

ORDINANCE NUMBER 140324

DEFINITIONS AS USED IN THIS ORDINANCE

DOG shall mean all members of the canine family three (3) or more months of age.

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER shall mean those one or more individuals appointed by the Town as animal control officers and charged with the responsibility of administering and enforcing this ordinance. This shall include persons appointed indirectly by way of contract with an outside provider of animal control services, and such outside provider may be a public or private entity.

CITY POUND or **RABIES CONTROL CENTER** shall mean the place or places so designated by the Town, or by the Shelby County Commission, or such other person, firm, corporation, organization, or agency with whom the Town or the County may contract for the maintenance or operation of said city pound(s) whether such city pound(s) are located within the limits of the Town or elsewhere in Shelby County, Alabama.

“RUN AT LARGE” shall include all times and places when a dog is not confined, restrained, or enclosed within a wall or fence (which may include an electrified invisible fence or barrier), or other enclosure on the premises of the owner or person in charge in such manner as to effectively prevent a dog’s escape, or is not attached to a leash in the hands of said owner or person in charge. A dog will be presumed to be confined unless and until said dog is observed entering or leaving public property or entering multiple private properties of reasonably distinguishable boundaries.

SECTION 1 It shall be unlawful for any person to possess, keep, or harbor in the Town (or the police jurisdiction thereof) any dog which has not been vaccinated as provided in Section 2 of this ordinance within the preceding twelve (12) months.

SECTION 2 In order to be sufficient under this article, vaccination shall be accomplished by a veterinarian duly licensed as such by the state board duly authorized therefor, or shall be accomplished by a rabies inspector or deputy rabies inspector appointed pursuant to the Code of Alabama (1975) Section 3-7-10 as amended by Act Number 701 of the 1975 Alabama State Legislature. Such vaccination shall be evidenced by a tag attached to such dog showing that such dog has been vaccinated for rabies as required by the laws of the state within the preceding twelve (12) months.

SECTION 3 It shall be unlawful for the owner or person in charge of a dog to cause or permit such dog to run at large, or to be upon a street, sidewalk, thoroughfare, property other than that of the owner of the dog, or public place within the Town or its police jurisdiction, unless such dog is attached to a leash in the hands of said owner or person in charge of said dog.

SECTION 4 Any dog found running at large in the town or its police jurisdiction may be impounded in the shelter designated as a rabies control center or city or county pound, and there confined humanely for a period of not less than seven (7) overnights, and thereafter be disposed of in a humane manner if not claimed by its owner. After the aforementioned legal detention period has expired, and the impounded dog has not been claimed by its owner, the supervisor and duly authorized employees of the rabies control center or the city or county pound may transfer title to, and give ownership of, any

dog confined beyond the legal detention period to any person deemed to be a responsible and suitable owner who will agree to comply with the provisions of this ordinance.

SECTION 5 The owner of a dog so impounded shall be entitled to resume possession of said dog upon the payment of all impoundment and boarding fees, and the costs of all vaccinations and identification as deemed appropriate by the supervisor of the rabies control center or city or county pound.

SECTION 6 The owner of an impounded dog who has not resumed possession of said dog during the legal detention period forfeits all ownership rights to such dog. After the legal detention period has expired, the dog may be humanely destroyed, or disposed of in the manner described in Section 4.

SECTION 7 Animal Control Officers are specifically authorized, when necessary, to enter private property in order to enforce this Town ordinance, whether such private property should belong to the offending dog's suspected owner, or any other private property to which the offending dog may be located. It shall be unlawful for any person to interfere with, hinder, molest, prevent, or harass any animal control officer while in the performance of any of the duties associated with the enforcement of this ordinance.