

WALTON COUNTY, GEORGIA
ORDINANCE NUMBER _____

AN ORDINANCE
BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OF WALTON COUNTY

An Ordinance to amend the Code of Walton County, Georgia, Chapter 10 regarding Animals, so as to adopt and enforce certain amendments to the animal control ordinance; to repeal conflicting provisions; to provide for an effective date; and for other purposes.

WHEREAS, Article IX, Section II, Paragraph I of the Constitution of the State of Georgia grants the governing authority of each county the legislative power to adopt clearly reasonable ordinances, resolutions, or regulations relating to its property, affairs, and local government for which no provision has been made by general law and which is not inconsistent with the constitution or any local law applicable thereto;

WHEREAS, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 36-1-20, a county may enact regulations to protect the health, safety, and general welfare of the public under its police powers;

WHEREAS, in order to protect the health, safety, and general welfare of the public, Walton County desires to adopt and enforce certain amendments to its animal control ordinance.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED AND RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF WALTON COUNTY, GEORGIA AS FOLLOWS:

1.

The Code of Walton County, Georgia is hereby amended by adding the following provision as Chapter 10, Article I, Sec. 10-22 of the Code of Walton County, Georgia:

Sec. 10-22. - Backyard breeding.

- (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to breed more than one litter per household in a 12-month period without proper licensing through the Georgia Department of Agriculture. Any person who applies for such licensing with the State of Georgia must also register as a business with Walton County.
- (b) It shall be unlawful for any person to engage in the transfer or giveaway of any dog, cat, or domestic rabbit at any roadside, public right of way, parkway, median, public or commercial parking lot or sidewalk, park, recreation area, fair, transient or

seasonal flea market, or a similar transient market or outdoor location, regardless of whether such activity is otherwise authorized by any person or entity.

(c) This Code section shall not apply to:

- (1) The transfer of any dog, cat, or domestic rabbit by a person or entity that has and produces upon request, whether in paper, electronic, or other form, a valid animal shelter or pet dealer license issued by the Georgia Department of Agriculture;
- (2) Any transfer that takes place at a residence or inside of a veterinarian's office or other business establishment;
- (3) The transfer of any dog, cat, or domestic rabbit by a paid entrant as part of an event or show sanctioned by a national breed club or inside of a veterinarian's office or other business establishment;
- (4) The prearranged transfer between a dog, cat, or domestic rabbit seller and a specific purchaser that takes place at a police department, sheriff's office, or other similar law enforcement facility during daylight hours, unless otherwise prohibited.

(d) An animal control officer who is an employee of state or local government or any sheriff, deputy sheriff, or other peace officer is authorized to enforce the provisions of this Code section and to impound any animal subject to a transfer in violation of this Code section.

[signature page on following page]

This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon passage.

SO ORDAINED this _____ day of _____, 2025.

David Thompson, Chairman
Walton County Board of Commissioners

Attest: _____
Rhonda Hawk, County Clerk
Walton County, Georgia

[COUNTY SEAL]