



Collier County Government



Public Services Division
Domestic Animal Services
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BCC OFFICIALLY REVISES ANIMAL CONTROL ORDINANCE

Domestic Animal Services • 7610 Davis Blvd., Naples, FL 34104

On Tuesday, Jan. 26, the Collier County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) revised the county's Animal Control Ordinance as recommended by the Domestic Animal Services (DAS) Advisory Board.

Changes adopted in the ordinance include allowing registered caregivers to trap-neuter-return feral cats to their colonies, establishing animal tethering restrictions along with a formula to calculate the proper amount of space for dog enclosures, and replacing the three-person Dangerous Dog panel with the Special Magistrate for appeals hearings.

TNR PROGRAM

Working with the Collier Community Cat Coalition, DAS and the BCC created regulations in the revised Animal Control Ordinance to allow for a lawful trap-neuter-return (TNR) program, which was not allowed under the previous ordinance. TNR will allow participating caregivers and DAS to ensure feral cats are spayed or neutered and vaccinated against rabies and to register feral colonies thus allowing for constant monitoring with the goal of reducing the number of feral cats in Collier County.

DOG CHAINING RESTRICTIONS & PROPER ENCLOSURE FORMULA

Dogs may no longer be chained and left alone. Dogs may only be tethered or chained with a responsible party outside with the dog and in line of sight to oversee the animal's welfare. Additionally, a number of safety precautions must be met such as requirements a tethered dog be six months or older and healthy.

Other safety precautions include using a tether that is five times the length of the dog's body, as measured from tip of the nose to the base of the tail, and both ends of the tether must have a swivel. Tethers must weigh no more than one-eighth of the dog's weight. Owners are not permitted to chain dogs during extreme weather such as thunderstorms, or extreme heat and cold, and dogs must have access at all times to shade, ample fresh drinking water and dry ground.

A formula has also been created for all owned dogs to define a "proper enclosure" using the dog's size to ensure the animal has a humane area of space for living.

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Owners will be given a three-month grace period to come into compliance with the new regulations regarding containment of dogs. Full enforcement of the new rules will begin the first week of May, to coincide with Be Kind to Animals Week.

DANGEROUS DOG PANEL REVISION

The Dangerous Dog Appeals Panel has been eliminated and replaced with the Special Magistrate now responsible for all appeals.

Statistics for homeless animals in Collier County may be found on DAS's website at the following link: <http://www.colliergov.net/Index.aspx?page=2686>. Each month how many pets are received and the outcomes of those animals are posted online.

For more information, the media must contact Camden Smith at (239) 252-5326. The public should contact DAS by calling (239) 252-PETS (7387).