

CITY OF MERIDIAN ORDINANCE NO. 26-_____

BY THE CITY COUNCIL:

**CAVENER, LITTLE ROBERTS, OVERTON
STRADER, TAYLOR, WHITLOCK**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING MERIDIAN CITY CODE SECTION 6-2-9, REGARDING MINIMUM STANDARDS; REPEALING AND REPLACING MERIDIAN CITY CODE 6-2-1(8), DEFINING COMPANION ANIMAL; REPEALING ANY CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Meridian finds that the following ordinance will serve the public health, safety, and welfare of the people of Meridian;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERIDIAN, ADA COUNTY, IDAHO:

Section 1. That Meridian City Code 6-2-9 shall be added, to read as follows:

6-2-9: CRUELTY TO ANIMALS:

A. Standard of Animal Care: Owners shall provide their animals with the minimum standard of care set forth in this Section. Every owner shall provide their animal with sufficient food, water and shelter according to the following minimum standards:

1. *Adequate Food:* Animals shall be provided, at intervals not to exceed twenty- four (24) hours, a quantity of wholesome food specific to the animal's age and species that provides a level of nutrition necessary to sustain health and welfare appropriate to the animal's age and condition.

2. *Adequate Quantities of Water:* Animals shall at all times have access to clean and fresh water. The owner shall replenish the water supply a minimum of every twenty- four (24) hours.

3. *Sanitary Animal Keeping:* Owners shall keep their animals in a clean, sanitary and healthy manner and not confine them in a manner where they are forced to stand, sit or lie in their own excrement.

4. *Shelter:* Every owner shall provide their Companion Animal with a shelter structure possessing walls, roof, and raised floor adequate to shield the animals from wind and rain. The structure shall be adequately ventilated and provide protection from excessive heat and cold, and shall be commensurate to the size of the inhabiting animal to permit it to move about freely.

5. *Tethering:* An owner shall not tether a dog or other Companion Animal through use of a choke collar, or confine an animal in such manner that it can become entangled to the extent it cannot move freely, or reach shelter or water, or become entangled with another animal. The area where the animal is tethered or confined must be free of extraneous material that may

cause it injury (materials such as glass, sharp metal and nails). No animal may be kept continuously tethered for more than twelve (12) hours during any twenty- four (24) hour period or tethered on a continuous basis. See ADA and Idaho Code Title 56, Chapter 7 for definitions and exemptions for off leash/ tether/ harness.

6. *Exercise*: Every confined animal must be regularly provided with physical activity appropriate to their species, age, and sufficient to maintain health and welfare appropriate to the animal's age and condition.

7. *Veterinary Care*: The owner of an injured or diseased animal shall promptly provide veterinary care that a reasonably prudent person would consider necessary to relieve or prevent pain, suffering, injury, or disease.

B. *Fighting Equipment*: It shall be unlawful to possess cockspurs, slashers, gaffs, or other tools, equipment, devices or training facilities intended for purposes for training or engaging an animal in combat with another animal.

C. *Confinement without Food and Water; Intervention*: A person observing a Companion Animal confined without access to food or water for more than twenty-four (24) hours, shall immediately contact the Animal Control Agency.

D. *Improper Containment of Animal in Motor Vehicle or Trailer*: No person(s) shall permit an animal to be contained within a motor vehicle or trailer under conditions that endanger the health, safety or wellbeing of the animal. This provision includes circumstances relating dangerous temperatures or lack of air, food, water and proper care. An Animal Control Officer, law enforcement officer or public official who has probable cause to believe a confined animal is imperiled shall have the authority to enter the motor vehicle or trailer by any reasonable means after making an effort to locate the owner.

E. *Abandonment*: It shall be unlawful to abandon an animal intentionally, knowingly, recklessly, or with criminal negligence, or leave an animal at a location without providing for the animal's continued care. Abandonment includes the disposing of an animal at or near an animal shelter, veterinary clinic or other place of shelter without first making provisions for its reasonable care.

F. *Penalty*. A violation of this Section shall constitute a misdemeanor and shall be punished by a fine up to \$300 or up to 30 days of jail.

Section 2. That Meridian City Code 6-2-1(8) shall be repealed and replaced with language to read as follows:

8. *Companion animal* means any animal kept solely as a pet, including but not limited to domestic dogs, cats, rabbits, and birds.

Section 3. That all City of Meridian ordinances, or resolutions, or parts thereof, which are in conflict herewith, are hereby repealed.

Section 4. That this ordinance shall be effective immediately upon its passage and publication.

PASSED by the City Council of the City of Meridian, Idaho, this ____ day of _____, 2026.

APPROVED by the Mayor of the City of Meridian, Idaho, this ____ day of _____, 2026.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Robert E. Simison, Mayor

Chris Johnson, City Clerk

CERTIFICATION OF SUMMARY:

William L.M. Nary, City Attorney of the City of Meridian, Idaho, hereby certifies that the summary below is true and complete and upon its publication will provide adequate notice to the public.

William L. M. Nary, City Attorney

SUMMARY OF CITY OF MERIDIAN ORDINANCE NO. 26 - _____

An ordinance amending Meridian City Code section 6-2-9, regarding minimum standards; repealing and replacing Meridian City Code 6-2-1(8), defining companion animal; repealing any conflicting ordinances; and providing an effective date.