

ORDINANCE NO. 08-01-22-01

**AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR ANIMAL
CONTROL IN WILLIAMSON COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

This Ordinance shall be known as and referred to as the WILLIAMSON COUNTY ANIMAL CONTROL ORDINANCE.

WHEREAS, the Williamson County Board has heretofore established an Ordinance providing for a rabies inoculation tag and animal control pursuant to State law; and,

WHEREAS, 55 ILCS 5/5-1070, 5-1071, 5-1072 and 510 ILCS 5/1 et. Seq. (hereinafter referred to as the Illinois Animal Control Act) gives the County the power to regulate and prohibit the running at large of dogs in certain areas of the County; and,

WHEREAS, the intent of the present changes is to replace all prior ordinances pertaining to animal control and inoculation; but preserve any prior actions, decisions, legal status as a result of those prior ordinances.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the County Board of Williamson County as follows:

1. **REPEAL OF PRIOR ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS.** The present ordinance shall supplant all prior ordinances pertaining to animal control and inoculation. Nothing, however, from this ordinance's passage shall change, void, supercede, or affect any decision, right, action, or privilege taken or relied upon resulting or arising from the prior ordinances.

2. **DEFINITIONS.** As used in this Ordinance, the following items shall have the following meanings:

a. Administrator means a veterinarian licensed by the State of Illinois and appointed pursuant to this Ordinance.

b. Animal Control Officer means any person hired by the County Board of Williamson County and the Administrator to perform the duties assigned to that person by the Animal Control Act, the Williamson County Animal Control Ordinance, or the Administrator.

c. Board means the County Board of Williamson County.

d. Deputy Administrator means a veterinarian licensed by the State of Illinois, appointed by the Administrator and approved by the Board of Williamson County.

e. Dog means all domestic dogs belonging to the species *Canis familiaris* and all breeds or mixed breeds thereof.

f. Leash means a cord, rope, strap, chain or frame which shall be securely fastened to the collar or harness of a dog or other animal and shall be of sufficient strength to keep such or other animal under control.

g. Owner means any person having a right of property in a dog or other animal, or who has a dog or other animal in his care, or acts as its custodian or who knowingly permits a dog or other domestic animal to remain on or about any premise occupied by him.

h. Stray Dog means any dog not on the premises of the dog's owners or under control by leash, or identifiable by collar or tags.

3. **PERSONNEL.** The Chairman of the County Board of Williamson County shall appoint with the advice and consent of the Board, an Animal Control Administrator. The appointment shall be for two years. The Administrator's salary and expenses, if any, shall be set annually by the Board and incorporated in the annual budget. The administrator, with the advice and consent of the Board, may appoint a Deputy Administrator and Animal Control Officers at such salary, if any, and with such expenses as shall be set annually by the Board and incorporated in the annual budget. Such appointments shall be from a list of eligible candidates for those positions kept by the Board. Any other personnel shall be assigned to work for the Animal Control Program by the County Board of Williamson County. The Administrator, Deputy Administrator and Animal Control Officers, may be removed by the Board for cause. Other personnel assigned to work in the Animal Control Program may be reassigned at the discretion of the Board and may be dismissed by the Board for cause.

4. **DUTIES OF THE ADMINISTRATOR.** It shall be the duty of the Administrator to control and prevent the spread of rabies through education, rabies inoculation, stray control, impoundment, quarantine, and any other means deemed necessary. The Administrator shall also have the following duties:

- a. Administrator of the Animal Control Program in Williamson County.
- b. Make such reports as are required by the Director of the Department of Agriculture of the State of Illinois and the County Board of Williamson County.
- c. Direct the activities of and assign duties to the personnel working in the Williamson County Animal Control Program.

5. **POWERS OF THE COUNTY BOARD.** The powers of the County Board of Williamson County, by virtue of this Ordinance, has the following powers:

- a. Develop written job descriptions for all personnel working in the Williamson County Animal Control Program;
- b. Draft written rules and regulations for the operation of the Williamson County Animal Control Program;
- c. Prepare an annual budget for the operation of the Williamson County Animal Control Program;

d. To approve all expenditures under the Animal Control Program.

6. POLICE POWERS The Administrator, Deputy Administrator, and Animal Control Officers shall not have the power of police officers except for the purposes of issuing and serving summons and orders for violations of this ordinance. The Sheriff of Williamson County and his deputies shall cooperate with the Administrator in carrying out the provisions of this ordinance.

The Administrator, Deputy Administrators, and Animal Control Officers are prohibited from carrying firearms, but are hereby authorized to carry and use tranquilizer guns, mace, humane traps, and other such equipment as authorized by the Administrator for the purpose of enforcing the provisions of this ordinance and the Illinois Animal Control Act.

7. DOG BITES When the Administrator or his authorized representatives receives information that any person has been bitten by a dog or other animal, the Administrator, or his authorized representative, shall have such dog or other animal confined under the observation of a licensed veterinarian for a period of ten (10) days. The dog or other animal shall be examined at least once by a licensed veterinarian at the end of the quarantine/confinement period. The Administrator may, by regulation, permit such confinement to be reduced to a period of less than ten (10) days. Such veterinarian shall report the clinical condition of the dog or other animal immediately, with confirmation in writing to the Administrator within twenty-four (24) hours after the dog or other animal is presented for examination, giving the owner's name, address, the date of confinement, the breed, description, age, and the sex of such dog or other animal on appropriate forms approved by the Administrator and the Department. The Administrator, or his authorized representative, shall notify the attending physician or responsible health agency. At the end of the confinement period, the veterinarian shall submit a written report to the Administrator advising him of the final disposition of such dog or other animal on appropriate forms approved by the Administrator and the Department. When evidence is presented that such dog or other animal was inoculated against rabies within the time prescribed by law or non-inoculated dogs or other animals deemed appropriate by the Administrator or his authorized agent, may be confined in the house of the owner, or in a manner which will prohibit it from biting any person for a period of ten (10) days, if the Administrator or other licensed veterinarian adjudges such confinement satisfactory. The Administrator may, by regulation, permit such confinement to be reduced to a period of less than ten (10) days.

It is unlawful for any person having knowledge that any person has been bitten by a dog or other animal to refuse to notify the Administrator, or his representative, promptly. It is unlawful for the owner of such dog or other animal to euthanize, sell, give away, or otherwise dispose of any such dog or other animal known to have bitten a person, until it is released by the Administrator or his authorized representative. It is unlawful for the owner of such dog or other animal to refuse or fail to comply with the written or printed instructions made by the Administrator or his authorized representative. If such instructions cannot be delivered in person, they shall be mailed to the owner of such dog or other animal by regular mail, postage prepaid. The affidavit or testimony of the Administrator or his authorized representative delivering or mailing such instructions is prima facie evidence that the owner of such dog or other animal was notified of his responsibilities. Any expense incurred in the handling of any dog or other animal under this Section shall be borne by the owner. For the purpose of this Section, the word "immediately" means by telephone, in person, or by other than use of the mail.

8. REGISTRATION OF DOGS

a. CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION . Every person who is or has been a resident of the county for thirty (30) days or more and who is the owner of any dog four (4) months or more of age, shall cause such dog to be registered and shall pay an annual fee for such animal, provided, however, that no registration fee shall be charged for lead dogs for the blind. The one year registration fee shall be seven dollars (\$7.00) per animal and the three year registration fee shall be twelve dollars (\$12.00) per animal. The annual registration fee shall be set by the Animal Control Officer with the approval of the County Board.

b. FEE DEADLINE The annual registration fee for individual dogs shall be paid within twenty (20) days of the date said animals are inoculated against rabies, or within twenty (20) days or the paid anniversary in the case of three (3) year vaccinations.

c. FAILURE TO REGISTER When an owner fails to register his dog as prescribed herein, the Animal Control Department shall cause the annual registration to be collected from the dog owner, plus an additional late fee of Six Dollars (\$6.00) per dog.

d. FAILURE TO PAY REGISTRATION FEE All individuals who have their dog vaccinated and refuse to pay the Williamson County Registration Fee shall be subject to a Thirty Dollars (\$30.00) fine and cost for failure to pay the Williamson County Registration Fee.

e. REGISTRATION FORMS The Animal Control Administrator shall provide licensed veterinarians with appropriate registration forms which shall be distributed to dog owners by such licensed veterinarians upon the occasion of the rabies inoculation required by the Animal Control Act and this Code. The veterinarians shall send completed inoculation forms to the Animal Control Administrator as soon as possible, preferably monthly.

f. REMITTANCE OF FEES-ANIMAL CONTROL FUND-USE OF FUND
All registration fees collected shall be remitted to the County Treasurer who shall place such monies in an Animal Control Fund. This fund is to be set up for the purpose of paying costs of the Animal Control Program; for the purpose of paying claims for loss of livestock or poultry as set forth in Section 19 of the Animal Control Act (510 ILCS 5/19); and shall be used for paying the cost of stray dog control, impoundment, education on animal control and rabies and other costs incurred in carrying out this provisions of this Ordinance and the Animal Control Act.

9. INOCULATION REQUIREMENTS AND TAG FEES. Every owner of a dog four months or more of age shall cause such dog to be inoculated against rabies by a licensed veterinarian annually or every three years depending on the type of vaccine used, June 30 or the current year being the deadline for such inoculation. The Administrator shall provide licensed veterinarians with rabies inoculation certificates in a form approved by the Board, which shall be signed by the veterinarian administering the rabies inoculation vaccines. The original of said certificate shall be issued to the owner of the dog which has been inoculated and a copy of the certificate shall be returned to the Administrator or his designated representative.

The Board shall provide rabies inoculation tags at the fee of \$7.00 per year or \$12.00 per three years. Rabies inoculation tags shall be in a form and color prescribed by the Illinois Department of Agriculture. The method of distributing said tags and collection of fees for said tags shall be determined by the Administrator.

All fees collected for the issuance of rabies inoculation tags shall be remitted to the County Treasurer, who shall place such monies in the Animal Control Fund.

10. COLLAR AND IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS. Every owner of a dog four months of age or more shall cause a current, valid rabies inoculation tag to be attached to a collar or harness and worn by the dog to which the tag was issued at all times. Every owner of a dog under four months of age shall have a tag specifying the owner's name, address, and telephone number attached to a collar or harness which shall be worn by the dog at all times.

The rabies inoculation tag attached to the dog will state Williamson County and the Williamson County number thereon. Records of these tags and the dogs vaccinated shall be kept by the veterinarian for a period of five (5) years. The County Registration and tag shall be issued by the licensed veterinarian.

11. CONTROL BY OWNER. Every owner of a dog shall keep such dog from leaving the premises occupied by said owner unless the dog is accompanied or supervised by its owner or on a leash.

12. IMPOUNDEMENT. The Animal Control Officers shall and any peace officer may apprehend and impound the following dogs:

a. Dogs which have bitten a person:

b. Dogs four months or more of age which have not been inoculated against rabies by a licensed veterinarian, dogs four (4) months or more of age which are confined on the owner's premises are exempt.

c. Dogs four months or more of age not on the premises of their owner and which do not have a current, valid rabies inoculation tag attached to their collar or harness.

d. Dogs under four months of age not on the premises of their owner and which do not have an identification tag specifying the owner's name, address, and telephone number attached to their collar or harness.

e. Dogs wearing a current valid rabies inoculation tag or identification tag which are not on the premises occupied by the dog's owner and are not accompanied or supervised by the owner and are not on a leash when a complaint has been received by the Animal Control Officers.

f. Dogs whose owners requests apprehension and/or impoundment. Such owner shall pay the County Treasurer a Fifty Dollar (\$50.00) surrender/euthanasia fee for each and every dog apprehended and/or impounded under this provision. If owner brings the dog to Williamson County Animal Control the fee will be reduced to Forty Dollars (\$40.00).

All amounts collected pursuant to this provision shall be placed in the Animal Control Fund and shall be used in paying the cost of operating the Animal Control Program.

g. Dogs placed in the care of the Administrator or his authorized representative by a local governmental entity or its authorized representative for animal control and impound purposes.

Governmental entities not participating by agreement in the Williamson County Animal Control Program shall be required to reimburse the County Treasurer at the rate of Ten Dollars (\$10.00) per day or any part thereof for each and every dog placed into care of the Administrator or his authorized representative for animal control and impoundment purposes.

Such governmental entity shall also be required to pay the County Treasurer a Forty Dollar (\$40.00) euthanasia fee for each and every dog it places into the care of the Administrator or his authorized representative for animal control and impoundment purposes and is euthanized under the provisions of section 14 of this ordinance.

All amounts collected by the County Treasurer pursuant to these provisions shall be placed in the Animal Control Fund and shall be used in paying the cost of operating the Animal Control Program.

When a dog whose owner is known is impounded, notice shall be immediately given to the owner by the Administrator or his authorized representative. Notice shall be mailed to the owner at the last known mailing address and attempt to serve a copy of that notice personally on the owner. If the copy of the notice cannot be served personally on the owner, the copy shall be left with any person thirteen (13) years of age or older residing at the last known mailing address of the owner or by attaching the notice to the main entrance of the owner's residence. An affidavit or testimony of the Administrator or his authorized representative who mails the notice shall be prima facie evidence of the receipt of such notice by the owner. In the case of dogs impounded pursuant to the Paragraphs 12a through 12e, of this Ordinance, if the dog is not redeemed within seven (7) days from the date the notice was mailed or the dog impounded, if the owner is unknown, the impounded dog shall be humanely dispatched, or otherwise disposed of by the impounding facility as a stray dog in accordance with the laws that exist or may hereafter exist.

13. REDEMPTION. When the owner of any dog impounded pursuant to Paragraphs 12a thru 12e of the Ordinance desired to redeem the dog, the following procedure shall be followed.

a. At the time of impoundment, the Animal Control Officer shall prepare an impoundment form to be approved by the Administrator indicating the fine of Twenty Five Dollars (\$25) with space provided for the total amount of board.

b. The impounding authority shall place on the impoundment form previously prepared by the Animal Control Officer a charge of Ten Dollars (\$10) per day for each day or part thereof which the dog was impounded.

c. At the time of release, the owner shall present a current rabies inoculation certificate and a receipt from the County Treasurer showing that the total amount due, as indicated by the impoundment form, has been paid. If no current rabies inoculation certificate is available, notice is to be issued and the owner must acknowledge receipt of the notice stating that he understands the animal must be rabies vaccinated within five (5) days, and the inoculation, rabies tag number, and the name of the veterinarian that inoculated the animal.

All amounts collected by the County Treasurer pursuant to this paragraph shall be placed in the Animal Control Fund and shall be used in paying the cost of operating the Animal Control Program.

14. HUMANE DISPATCH DISPOSITION OF IMPOUNDED DOGS. The Administrator is hereby authorized to humanely offer for adoption, or otherwise dispose of any unknown stray dog or dog voluntarily impounded by its owner pursuant to this ordinance after the expiration of three (3) days following the day of impoundment of such dog.

15. PREVENTION OF SPREAD OF RABIES. Whenever a case of rabies has occurred in a locality, or when the proper officials of a government unit are apprehensive of the spread of rabies, the County Board of Williamson may order:

- a. That all dogs or other animals in the locality be:
 1. Kept confined with a enclosure, or
 2. Kept muzzled and restrained by a leash.
- b. That all owners or keepers of dogs or other animals take prophylactic measures as it deems necessary to prevent the spread of rabies.
- c. Other measures as may be necessary to prevent the spread of rabies.

The County Board of Williamson may determine the area of the locality in which, and the period of time during which, such orders shall be effective.

16. APPREHENSION AND INVESTIGATION. For the purposes of carrying out the provisions of this Ordinance, the Administrator or his authorized representative or any peace officer may enter onto private property to apprehend a dog or other animal thought to be infected with rabies; to apprehend a straying dog or other animal; or, to apprehend a dog or other animal who has bitten any person. At the request of the owner or occupier of private property the Administrator or his authorized representative may enter onto such property to apprehend any dog whether or not said dog is wearing a rabies inoculation tag or an identification tag.

17. CITATIONS. Animal Control Officers and peace officers of the County may issue citations to the owners of dogs for violation of Paragraphs 10, 11, and 12 of this Ordinance in lieu of or in addition of impounding the dog. The penalty for violation of paragraphs 10, 11, and 12 shall be in addition to any other fee, charges, or penalties payable pursuant to this ordinance. When such citation is issued, an appearance date of not less than ten (10) days and not more than forty-five (45) days shall be entered by the officer on the citation.

The owner of the dog receiving the citation may plead guilty to the offense charged in the citation prior to the scheduled appearance date by so indicating on the citation and paying a fine of Twenty Dollars (\$20.00) plus costs, to the Circuit Clerk.

18. DUMPING OF ANIMALS No person shall cause any animal to be dumped or abandoned in any unincorporated area of Williamson County. Any person who is convicted of such an offense shall be guilty of a petty offense and shall be fined not less than One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) or more than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00).

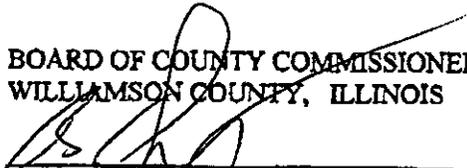
19. OTHER PENALTIES Any person violating any provision of this Ordinance, or counterfeiting or forging any rabies inoculation certificate shall be guilty of a petty offense and upon conviction thereof be fined in an amount not less than Twenty Dollars (\$20.00) and not more than Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00).

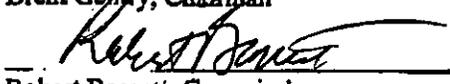
20. SEVERABILITY The invalidity of the provision or parts of provisions of this Ordinance or any rule or regulation pursuant thereto shall not affect the validity of the remainder of this Ordinance.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This Ordinance shall take effect upon adoption by the Williamson County Board.

Passed, approved, and adopted this 22nd day of January, 2008

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
WILLIAMSON COUNTY, ILLINOIS


Brent Gentry, Chairman


Robert Barnett, Commissioner


Tracey Glenn, Commissioner


Attest:

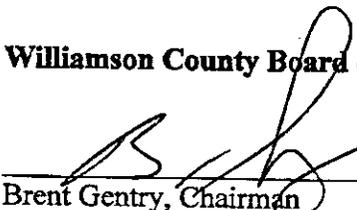
**Amendment to Ordinance No. 08-01-22-01- An Ordinance Providing for Animal Control in
Williamson County, Illinois- Animal Control Fee Increase**

Impound Fee: \$50.00 plus \$5.00 per day Boarding Fee

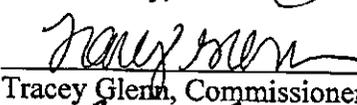
Quarantine Fee: \$125.00

Adoption Fee: \$50.00 Deposit- Refundable with proof of spay/neuter
\$15.00 Non-refundable Administrative Fee

Williamson County Board of Commissioners


Brent Gentry, Chairman

Voting: Yea

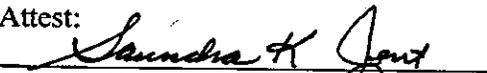

Tracey Glenn, Commissioner

Voting: Yea


Ron Ellis, Commissioner

Voting: Yea

Attest:


Sandra K. Jent, County Clerk/Recorder

RESOLUTION NO. 13-07-09-28

WILLIAMSON COUNTY ANIMAL CONTROL ADOPTION RATES

WHEREAS, the Williamson County Board finds it necessary due to rising costs and expenses to increase fees charged by Williamson County Animal Control for Adoption and Micro-Chipping of dogs to help pay those costs and expenses.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, under authority of Chapter 55, Act 5 of the Illinois Compiled Statute Section 5-1070 of The Counties Code, and Chapter 510, Act 5 of the Illinois Compiled Statutes, the Animal Control Act, the following fees are hereby increased:

PREVIOUS RATE	AMENDED RATE
\$15 Administrative Fee/ \$15 Micro Chip Fee	\$60 Administrative Fee/ \$25 Micro Chip Fee

Any previous fee amounts set for Adoption and Micro-Chipping of dogs by any previous ordinance or amendment is hereby superseded by this Resolution.

On roll call vote RESOLUTION NO. 13-07-09-28 passes this 9th day of July, 2013.

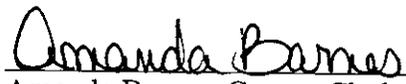
Williamson County Board of Commissioners


Ron Ellis, Chairman VOTING yea


Brent Gentry, Commissioner VOTING Abstain


Jim Marlo, Commissioner VOTING yea

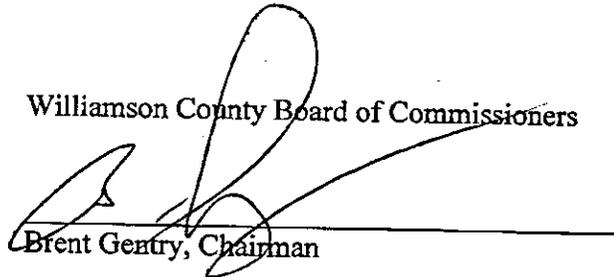
Attest:


Amanda Barnes, County Clerk and Recorder

**Williamson County's Animal Control Policy When Having to Remove Animals from a Residence
As of 09/01/2010.**

1. When an animal control warden is requested to remove animals from inside a residence during a drug bust, material dispute, or any other time law enforcement officials request, they may not enter the house until it has been secured by a law enforcement official, and then may only enter when accompanied by a law enforcement official.

Williamson County Board of Commissioners


Brent Gentry, Chairman


Tracey Glenn, Commissioner


Ron Ellis, Commissioner

Attest:


Sandra K. Jent, County Clerk/Recorder