

ST. TAMMANY PARISH COUNCIL

ORDINANCE

ORDINANCE CALENDAR NO.: 7740

ORDINANCE COUNCIL SERIES NO. 24-

COUNCIL SPONSOR: IMPASTATO/CORBIN

PROVIDED BY: CIVIL DA/COUNCIL OFFICE

INTRODUCED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

SECONDED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

ON THE 7<sup>TH</sup> 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 euthanization as a means of population control; 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) No person may own, keep, reside with or harbor a cat or dog within the parish that has not been spayed or neutered.
- (d) Subsection (c) of this Section shall not apply to:
  - (1) Any kittens 26 weeks or younger or any puppies 52 weeks or younger.
  - (2) Any cat or dog which is registered with the American Kennel Club, United Kennel Club, American Dog Breeding Association, Continental Kennel Club, Cat Fanciers Association, American Cat Fanciers Association or other nationally or internationally recognized organization and participates in shows sponsored by these organizations. An animal owner who presents proof of registration and participation in shows is exempt from the neutering and spaying requirements of this Section. “Proof” shall consist of timestamped photographic evidence of participation in shows and the registration paperwork of the recognized organization.

- (3) Animals with a chronic or debilitating disease or medical condition whose health will be seriously, permanently and detrimentally affected if it is spayed or neutered as documented by a licensed Veterinarian. This includes any developmental variation from the timeline expressed in Subsection (d)(1) of this ordinance that would make sterilization of the animal inappropriate until maturity.
- (4) Animal owners who obtain an intact permit (males)/breeding permit (females) for their pet which is microchipped and the permit is to be obtained annually to expire on December 31<sup>st</sup> of every year. Animal owners who receive an intact permit or breeding permit shall be exempt from the Parish license registration required in Sec. 10-648(a) and (b).
- (5) Animal owners who obtain a working or service animal waiver, including dogs used for hunting, and such pet is microchipped. A service animal shall be defined as an animal that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for a person for a person with a disability as defined by the Americans with Disability Act.
- (6) Animals utilized by any law enforcement agency.
- (7) Honest Escape Exception: The spay/neuter requirement of this Section shall not apply to any dog or cat intercepted by the Department of Animal Services if such animal is (a) collared and tagged with current rabies vaccination; or (b) microchipped with information identifying the owner of such animal and current rabies vaccination. A notice to sterilize with six (6) weeks shall be provided to the animal owner upon release. Subsequent escape and impoundment shall not qualify for exemption under this subsection.
- (e) The primary penalty for violation of this Section shall be impounding of the dog or cat believed to qualify under Subsection (c), the neutering/spaying of such dog or cat, and the return of such dog or cat to its owner after an appropriate time for healing after surgery. Any further penalty shall be as provided in Section 10-643.

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 5<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF DECEMBER, 2024; AND BECOMES ORDINANCE COUNCIL SERIES NO. 24-  
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ARTHUR A. LAUGHLIN, COUNCIL CHAIR

ATTEST:

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KATRINA L. BUCKLEY, COUNCIL CLERK

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MICHAEL B. COOPER, PARISH PRESIDENT

Published Introduction: OCTOBER 30, 2024  
Published Adoption: \_\_\_\_\_, 2024  
Delivered to Parish President: \_\_\_\_\_, 2024 at \_\_\_\_\_  
Returned to Council Clerk: \_\_\_\_\_, 2024 at \_\_\_\_\_