

**SUMTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

SUBJECT: **Public Hearing - Amendment to Sumter County Code Chapter 4 - Animal Control**

REQUESTED ACTION: **Staff recommends approval**

Work Session (Report Only) **DATE OF MEETING:** 01/26/10
 Regular Meeting Special Meeting

CONTRACT: N/A Vendor/Entity: _____
Effective Date: _____ Termination Date: _____
Managing Division / Dept: _____

BUDGET IMPACT: _____
 Annual **FUNDING SOURCE:** _____
 Capital **EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT:** _____
 N/A

HISTORY/FACTS/ISSUES:

The last revision of the animal control ordinance was March 28, 2006. This ordinance amends certain definitions and provisions of Chapter 4 of the Sumter County Code related to animal control and provides for clarification, severability, and an effective date. The definition and provision changes to the ordinance are as follows:

- New definitions of feral and hybrid animals
- New hearing procedures employing the Sumter County Special Master
- New procedures for possible humane destruction of feral animals
- New procedures for governance of animal care establishment
- New provisions for abandoned livestock
- New regulations regarding pets in county parks
- New regulations regarding sterilization of outdoor cats
- Amended hearing procures to conform with Special Master
- Establishment of fines and fees by resolution.

A new provision for owner responsibility to pickup animal feces on private and public property has not been included herein for the following reasons:

- 1) The issue is covered under the current Sec. 4-10, "Dogs and cats running at large, (a) No person shall cause, permit, or allow a dog or cat to stray or in any manner to run at large in or upon any public street, sidewalk, or other public property or the property of another."
- 2) It is also covered Sec. 4-19, "Animals are prohibited in parks, playgrounds, public school premises, public buildings and on beaches, except where allowed." See new language as amended herein.

No changes have been made in the in Sec. 4-11(f), Impoundment, which describes length of stay and reads as follows: "Any animal without any form of identification which is impounded pursuant to this chapter may be redeemed within a minimum of three (3) working days from the date of impoundment, or within five (5) days if such animal is wearing a current rabies tag or is otherwise properly identified. The last day of redemption shall occur on a day the county shelter or other holding facility is open for business." The only change specific to the length of stay for animals requested by amendment herein is the addition of Sect.4-11(k), which allows for feral animals to be humanly destroyed within twenty-four hours in defined circumstances.

All issues raised by the Commission 12/29/09 have been addressed herein (revisions are captured in red for ease of review) relative to cat collars, ownership identifiers such as notched ears, and hybrid definition and ownership.

Relative to the hybrid issue: Lake County bans ownership, possession, breeding, and sale of hybrids. Marion, Citrus, and Hernando Counties allow hybrids and utilize the definitions and guidance provided by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). Contact with FWC has resulted in the revised language herein. FWC does not issue permits for all hybrids. FWC will depend on Animal Control Officers to assess wild vs. domestic characteristics of hybrids in order to engage FWC in cases requiring state permits rather than domestic animal licensing. Training has been requested by Animal Control Services from FWC to determine wild vs. domestic characteristics. A meeting has been scheduled on 1/28/10 with FWC to clarify roles and coordinate practices. Currently, there is no approved rabies vaccine for hybrid animals. Therefore, rabies vaccinations are not required to secure an animal license for hybrids from Animal Control Services that have dominant characteristics of domestic canines or felines if this amended ordinance is passed by the BOCC.

No additional language has been included in *this* revision relative to sterilization, as it was previously included to the extent practicable in the 2006 ordinance relating to adoption and the addition of language at the conclusion of Section 4-18 relating to outside cats.
