear link between dogs ~~animals~~ that are left tethered in one location and increased aggressiveness. In order to protect the safety and welfare of citizens and visitors, restraint by tethering may only be used

1 provided all of the following conditions are met:

2 (a) The tether shall be of a size and weight that is reasonably
3 necessary to safely restrain the dog without placing
4 excessive strain or weight on the dog; ~~The tether is~~
5 ~~constructed of material sufficient to restrain the animal,~~
6 ~~but also not place the animal in danger of injury or death.~~
7 ~~Welded metal link chain with links larger than 2.5 mm in~~
8 ~~thickness (2.5 mm welded link chain has a working load of 750~~
9 ~~pounds and a breaking load of 2,000 pounds) cannot be used to~~
10 ~~tether an animal regardless of the length or weight of the~~
11 ~~chain. The tether shall not weigh more than one eighth of the~~
12 ~~animal's body weight. When a violation of this provision~~
13 ~~occurs, an animal control officer is authorized to take~~
14 ~~reasonable measures to remove the animal from the tether and~~
15 ~~take the tether and animal to the shelter;~~

16 (b) The tether shall be at least 10 feet long and equipped with
17 an operative swivel on at least one end of the line; ~~The~~
18 ~~tether shall be at least long enough to allow the animal to~~
19 ~~move ten feet in all directions from the point of tethering.~~
20 ~~The tether must have operative swivels on both ends and be~~
21 ~~attached to an elevated line, not less than seven feet from~~
22 ~~the ground and not more than ten feet from the ground,~~
23 ~~connected to two stationary points not less than 15 feet apart~~
24 ~~and sufficient to hold the dog without breaking or coming~~
25 ~~loose;~~

26 (c) The tether shall be attached to a properly fitted buckle-
27 style collar or buckle-style harness made of nylon or leather
28 and the collar or harness used must be appropriate for the
29 size of the dog, sufficient to restrain the dog, and properly
30 fitted to the dog; ~~with a width of not less than one inch~~
31 ~~worn by the animal;~~

1 (d) The ~~the~~ tether may not be attached to a slip collar, choke
2 collar, or prong collar;

3 (e) ~~(d)~~ While tethered, the dog shall have access to potable water,
4 dry ground, and shade or other shelter from the elements; ~~The~~
5 ~~animal, while restrained by tether, is able to access proper~~
6 ~~shelter with sufficient floor, at least three walls, and roof~~
7 ~~to protect the animal from the weather, extreme temperatures~~
8 ~~and direct sunlight; and is able to access sufficient potable~~
9 ~~water and sufficient wholesome food.~~

10 (f) ~~(e)~~ The Beginning October 1, 2014, the tethered dog shall be
11 animal is within the visual range of the owner, and the owner
12 shall be is located outside with the dog animal;

13 (g) ~~(f)~~ The tethered dog must be animal is at least one year of
14 age or older, and ~~is~~ not sick or injured;

15 (h) ~~(g)~~ A tethered dog ~~The animal is~~ shall not be outside during a
16 period of extreme weather, including but not limited to,
17 extreme heat or cold, tropical storms, hurricanes,
18 thunderstorms, or tornadoes or in conditions unsafe for the
19 age and breed of the dog; near freezing temperatures, tropical
20 storm or hurricane watches or warnings, thunderstorms, and/or
21 tornado watches and warnings;

22 (i) ~~(h)~~ If multiple dogs are tethered, each dog must be tethered
23 separately and in such a manner to ensure the dogs do not
24 become entangled; Every animal must be tethered separately
25 with each complying with all provisions herein, plus the
26 animals must not be able to tangle their tether with any other
27 animal on the property;

28 (j) ~~(i)~~ No dog's tether ~~No tethered animal~~ may extend any closer
29 than five feet from the perimeter fence or lot line; and

30 (k) Dogs are the only animals that may be restrained by tethering.
31 If an Animal Control Officer observes a violation of this

1 Section, the officer is authorized to take reasonable measures to
2 remove the dog(s) from the tether and take the tether(s) and the
3 dog(s) to an animal services facility. During the educational phase
4 of the revision of this Section, beginning upon enactment of this
5 ordinance and for a period of six months thereafter, animal code
6 enforcement officers shall provide a warning to all first time
7 tethering violators and allow them 30 days to correct the violation
8 before any civil citation is issued for the tethering violation.
9 Provided however, nothing herein prohibits any animal code
10 enforcement officers from citing an owner for violations of any other
11 portion of Chapter 462, Ordinance Code, including other prohibited
12 acts of cruelty or neglect.

13 In the interest of public safety, animal control officers and/or
14 law enforcement officers are authorized to remove aggressive and
15 dangerous dogs from tethers and impound such animals where the animal
16 is accessible by children or the public without a secured fence or
17 enclosure.

18 A violation of this Section shall subject the violator to a
19 civil fine of not less than the amount designated in Chapter 462,
20 Part 18, Ordinance Code.

21 **Sec. 462.205. - Dog fighting and other animal fighting.**

22 (a) As used in this Section, the term:

23 (1) "Animal fighting" means fighting between roosters or
24 other birds or between dogs, bears, or other animals.

25 (2) "Baiting" means to attack with violence, to provoke, or
26 to harass an animal with one or more animals for the
27 purpose of training an animal for, or to cause an animal
28 to engage in, fights with or among other animals. In
29 addition, "baiting" means the use of live animals in the
30 training of racing greyhounds.

31 (b) Baiting, breeding, training, transporting, selling, owning,

possessing and using an animal for the purpose of animal fighting shall be considered acts of animal cruelty.

(c)-(a) In addition to penalties prescribed by F.S. § 828.122, any animal baited, bred, trained, transported, sold, owned, possessed or used for animal fighting or baiting shall be subject to seizure pursuant to Section 462.210, Ordinance Code. ~~For purposes of this Section, "baiting" shall mean to have two or more animals in close proximity while restrained to simulate a fight or exhibit aggression superiority, to attack with violence, to provoke or to harass an animal with one or more animals for the purpose of training an animal for, or to cause an animal to engage in, fights with or among other animals. "Baiting" also means the use of live animals in the training of racing greyhounds.~~

(d) (b) Exemptions allowed:

(1) "Baiting" does not include two dogs engaged in conformation trials during the judging of a sanctioned breed exhibition or contest that is properly noticed to ACPS at least two weeks in advance of the event and open to ACPS officers for observation of the event.

(2) "Animal fighting" and "Baiting" do not include traditional and lawful hunting practices, field trials or performance events, or the training for such events.

(e) Possession of the paraphernalia associated with animal fighting, including but not limited to gamecock gloves, spurs, long blades, short blades, break stick, breeding or 'rape stand', spring pole, cat mill, and similar devices known to be associated with animal fighting and conditioning for fighting, shall be considered a violation of this Section. In determining a violation, the context of the scene and items shall be evaluated; however, each individual item shall be

considered a separate violation.

(f)-(d) A violation of this Section shall subject the violator to a civil fine of no less than the amount designated in Part 18, Chapter 462, Ordinance Code \$500.

* * *

Sec. 462.209. - Citation.

A violation of this Part shall subject the violator to a civil fine of no less than the amount designated in Part 18, Chapter 462, Ordinance Code. Each separate incident is considered a separate violation. The animal control officer may cite a person for a violation of this Part when, based upon personal investigation, the officer has probable cause to believe that the person has violated this Part. An animal control officer may issue a citation to the owner or other person violating this Part when the animal control officer has probable cause, based upon direct evidence, observation or sworn affidavit(s) from credible witness(es), to believe that the person has committed a civil infraction in violation of this Part. **Sec.**

462.210. - Taking custody of mistreated animals.

* * *

(c) Within 10 30—days after the seizure of the animal or the issuance of the order to provide care, the City shall petition the County Court for a hearing. The hearing shall be held not more than 30 15—days after the request for such hearing is made. The hearing shall be for the purpose of determining whether or not the owner has violated this Part and to determine whether the owner is fit to have custody of the animal. The hearing shall be concluded and the court order entered as expeditiously as possible, and in any case, not more than 60 days after the date the hearing commenced. No fee shall be charged for the filing of the petition.

(d) ACPS shall have written notice served upon the owner of the

1 animal seized at least 3 ~~five~~ days prior to the hearing. If
2 the owner is residing in the City, notice shall be in
3 conformance with the provisions of F.S. Ch. 48, relating to
4 service of process. There shall be no fee charged by the
5 sheriff for service of such notice. If the owner of the animal
6 is unknown, or is known but is residing outside of the City,
7 notice of the hearing shall be by publication in conformance
8 with the provisions of F. S. Ch. 49.

9 * * *

10 **Section 3. Amending Sections 462.301 (General), 462.302**
11 **(Noise), 462.303 (Animals at-large prohibited), 462.304 (Habitual**
12 **nuisance), and 462.305 (Destruction of Property and Biting), Part 3**
13 **(Nuisances), Chapter 462 (Animals), Ordinance Code.** Sections 462.301
14 (General), 462.302 (Noise), 462.303 (Animals at-large prohibited),
15 462.304 (Habitual nuisance), and 462.305 (Destruction of property and
16 biting), Part 3 (Nuisances), Chapter 462 (Animals), *Ordinance Code*,
17 are hereby amended to read as follows:

18 **CHAPTER 462 - ANIMALS**

19 * * *

20 **PART 3. - NUISANCES**

21 **Sec. 462.301. - General.**

22 * * *

23 (e) A violation of this Section shall subject the violator to a
24 civil fine of no less than the amount designated in Part 18,
25 Chapter 462, Ordinance Code ~~Chapter 462, Part 18.~~ Each
26 separate incident is considered a separate violation. The
27 animal control officer may cite the owner or custodian of
28 such animal(s) for a violation of this Part Section—when
29 either—the animal control officer, based upon personal
30 investigation, has probable cause to believe that the person
31 has violated this Part. Unless otherwise provided herein, all

1 fines collected from violations of this Part shall be
2 deposited in the General Fund. has received, from two or more
3 unrelated adult witnesses residing at different residences or
4 one adult witness with a recorded video or photograph showing
5 the alleged violation, a sworn affidavit attesting to the
6 nuisance of the owner or the animal(s) pursuant to this
7 Section, or the citing animal control officer has directly
8 observed the commission of such nuisance.

9 **Sec. 462.302. - Prohibited Nuisances. Noise.**

10 (a) No owner or custodian of any animal shall permit the animal
11 It shall be unlawful for the owner, or any person having
12 temporary custody, of an animal or animals to allow or fail
13 to restrain the animal(s), to bark, meow, whine, howl, or to
14 make other sounds common to the species, persistently or
15 continuously for a period of 30 20-minutes or longer when
16 every animal is not contained within an enclosure sufficient
17 to baffle loud noises and render them reasonably
18 unobjectionable. For the purposes of this Section,
19 persistently or continuously shall mean nonstop utterances
20 for 30 20-consecutive minutes with individual interruptions
21 of less than 30 20-seconds at a time during the 30-minute 20
22 minute utterances. This subsection shall not apply to animals
23 maintained on land zoned for agricultural purposes, nor shall
24 it apply to a properly permitted animal shelters, shelter
25 established for the care and/or placement of unwanted or stray
26 animals, or nor a properly zoned commercial boarding kennels.
27 kennel or other animal facility.

28 (b) No owner or custodian of any animal shall permit the animal
29 or fail to restrain the animal from being at-large, except a
30 dog shall be considered exempt from these provisions if:
31 (1) The dog is engaged in the performance of duties while

under the supervision and control of law enforcement
officials performing law enforcement work.

(2) The dog is engaged in any legal hunt or training procedure, including training or exhibiting in legal sports such as obedience trials, conformation shows, field trials, schutzhund, hunting/retrieving trials, and herding trials; however, such dogs at all other times and in all other respects shall be subject to this Part.

(3) The dog is in a City-designated or legally established private "off-leash" dog park and is under the supervision of the owner or a responsible person.

(c) Except where an exemption under Section 462.403, Ordinance Code, applies, no owner or custodian of an animal shall permit the animal, either willfully or through failure to exercise due care or control to destroy or damage the property of another including, but not limited to, the unprovoked biting, attacking or wounding of another person's animal(s). For purposes of this Section an animal on a leash or tether longer than eight feet shall be considered failure to exercise due physical control. The provisions and penalties of this subsection shall be separate from and in addition to the provisions of Part 4 regarding dangerous dogs.

(d) Except where an exemption under Section 462.403, Ordinance Code, applies, no owner or custodian of an animal shall permit, either willfully or through failure to exercise due care or control, the animal to bite, attack or wound a human. The provisions and penalties of this subsection shall be separate from and in addition to the provisions of Part 4 regarding dangerous dogs.

(b) A violation of this Section shall subject the violator to a civil fine of not less than the amount designated in Chapter

1 462, Part 18. Each separate occasion is considered a separate
2 violation. The animal control officer may cite the owner or
3 custodian of the animal(s) for violation of such Section when
4 either the animal control officer has received, from at least
5 two unrelated adult witnesses from different residences, or
6 from one adult witness with a recorded video showing the
7 alleged violation, a sworn affidavit attesting to the
8 committing of a nuisance pursuant to such Section or
9 subsection, or the citing animal control officer has
10 witnessed the commission of such a nuisance. Affidavit(s)
11 attesting to the nuisance must come from residents within a
12 three block radius (approximately 900 foot radius).

13 (c) As authorized by F. S. § 828.27(7), a violation of the noise
14 provision of this Section may be punishable, upon conviction
15 by the court, by a fine of up to \$500 or by imprisonment in
16 the County Jail for a period not to exceed 60 days or by both
17 fine and imprisonment.

~~Sec. 462.303. — Animals at-large prohibited.~~

19 (a) No owner or person having temporary custody of any animal(s)
20 shall permit the animal(s) or fail to restrain the animal(s)
21 from being at large, except a dog shall be considered exempt
22 from these provisions if:

(1) The dog is engaged in the performance of duties while under the supervision and control of law enforcement officials performing law enforcement work.

(2) The dog is engaged in any legal hunt or training procedure, including training or exhibiting in legal sports such as obedience trials, conformation shows, field trials, schutzhund, hunting/retrieving trials, and herding trials; however, such dogs at all other times and in all other respects shall be subject to this Chapter.

(3) The dog is in a City designated or legally established, with proper certificate of use, private "off leash" dog park and is under the supervision of the owner or a responsible person.

(b) A violation of this Section, shall subject the violator to a civil fine of not less than the amount designated in Chapter 462, Part 18. Each separate incident is considered a separate violation. The animal control officer may cite the owner or custodian of such animal(s) for violation a of such Section when either the animal control officer has received, from two or more unrelated adult witnesses from different residences, or from one adult witness with a recorded video showing the alleged violation, a sworn affidavit attesting to the committing of a nuisance pursuant to this Section, or the citing animal control officer has directly observed the commission of such a nuisance.

Sec. 462.303 Sec. 462.304. - Habitual nuisance.

(a) It shall be unlawful for the owner or custodian, or any person having temporary custody, of an animal or animals to permit the animal animal(s), either willfully or through failure to exercise due care or control, to commit a nuisance by running at-large habitually; by chasing or running after vehicles or persons habitually; by trespassing upon public or private school grounds habitually; by trespassing upon private property habitually and interfering with the reasonable use and enjoyment of the property; by barking habitually, or by making other objectionable animal noises habitually; or by doing any other thing habitually which is so offensive as to create a nuisance.

(b) For the purpose of this Section, "habitually" means at least two separate occurrences within a time period of no more than

1 one month; except that barking habitually, or making other
2 objectionable animal noises habitually, means making the
3 sound persistently or continuously for at least 30 minutes
4 occurring at least three separate times within a period of no
5 more than eight hours. For the purposes of this Section,
6 "persistently" or "continuously" shall mean nonstop
7 utterances for 30 consecutive minutes with interruption of
8 less than 30 seconds at a time during the 30 minute
9 utterances.

10 (c) ~~The animal control officer may cite the owner or any person
11 having custody of such animal(s) for violation of this Section
12 when either the citing animal control officer has witnessed
13 the commission of such habitual nuisance or the animal control
14 officer has received at least one sworn affidavit from each
15 of at least two unrelated adult witnesses from different
16 residences so that taken together, the affidavits attest to
17 the committing of a nuisance pursuant to this Section.~~

18 (c)~~d~~ Each violation of this Section shall be punishable by a
19 fine of not less than the amount designated in Part 18,
20 Chapter 462, Ordinance Code. Chapter 462, Part 18. A
21 subsequent violation of this Section occurring ten or more
22 business days after a previous citation for violation of this
23 Section shall be considered a separate and distinct
24 violation.

25 **Sec. 462.304. - Reserved.**

26 **Sec. 462.305. - Reserved. Destruction of property and biting.**

27 ~~Except where an exemption under Section 462.403 applies:~~

28 (a) ~~No owner or person having temporary custody of an animal(s)
29 shall permit the animal(s), either willfully or through
30 failure to exercise due care or control (for purposes of this
31 Section an animal on a leash or tether longer than eight feet~~

1 shall be considered failure to exercise due physical
2 control), to destroy or damage the property of another
3 including, but not limited to, the unprovoked biting,
4 attacking or wounding of another person's animal(s).

5 (b) No owner or person having temporary custody of an animal(s)
6 shall permit, either willfully or through failure to exercise
7 due care or control, the animal(s) to bite, attack or wound
8 a human.

9 (c) A violation of this Section, shall subject the violator to a
10 civil fine of not less than the amount designated in Chapter
11 462, Part 18. Each separate incident is considered a separate
12 violation. The animal control officer may cite the owner or
13 custodian of the animal(s) for a violation of such Section
14 when either the animal control officer has received, from two
15 or more unrelated adult witnesses from different residences,
16 or from one adult witness with a recorded video showing the
17 alleged violation, a sworn affidavit attesting to the act of
18 destruction of property or biting pursuant to this Section,
19 or the citing animal control officer has directly observed
20 the commission of such a violation.

21 (d) The provisions and penalties of this Section shall be separate
22 from and in addition to the provisions of Part 4 regarding
23 dangerous dogs.

24 * * *

25 **Section 4. Amending Section 462.601 (Impounding of**
26 **animals), Part 6 (Impoundment, Surrender, Redemption and Adoption),**
27 **Chapter 462 (Animals), Ordinance Code.** Section 462.601 (Impounding
28 of animals), Part 6 (Impoundment, Surrender, Redemption and
29 Adoption), Chapter 462 (Animals), Ordinance Code, is hereby amended
30 to read as follows:

31 **CHAPTER 462 - ANIMALS**

* * *

PART 6. — IMPOUNDMENT, SURRENDER, REDEMPTION AND ADOPTION

Sec. 462.601. - Impounding of animals.

(a) An animal control officer is authorized to capture and impound, in a place maintained or designated for that purpose, any animal that is stray, at-large or as otherwise authorized by this Chapter.

(b) Holding periods established:

(1) ACPS shall shelter and care for impounded potentially owned, adult dogs and cats, whether tagged or stray, for five ~~six~~-days, beginning the day of capture (intake), and excluding official holidays recognized by the City or when the shelter is otherwise closed to the public due to an unexpected event.

* * *

Section 5. Codification Instructions. The Codifier and the Office of General Counsel are authorized to make all chapter and division "tables of contents" consistent with the changes set forth herein. Such editorial changes and any others necessary to make the Ordinance Code consistent with the intent of this legislation are approved and directed herein, and changes to the Ordinance Code shall be made forthwith and when inconsistencies are discovered.

Section 6. Establishment of Prospective Effective Date for the Code Amendments Contained in this Ordinance to Become Effective.

The Code amendments contained in this Ordinance shall not become effective until June 10, 2026.

Section 7. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall become effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective without the Mayor's signature.

1 Form Approved:

2
3 /s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos

4 Office of General Counsel

5 Legislation Prepared by: Laura Hartung

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