

ORDINANCE

No. 09-2025-23

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the County Board of the County of Hancock in the State of Illinois, as follows:

SECTION 1 – PURPOSE

This ordinance is for the purpose of aiding in promoting the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Hancock County through sterilization, humane education, rabies inoculation, stray control, impoundment, quarantine, and any other means deemed reasonably necessary to control and prevent the spread of rabies in animals and to exercise dog and cat overpopulation control through the power vested in Hancock County by the Illinois General Assembly.

Further, this ordinance shall replace Hancock County Ordinance 6-2008-9.

SECTION 1 – DEFINITIONS

As used in this ordinance, the words set forth below shall have the meaning ascribed to them below:

Administrator means a veterinarian licensed by the State of Illinois and appointed pursuant to the Animal Control Act or their duly authorized representative.

Animal Control Warden means any person appointed by the Administrator and approved by the Board to perform duties as assigned by the Administrator to effectuate the purpose of this ordinance.

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

Dog means all members of the family Canidae.

Dwelling means a building or any part thereof, a tent, or other enclosed space which is intended for use as a home or residence.

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

Person means any individual, firm, corporation, partnership, society, association or other legal entity, any public or private institution, the State of Illinois, municipal corporation or political subdivision of the State, or any other business unit.

Police officer has the meaning ascribed to it in Section 2-13 of the Criminal Code of 1961.

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

Run at large means a dog that leaves the premises of its owner and is not under control by leash or other recognized control method.

SECTION 3 – DOGS RUNNING AT LARGE

(a) It shall be unlawful for an owner of a dog to negligently permit such dog to run at large and damage any property of another without his consent within the unincorporated areas of the county.

(b) It shall be unlawful for an owner of a dog to negligently permit such dog to run at large and take, kill, injure, pursue or otherwise harass any animal of another within the unincorporated areas of the county.

(c) It shall be unlawful for an owner of a dog to negligently permit such dog to run at large and chase, molest, attack, bite, physically intimidate, or harass any person within the unincorporated areas of the county.

(d) The Animal Control Warden, his or her agent or representative, and sworn police officers are empowered to enter onto private property without the consent of the owner in order to enforce the provisions of this ordinance. This section shall not be construed to allow the Animal Control Warden, his or her agent or representative, and sworn police officers to enter into any dwelling.

(e) It shall be unlawful for any person to resist, obstruct, or impede the Animal Control Warden, his or her agent or representative, or sworn police officers in enforcing this ordinance.

(f) A dog found upon its owner's land shall not be considered running at large.

SECTION 4 – ENFORCEMENT

(a) The Animal Control Warden, his or her agent or representative, and sworn police officers are authorized to issue a notice to appear to a person where there is probable cause to believe that person is in violation of any section of this ordinance. Said notice to appear shall require the alleged violator to appear in court and answer the charge.

(b) The State's Attorney may prosecute violations of the ordinance brought to his or her attention by operation of paragraph (a).

SECTION 5 – PENALTIES

(a) Pursuant to 55 ILCS 5/5-1071, any person violating or aiding in or abetting the violation of any provision of this ordinance or resisting, obstructing or impeding the Animal Control Warden, his or her agent or representative, or sworn police officers in enforcing this ordinance, is guilty of a petty offense and shall be fined \$200.00 for a first offense and not less than \$200.00 or more than \$1,000.00 for a subsequent offense.

(b) Pursuant to 705 ILCS 135/15-65, the dog’s owner shall pay an additional \$100.00 in fees assessed as court costs.

(c) Pursuant to 510 ILCS 5/9, the dog’s owner shall pay an additional \$25.00 public safety fine to be deposited into the county animal control fund or the county pet population control fund.

(d) Each day a person is in violation of this ordinance shall be considered a separate offense.

SECTION 6 – EFFECTIVENESS


This ordinance shall become effective upon enactment by the Board.


SECTION 7 – SEVERABILITY

The invalidity of any section or parts of any section of this ordinance or any rule or regulation pursuant thereto shall not effect the validity of the remainder of this ordinance, or any rule or regulation.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 16th day of September, 2025.




Mark Menn, Chairman of the County
Board of Hancock County


Holly A. Wilde-Tillman, Hancock County Clerk

AYES: 13
NAYS: _____
ABSENT: 2
ABSTAINING: _____