

ST. TAMMANY PARISH COUNCIL

ORDINANCE

ORDINANCE CALENDAR NO. 7740AA

ORDINANCE COUNCIL SERIES NO. 24-

COUNCIL SPONSOR: IMPASTATO/CORBIN

PROVIDED BY: CIVIL DA/COUNCIL OFFICE

INTRODUCED BY: CORBIN

SECONDED BY: IMPASTATO

ON THE 7TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2024

ORDINANCE TO AMEND ST. TAMMANY PARISH CODE OF ORDINANCES, PART I, CHAPTER 10 – ANIMALS, FOWL AND REPTILES, ARTICLE IV – ANIMAL CONTROL AND WELFARE, ENACTING SECTION 10-670, RELATIVE TO MANDATORY STERILIZATION OF DOGS AND CATS, AND PROVIDING FOR OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.

WHEREAS, St. Tammany Parish Government is charged with protecting the health, safety, and welfare of its citizens, which includes the health and welfare of the animals in its jurisdiction; and,

WHEREAS, St. Tammany Parish’s Department of Animal Services has capably and compassionately operated a no-kill animal shelter charged with the care of stray and unwanted pets in the Parish; and,

WHEREAS, the population of animals being surrendered to the shelter has reached a critical mass, in large part due to unsterilized cats and dogs; and,

WHEREAS, the St. Tammany Parish Council, Department of Animal Services, and animal rights advocates believe that sterilization of cats and dogs is more humane than euthanasia as a means of population control and will reduce the costs of operating a no kill animal shelter over time by decreasing the number of unwanted pets; and

WHEREAS, a voucher program will be implemented to provide free or reduced cost spay and neutering services to St. Tammany Parish residents, and a waiver of these provisions shall be available for responsible pet owners; and,

WHEREAS, the spay and neuter requirement provided herein will be enforced when any cat or dog is impounded by the Department of Animal Services for a separate violation of Article IV of the Code of Ordinances; and

WHEREAS, in order to control the stray and pet population in the Parish, it is necessary to enact spay and neuter requirements for all cats and dogs in the Parish, except those cats and dogs which qualify for a waiver of these requirements as set forth below.

THE PARISH OF ST. TAMMANY HEREBY ORDAINS that St. Tammany Parish Code of Ordinances, Part I, Chapter 10 – Animals, Fowl and Reptiles, Article IV – Animal Control and Welfare, be amended to enact Section 10-670 – Spay and Neuter of Cats and Dogs, which shall read as follows:

SEC. 10-670. – Spay and Neuter of Cats and Dogs.

- (a) Cat means any member of the Felidae (feline) family.
- (b) Dog means any member of the Canis lupus familiaris family.
- (c) Except as provided in subsection (d) below, no person may own, keep, reside with or harbor a cat or dog within the parish that has not been spayed or neutered.
- (d) Waiver.

- (1) These provisions shall not apply to any kittens 26 weeks or younger or any puppies 52 weeks or younger.
 - (2) Any pet owner may obtain a no-fee intact waiver of the provisions of this Section from the Department of Animal Services.
 - i. In order to receive an intact waiver of these requirements, the pet owner shall present proof of current rabies vaccination, license, and microchip identifying the current owner of the animal.
 - ii. The intact waiver may be repealed if the cat or dog is impounded more than one (1) time Department of Animal Services per Subsection (e).
- (e) Enforcement. Any cat or dog impounded by the Department of Animal Services for a violation of St. Tammany Parish Code of Ordinances Sections 10-644, 10-647, 10-648, 10-650, 10-658, 10-659, 10-664 shall be required to be spayed or neutered in accordance with this Section.
- (1) First offense. The owner of any fertile cat or dog impounded by the Department of Animal Services for a first-time offense in accordance with Subsection (e) may pay a fine of \$150.00 in lieu of the spay and neuter requirements if the animal has received an intact waiver. If the animal has not received an intact waiver, the pet owner shall obtain an intact waiver and pay a fine of \$250.00 in lieu of satisfying the spay and neuter requirements.
 - (2) Second offense. Any fertile cat or dog impounded by the Department of Animal Services for a second violation in accordance with Subsection (e) will have its intact permit revoked, shall be spayed or neutered prior to the animal's release, and shall pay a fine of \$300.00.
 - (3) Any fines collected for a violation of this Section shall be used to pay the expenses of the spay and neuter voucher program.

REPEAL: All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

SEVERABILITY: If any provision of this Ordinance shall be held to be invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions herein which can be given effect without the invalid provision and to this end the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby declared to be severable.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This Ordinance shall become effective fifteen (15) days after adoption.

MOVED FOR ADOPTION BY: _____

SECONDED BY: _____

WHEREUPON THIS ORDINANCE WAS SUBMITTED TO A VOTE AND RESULTED IN THE FOLLOWING:

YEAS:

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

THIS ORDINANCE WAS DECLARED DULY ADOPTED AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL ON THE 5TH DAY OF DECEMBER, 2024; AND BECOMES ORDINANCE COUNCIL SERIES NO. 24-
_____.

ARTHUR A. LAUGHLIN, COUNCIL CHAIR

ATTEST:

KATRINA L. BUCKLEY, COUNCIL CLERK

MICHAEL B. COOPER, PARISH PRESIDENT

Published Introduction: NOVEMBER 27, 2024

Published Adoption: _____, 2024

Delivered to Parish President: _____, 2024 at _____

Returned to Council Clerk: _____, 2024 at _____