

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-03

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON, TEXAS AMENDING THE ANIMAL ORDINANCE, CHAPTER 4, ARTICLE I, SECTION 4-1 DEFINITIONS.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON, TEXAS;

The animal ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of Mount Vernon, Texas shall hereafter read as follows:

ANIMAL: Any vertebrae creature, excluding human beings.

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER: Any person designated by the city manager to represent and act for the city in the capture, care and confinement of animals.

ANIMAL SHELTER: Any facility designated by the city manager to temporarily contain, house and care for domestic animals held under authority of this ordinance.

AT-LARGE: An animal not confined within a building, wall, or fence of sufficient strength and construction to restrain the animal except when the animal is on a leash, cord, rope, or chain of sufficient length and strength to control the actions of the animal. An animal held within the arms of the owner or harborer, or contained within the cabin of a vehicle of its owner or harborer shall not be deemed "at-large".

CAT: Any member of the animal species *Felis Catus*.

DOG: Any member of the animal species *Canis Familiaris*.

DOMESTIC ANIMAL: Cat, dog, ferret.

FOWL: Any chicken, turkey, goose, duck, guinea, emu, ostrich, or pigeon.

HARBORER/HARBORING: The person or act of keeping and caring for an animal for seventy-two (72) consecutive hours or of providing a premise to which the animal returns regularly, (more than three occasions).

LIVESTOCK: Any cow, horse, mule, jack, jennet, goat, sheep, swine or any other form of livestock.

OWNER: Any person, firm or corporation having right of property to any animal, or who harbors, or who causes or permits to be harbored any animal on or about their property.

QUARANTINE FACILITY: Facility approved by the Texas Department of Health for the strict confinement of an animal for rabies observation.

VACCINATED: Injection of a rabies vaccine approved by the United States Department of Agriculture and administered in accordance with Chapter 169 of the Texas Administrative Code, by a licensed veterinarian.

ADEQUATE SHELTER: A sturdy structure:

- (A) that provides the dog protection from inclement weather; and
- (B) with dimensions that allow the dog while in the shelter to stand erect, sit, turn around, and lie down in a normal position.

COLLAR: A band of material specifically designed to be placed around the neck of a dog.

HARNESS: A set of straps constructed of nylon, leather, or similar material, specifically designed to restrain or control a dog.

INCLEMENT WEATHER: Includes rain, hail, sleet, snow, high winds, extreme low temperatures, or extreme high temperatures.

PROPERLY FITTED: means, with respect to a collar or harness, a collar or harness that:

- (A) is appropriately sized for the dog based on the dog's measurements and body weight;
- (B) does not choke the dog or impede the dog's normal breathing or swallowing; and
- (C) does not cause pain or injury to the dog.

RESTRAINT: A chain, rope, tether, leash, cable, or other device that attaches a dog to a stationary object or trolley system.

PASSED, ADOPTED AND APPROVED this the 14th day of February, 2022.

Brad Hyman – Mayor

ATTEST:

Kathy Lovier – City Secretary