

ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

AN AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 11, ARTICLE II OF THE AMELIA COUNTY CODE TO AMEND THE FEES FOR DOG IMPOUNDMENT & ADOPTION

Chapter 11, Article II Dogs Generally

§ 11-18 Impoundment; procedures; fees.

- A. Pound to be maintained and accessible to public. The Board of Supervisors shall maintain a pound in accordance with the regulations and guidelines issued by the Virginia Board of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and provisions of § 3.2-6546 of the Code of Virginia, both of which shall control over any provisions herein that conflict with such regulation, guideline or statute. The pound shall be accessible to members of the public at reasonable hours during the week.
- B. Responsibility for operation of pound. In addition to their other duties, the animal control officer and deputy animal control officers shall be responsible for the daily operation of the pound.
- C. Impoundment of animals generally. It shall be the duty of the animal control officer or other officer to take in charge any dog found running at large in violation of this chapter and to hold such dog at the County animal pound for a period of not less than five days, such period to commence on the day immediately following the day the dog is initially confined, unless sooner claimed by the owner thereof. The operator or custodian of the County animal pound shall make a reasonable effort to ascertain if the dog has a tag, license or tattooed identification. If such identification is found on the dog, a reasonable effort shall be made to return the dog to its owner or place the dog for adoption before humanely destroying the dog. No dog with identification may be disposed of by sale or gift to a federal agency, state-supported institution, agency of the commonwealth or agency of another state. An additional five-day holding period shall be added to the holding period described above for any dog with a tag, license or tattooed identification. Nothing contained in this section shall be construed to prohibit confinement of other companion animals in the pound.
- D. During the period of impoundment of a dog under this section, if the rightful owner may be readily identified, the animal control officer shall notify the owner of the dog's confinement within 48 hours next following its confinement or conduct a diligent search to determine ownership of the dog. Accurate records shall be kept to document each attempt that is made to identify the owner and notify him of the impoundment. A rightful owner claiming a dog impounded under this section shall, in order to obtain its release, pay to the County an impoundment fee of \$10 for each day the animal has been confined in the pound and **\$25 for the first offense, \$50 for the second offense, \$75 for the third offense, and \$100 for the fourth offense of impoundment** plus an additional fee of ~~\$15~~**\$25** if the dog is not properly licensed or if the dog has been impounded on prior occasion(s). **[Amended 6-18-2024]**
- E. If an animal confined under this section has not been claimed, upon expiration of the appropriate holding period, it shall be deemed abandoned and become the property of the pound or shelter.
- F. If a dog deemed to be abandoned under this section did not when delivered to the County animal pound bear a collar, tag, license, tattoo, or other form of identification, it may be humanely destroyed or disposed of by:
 - (1) Sale or gift to a federal agency, state-supported institution, agency of the commonwealth, or agency of another state, provided that such agency or institution agrees to confine the animal for an additional period of not less than five days;

- (2) Delivery to any local humane society or shelter; or
- (3) Delivery to any person who is a resident of the County and who will pay the required license tax on such dog in addition to a ~~\$10~~20 adoption fee. [Amended 6-18-2024]
- G. If a dog deemed to be abandoned under this section when delivered to the County animal pound bore a collar, tag, license, tattoo, or other form of identification it may be humanely destroyed or disposed of by the methods described in Subsection F(2) and (3) above. Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this Subsection G, no dog shall be delivered to a laboratory for research purposes. A dog deemed to be abandoned under this section may also be delivered to any person who proposes to adopt it as a companion animal and who will pay the required license tax on it in addition to a ~~\$10~~20 adoption fee, provided that no more than two animals or a family of animals shall be delivered during any thirty-day period to any one such person. [Amended 6-18-2024]
- H. No provision in this section shall prohibit the destruction by the animal control officer of a critically injured or critically ill animal or any animal not weaned, whether or not the animal is critically injured or critically ill, for humane purposes. Any animal destroyed pursuant to the provisions of this section shall be euthanized by one of the methods described or approved by the State Veterinarian.

State law references: Similar provisions and duty of County to maintain pound, Code of Virginia, § 3.2-6546.

Effective date: July 1, 2024



David M. Felts, Chairman
Amelia County Board of Supervisors

Attest:



A. Taylor Harvie, III