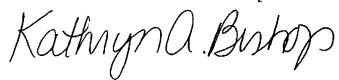


I, Kathryn Bishop, County Clerk, Camden County Board of County Commissioners, hereby certify the attached copy of the Official Code of Ordinances, Chapter 14, Animals as unanimously amended and approved at a regularly scheduled Board of County Commissioners meeting held on August 2, 2016.



Kathryn A. Bishop, County Clerk

Chapter 14 – Animals

ARTICLE I. IN GENERAL

Sec. 14-1. Definitions

The following words, terms, and phrases, when used in this chapter shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Adequate Food and Water means food that is palatable, non-contaminated, and nutritionally appropriate for the species of animal; water that is clean, fresh, potable, and available to the pet at all times according to species requirements, sufficient in an amount and appropriate for the species of animal to prevent starvation, dehydration, or any significant risk to the animal's health from a lack of food or water; or as directed by a veterinarian. (Referenced O.C.G.A. § 40-13-13.01(1) (a) (b), § 4-11-2, § 4-13-2)

Animal means any living thing other than wildlife, insects, plants, or human beings.

Animal Control Officer means any employee of Camden County duly designated as an animal control officer by the Board of County Commissioners to enforce the provisions of this chapter.

Attack / Assault means any animal that is threatening or attempting to inflict immediate offensive physical contact or bodily harm, which puts a person in fear of such contact or harm, such as, but not limited to; growling, snarling, barking, lunging and/or other intimidating behavior.

Confined means restricted by a fence or leash to the premises of the owner or custodian at all times or merely on the property under the control of the owner or custodian whereby the animal shall not be permitted to leave those premises, unless leashed and accompanied by the owner or custodian. Exempted are hunting dogs while being trained and during the act of hunting. **Fowl** means a bird of any kind habitually kept as pets, excluding wildlife and those birds used for food. (i.e.: wild or domestic chickens, ducks, geese, turkeys)

Guard dog means any dog which has been trained to attack persons and/or animals independently or upon command, and any dog which, while not so trained, has a known propensity to attack persons or animals and is used for the purpose of providing security to any person or premises.

Health Department means the Camden County health department.

Livestock means all animals of the equine, bovine or swine class, including goats, sheep, mules, and other grazing animals.

Nuisance animal means any animal which:

- (1) Molests persons or passing vehicles;
- (2) Attacks other animals;
- (3) Trespasses on school grounds, recreational areas or parks;
- (4) Is repeatedly at large;
- (5) Damages private or public property;
- (6) Barks, whines or howls in an excessive, continuous, or untimely fashion; or
- (7) Constitutes a nuisance as the term is defined by the law of this state.

Owner means any person or legal entity, corporation, partnership, firm or trust, owning, possessing, harboring, keeping or having custody or control of an animal for 10 or more days, regardless of whether they are consecutive, who keeps or harbors any animal or has its care; who permits any animal to remain on or about the premises owned, possessed or occupied by him; who voluntarily abandons an animal; or who runs an animal away after possessing or owning it; this term shall include joint ownership by the resident spouse of the person owning the animal; owner does not refer to any person considered a juvenile, under the laws of this state, who resides with either parent(s) or legal guardian. In the absence of a clear owner, ownership is the responsibility of the property owner and/or legal tenant.

Rabies certificate means a certificate signed by a licensed veterinarian bearing a license number, ownership, name, address, breed, color and sex of animal, which shall be issued for each animal vaccinated. The date of last vaccination of such animal shall be clearly stated on such certificate, and a copy of such certificate shall be sent by such veterinarian to the health department.

Running at large means the conduct of any animal, other than a hunting dog while hunting, not confined by its owner or keeper within walls or a fence of proper design, controlled by a leash, or kept in some manner as to keep it from coming in contact with members of the public.

Shade means the blocking of sunlight - in particular direct sunlight - by any object, and the shadow created by that object to protect from excessive heat, while allowing for the passage of air currents.

Vaccinate or inoculate means the injection of a specified dose of an anti-rabies vaccine by a veterinarian into the proper site of an animal, such vaccine having the U.S. Department of Agriculture Biological Control Section license number and approval stamped on the label of the container and having been approved by the state department of human resources.

Vaccine means an injectable material containing killed or live rabies virus, licensed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Biological Control Section, and approved by the state department of human resources. The vaccine used for the purpose of this chapter shall be stored at the temperature prescribed on the package label. Outdated vaccine shall not be used.

Veterinarian means any person who holds a valid license to practice the profession of veterinary medicine in any state of the United States or any province of Canada.

Vicious Animal means any dog that;

- a. Endangers the safety of a human being, OR;
- b. Inflicts a severe injury on a human being without provocation; OR
- c. Is owned; possessed; kept; harbored; trained or maintained for the purpose of fighting.

Such term shall not include a dog that inflicts an injury upon a person when the dog is being used by law enforcement to carry out their official duties. A dog shall not be vicious if the injury inflicted was sustained by a person who, at the time, was committing a willful trespass (note: a child of a certain age is incapable of willful trespass) or other tort, was tormenting, abusing, or assaulting the dog or had in the past been observed or reported to have tormented, abused, or assaulted the dog or was committing or attempting to commit a crime. (*Referenced O.C.G.A. § 4-8-41 (6) (a) (b)*) *Cross reference – Definitions generally, § 1-2*

Sec. 14-2. Enforcement of Chapter

The primary responsibility for the enforcement and execution of this chapter shall be vested in the board of commissioners. County animal control officers shall have the primary responsibility for the enforcement and execution of *Official Code of Ordinances, Chapter 14, Animals*. The civil and criminal provisions of this chapter shall be enforced by those persons or agencies designated by the county. The Camden County Animal Control Officer shall have the power to conduct such investigations as may be deemed reasonably necessary to carry out the duties as referred to in this chapter.

Sec 14-2.1. Jurisdiction of Offenses

Pursuant to the provisions of O.C.G.A. § 15-10-60 et seq. and the provisions of article III, the county magistrate court shall have jurisdiction to hear and to determine all alleged violations of this chapter unless the accused shall demand a jury trial, in which case the prosecution shall be removed to the county superior court for jury trial as a misdemeanor. The county magistrate court shall have all powers granted to it which are necessary and incident to the hearing and disposition of the matters brought before the court, including but not limited to the authority to issue citations and summons for witnesses.

The following persons have standing to file complaints for violations of this chapter:

- (1) County animal control officers;
- (2) Law enforcement officers;
- (3) Public health officials;
- (4) Individuals with personal knowledge of the violation upon filing a sworn complaint with the court.

Sec 14-2.2. Contract for enforcement with municipalities within the county.

The jurisdiction for enforcement of this chapter shall be in the unincorporated portion of the county; however, the board of commissioners shall be authorized to provide its services within any municipality within the county. A prerequisite for the provision of said services shall be the adoption of this chapter by the municipality together with an intergovernmental agreement with the board of commissioners. Said intergovernmental agreement shall be subject to any state law which may govern.

Sec. 14-3. Animal Control Officer

- (a) The Camden County Animal Control Officer will be an employee of the board of commissioners and/or other employee of the county, duly designated as an animal control officer, to enforce the rules and regulations of this chapter.
- (b) The duties of the Camden County Animal Control Officer will include:
 - (1) Investigating and maintaining a record of animal bites in the county.
 - (2) Providing for proper confinement of an animal involved in a bite; or if the animal is dead or killed, immediate notification of the health department.
 - (3) Enforcing proper disposition of animals exposed to known rabid animals.
 - (4) Providing stray animal pickup and impoundment.
 - (5) Other related duties as stated in this chapter or as ordered by the Board of County Commissioners.

Sec. 14-4. Interference with the Animal Control Officer

It shall be unlawful to resist, interfere with, hinder or molest the Camden County Animal Control Officer or any person charged with the enforcement of any provision of this chapter, in the performance of any duties imposed by this chapter, nor shall any person seek to release or remove any animal captured in the Camden County Animal Control Department's humane traps or impounded pursuant to the provisions of this chapter. Damage to or removal of the Camden County Animal Control Department's traps is strictly prohibited.

Sec. 14-5. Violations of chapter

Whenever it has been determined that any provision of this chapter has been violated, prior to filing a warrant or accusation pertaining to such violation, the appropriate authority may serve the owner of the premises on which the violation has occurred with a copy of this chapter; provide such owner with written notice of the violation; and allow such owner a reasonable time as determined by the appropriate authority or his representative, but not exceeding 30 days, in order to permit such owner to avoid prosecution by correcting the condition constituting the violation. For purposes of this chapter, the appropriate official includes an official of the Camden County Health Department, the Camden County Animal Control Officer or a member of the Camden County Sheriffs Office.

Sec. 14-6. Penalty

Whenever by this chapter any act is prohibited or is made or declared to be unlawful, or the doing of any act is required or the failure to do any act is declared to be unlawful, where no specific penalty is provided, the violation of such provision of this chapter shall, upon conviction, be punishable by fine or imprisonment as provided in section 1-19. Each day such violation continues shall be considered a separate offense. Nothing contained in this section shall prevent Camden County from taking such other lawful action as is necessary to prevent or remedy any violation of this chapter.

Sec. 14-7. Animals constituting a nuisance--Determination

Any person that knowingly keeps, owns, harbors or acts as custodian of an animal constituting a nuisance shall be guilty of an unlawful act and shall be punishable as provided in this chapter.

- (a) Should any dog, while not on the premises of its owner or caretaker, kill or injure any livestock or other animal, the owner or caretaker shall be liable for damages sustained by the killing or maiming of the livestock or other animal and for the full costs of action. (*Referenced O.C.G.A. § 51-2-6*)

Sec. 14-8. Same - Impoundment authorized

Should any owner or custodian of an animal or fowl fail upon proper notice of not less than seven days to abate a nuisance created by such animal or fowl, or fail to take the necessary steps to provide adequate confinement or properly care for the animal, after the necessary notice, the animal control officer shall be empowered to impound the animal or fowl under the terms and provisions of this chapter.

Sec. 14-9. Vicious animals and guard dogs

- (a) Muzzling or caging. No owner or custodian of an animal, having been notified of such animal's viciousness by the Camden County Animal Control Officer and/or Camden County Health Department, or having knowledge of such viciousness, shall permit such animal to leave his property unless such animal is restrained by a leash as well as being properly muzzled so as to prevent it from biting any person or other animal.
- (b) Reports. All reports of vicious animals shall be made to the Camden County Health Department and/or Camden County Animal Control Department.
- (c) Any person owning or keeping a vicious or dangerous animal of any kind and who, by careless management or by allowing the animal to go at liberty, causes injury to another person, who does not provoke the injury by his own act, may be liable in damages to the person so injured. In proving vicious propensity, it shall be sufficient to show the animal was required to be at heel or on a leash by ordinance of city or county consolidated government, and that said animal was at the time of the occurrence not at heel or on a leash. (*Referenced O.C.G.A. § 51-2-7*)

Sec. 14-10. General care and feeding

- (a) Animals within Camden County shall be adequately confined by a fence, leash, or other appropriate measure, to the premises of the owner or custodian at all times, which confinement shall be clean and provide adequate and safe food, water, shade, exercise space and protection from the weather. The animal shall not be permitted to leave those premises unless leashed and accompanied by the owner or custodian and shall not be permitted to run loose on the property of others or on

public streets, alleys, beaches, parks, picnic areas, recreation areas, and/or public sites at any time. This section shall not apply to those animals actively engaged in animal shows, exhibitions or field trials, or while hunting or training during hunting season as prescribed by the game and fish division of the state department of natural resources.

- (b) Maintenance of areas. It shall be the duty of the property owner to maintain in a reasonably clean and sanitary condition, and free from extreme and unreasonably objectionable odor, all structures, pens, yards, and areas adjacent thereto, wherein any animal is kept.

Sec. 14-11. Female animals in heat.

Any female animal, while it is in breeding season, shall be kept on the premises of the owner or custodian and shall be confined in such place and manner as to avoid nuisances caused by the attraction of male animals. (*References O.C.G.A. § 4-8-6 et seq.*)

Sec. 14-12. Livestock

No owner or custodian of livestock shall knowingly permit such livestock to run at large or stray upon any public roads of this county or on any private property not belonging to such owner or custodian unless by permission of the owner of such property. (*Reference O.C.G.A. § 4-3-3 et seq.*)

Sec. 14-13. Dangerous dog control law

The Georgia State Law regulating dangerous dogs is adopted in its entirety. Any person found to be the owner of a dangerous or potentially dangerous dog under the provisions of this law shall obtain the required signage, have a microchip implanted for positive identification purposes, and be charged a \$150.00 registration fee to be paid annually, as long as the dog resides in Camden County, in addition to any other penalties and provisions required under State Law. (*Reference O.C.G.A. § 4-8-20 et seq.*)

Proper Enclosure means an enclosure for housing a dangerous or potentially dangerous dog and shall be of adequate square footage to allow exercise, and be a cage within a cage with no less than 36 inches between them, with secure sides, a secure top and bottom in such a manner as to prevent the dog's escape from either over or under the cage. The double cage structure shall also provide protection from the elements for the dog as well as provide shade, and safe, clean, and adequate food and water.

It shall be unlawful for any person to own, possess, harbor, or keep a dog which is declared dangerous or potentially dangerous on their property until a disposition is decided at the hearing, if requested, and all provisions of the law have been met; the owner will be responsible for the cost of housing said animal at the approved animal control facility.

Sec. 14-14. Hunting dogs

Hunting dogs are allowed to run in the wooded areas, where permitted by the owner of the property, during hunting season, as established by federal and/or state laws and regulations. All hunting dogs shall bear tags containing the owner's name, address and phone number, and shall be vaccinated in accordance with state rabies vaccination regulations. All hunting dogs used in hunting game shall be properly supervised.

Section 14-15 Sterilization of Adopted Dogs and Cats

- (a) Any person acquiring an animal from a public or private animal shelter, animal control agency, humane society, or animal refuge, shall have said animal sterilized by a licensed veterinarian within 30 days after acquisition, or within 30 days of the sexual maturity of the animal, unless otherwise directed by a licensed veterinarian. All costs of said sterilization shall be the responsibility of the person acquiring such animal. (*Referenced O.C.G.A. § 4-14-3 (2) (b)*)
- (b) A signed statement from the licensed veterinarian performing the sterilization shall be provided to the adopting agency within seven (7) days after such sterilization has been performed. (*Referenced O.C.G.A. § 4-14-3 (2) (c)*)
- (c) It shall be unlawful for the owner of said animal to fail to obtain the required sterilization or to allow said animal to have a litter of offspring. Failure to comply shall subject the owner to a fine of not less than \$200 and not more than \$1000 and;
- (d) The Animal Control Officer shall have the authority to seize said animal for return to the adopting agency, including any offspring, should the owner shall fail to comply with sterilization or allow the animal to have a litter of offspring.

Section 14-16 Tethering of Outside Dogs

- (a) A dog that is tethered must be kept from being entangled, be able to roam to the full range of the tether, and the tether must be of the type commonly used for the size dog involved, and which tether shall be attached to the dog by a well-fitted collar that must not cause trauma or injury to the dog, which is appropriate and suitable for the breed and size, and which is specific to dogs as a collar.

The following examples shall be prohibited for use as a collar:

- (1) collars made of wire, including, but not limited to, electrical cording, coat-hangers, telephone cords, or any wire not originally intended for the purpose of a collar, etc.;
 - (2) flat chains, commonly of the type associated with training, any slip-lead type leash or collar, chains commonly used for plant hangers, and prong- or pinch-type training collars;
 - (3) chains with sharp edges;
 - (4) and chains with rusty or non-uniform links.
- (b) Any dogs kept outdoors on a permanent tether must have a "running" tether whereby the tether allows the dog to recline in a completely prone position without stress to head or neck; will not become entangled in adjacent bushes, structures, etc., must have sufficient length to access food, water, and shelter, and must not allow the dog access to a County or City right-of-way or to persons passing on the street or to any neighboring residence. Said tether must also have dual swivels on each end to prevent twisting and tangling of the tether through the natural movements of the dog.

- (c) Only one dog may be attached to a tether; if additional dogs are tethered they must be kept a suitable distance from each other to prevent tangling of the tethers, and/or fighting of the dogs.
- (d) Any dog habitually kept on a tether that becomes a nuisance by barking, howling, whining, or doing any other thing which is so offensive as to interfere with a neighboring residence, will be required to be housed indoors or in a manner so as to abate the nuisance.

ARTICLE II. RABIES CONTROL

Cross References: Health and sanitation, Ch. 38.

State Law References: Control of rabies, O.C.G.A. § 31-19-1 et seq.; inoculation of animals against rabies, O.C.G.A. § 31-19-6; rabies inoculation tags, O.C.G.A. § 31-19-6.

Sec. 14-51. Vaccination of animals

Every owner of an animal three months or older that requires rabies vaccine shall cause such animal to be vaccinated against rabies. No person shall vaccinate any animal against rabies that is not a licensed veterinarian. The first vaccination using an attenuated vaccine, or kill vaccine, shall be administered and is good for 12 months only. Thereafter, a vaccination shall be required at least every three years when a live attenuated vaccine is used. If the health department's file copy of the certificate of vaccination is unattainable, the owner's or the veterinarian's copy of the certificate may be substituted. (*Ord. of 5-18-1999, § 14-51*)

Sec. 14-52. Certificate of vaccination

- (a) Evidence of vaccination shall consist of a certificate of vaccination with each item answered, prepared in triplicate and signed by the veterinarian administering the vaccine.
- (b) Any veterinarian is authorized and required in connection with his practice to issue certificates of vaccination and vaccination tags, providing one copy of the certificate to the animals' owner, one copy to the health department, and retaining one copy for his files.
- (c) The certificates of vaccination furnished to the health department shall be maintained in an orderly indexed file for a period of not less than three years.
- (d) Out-of-state visitors and non-county residents with animals must comply with local animal control regulations while within this county. Current rabies vaccination certificates from other states or territories will be honored. (*Ord. of 5-18-1999, § 14-52*)

Sec. 14-53. Vaccination tags

- (a) In addition to the issuance of the certificate of vaccination, the person authorized to issue the certificate shall also furnish to the owner of the vaccinated animal a serially numbered tag bearing the same number and year as the certificate. The tag shall be securely attached to the collar or harness worn by the vaccinated animal, which collar or harness shall be provided by the owner of the vaccinated animal.

- (b) No person shall remove a vaccination tag from any animal's collar without the consent of the owner or custodian, nor shall any person attach a vaccination tag to any animal for which it was not issued. (*Ord. of 5-18-1999, § 14-53*)

Sec. 14-54. Public clinics

- (a) The Camden County Animal Control Officer, or other designee of the Board of County Commissioners, may operate or cause to be operated county organized clinics for the vaccination of animals against rabies.
- (b) The vaccination fee for such clinics, including the administering and cost of the vaccine, the issuance of certificates and tags, and other necessary expenses shall be predetermined 15 days in advance of a clinic. Public notice of the scheduled clinic shall include the day, hour, place and fees.
- (c) In emergencies or during quarantine, 15 days' notice prior to the clinic shall not apply. (*Ord. of 5-18-1999, § 14-54*)

Sec. 14-55. Quarantine

- (a) Where rabies has been found to exist in any warm-blooded animal, or where its existence is suspected, the health department may designate an area within which quarantine shall be maintained as provided by the terms of this article. Every such animal shall be immediately confined to the premises designated by the health department, whether or not the animal has been vaccinated against rabies.
- (b) No animal shall be removed from or brought into a quarantined area without written permission of the health department. The application for such permission shall be in writing, filed with the health department, stating the reason for movement and the location at which the animal will be confined after movement.
- (c) Where an animal has been suspected of having rabies or has rabies symptoms, the area or premises where such animals are kept shall be posted by the health department with signs to read as follows: "Rabies Suspected" or "Rabies, Keep From Animals." Such signs shall be conspicuously displayed on the premises, printed with type that is easily legible, and shall remain on the premises for the duration of the quarantine.
- (d) Persons living within a quarantine area having in their possession an animal subject to rabies or to the terms of this article shall be given written notice of the quarantine, the animals subject to quarantine, and an order to confine their animals so subject to the premises of the owner, together with any other information the health department deems advisable. Such notice shall be signed by a duly authorized agent of the health department.
- (e) The violation by any person of any quarantine order issued by the health officer shall be a violation of this article, and the person so violating shall be subject to all the penalties prescribed by law for a violation. (*Ord. of 5-18-1999, § 14-55*)

Sec. 14-56. Examination of heads

The heads of all domestic animals and of all wild animals suspected of having rabies before their death or having rabies at the time of death shall be submitted to the state laboratory for examination. (*Ord. of 5-18-1999, § 14-56*)

Secs. 14-57--14-80. Reserved.

ARTICLE III. CRUELTY PROVISIONS

State law references: Cruelty to animals, O.C.G.A. § 16-12-4.

Sec. 14-81. Abandonment

- (a) No person, owner or custodian of an animal shall release such animal on any property, public or private, with the intention of abandoning that animal. *(References O.C.G.A. § 4-8-3 et seq.)*
- (b) No person, owner or custodian of an animal shall abandon a dead animal on any private property of another unless he shall have first obtained permission from the owner of the property on which the animal is to be left. *(Reference O.C.G.A. § 4-8-1 et seq.)*
- (c) No person, owner or custodian of an animal shall abandon a dead animal on any public property or public right-of-way unless the place is an approved sanitary landfill or other facility designed for receiving such and has been designated by the board of commissioners as a public facility for receiving trash or other refuse. *(Reference O.C.G.A. § 4-8-2 et seq.)*

Sec. 14-82. Cruelty generally

No person shall harm, maim or kill any animal or attempt to do so; except a person may:

- (a) Defend his person or property or pets, or the person or property or pets of another, from injury or damage being caused by an animal; or
- (b) Kill any animal causing injury or damage to livestock or poultry or pets. The killing of animals under the above circumstances shall be done as quickly and humanely as possible. *(Reference O.C.G.A. § 4-8-5 et seq.)*
- (c) Persons convicted of animal cruelty under the provisions of this ordinance shall upon a first conviction be prohibited from owning animals for a period of one year, upon a subsequent conviction said person shall be prohibited from owning animals for a period of five years within Camden County.

Sec. 14-83. Defense against vicious animals

No person shall willfully or maliciously kill; maim; disfigure; torture; beat with a stick, chain, club or other object; mutilate, burn or scald with any substance; drive over with any vehicle or otherwise cruelly set upon any animal; except reasonable force may be employed to drive off vicious animals.

Sec. 14-84. Poison

No person shall expose any known poisonous substance, whether mixed with food or not, so that such substance may be liable to be eaten by any animal. This section does not apply to persons exposing to his own property common rodent poison mixed only with a vegetable substance.

Sec. 14-85. Shelter

- (a) No owner, custodian or caretaker shall refuse to provide any animal in his charge or custody with proper food, drink, shade, shelter, space and care, or to carry any animal in or upon any vehicle in a cruel or inhumane manner. Any animal habitually kept outside shall be provided with a structurally sound, weatherproof enclosure, large enough to accommodate the animal.
- (b) It shall be unlawful for any person to place or confine an animal or allow an animal to be placed or confined in a motor vehicle under such conditions or for such period of time as to endanger the health or well-being of such animal due to temperature, lack of food or drink or such other conditions as may reasonably be expected to cause suffering, disability or death.

Sec. 14-86. Diseased, crippled animals

- (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to have, keep or harbor any animal infected with any dangerous disease or any incurable, painfully crippling condition, as determined by a veterinarian. The Camden County Animal Control Officer may impound such diseased or painfully crippled animals, and all such animals impounded may be destroyed humanely as soon thereafter as possible. Upon the destruction of such animal, the Camden County Animal Control Officer shall be required to give notice to the owner by any reasonable means possible. This subsection shall not be construed to include veterinary hospitals or animals under veterinary care.
- (b) No owner or custodian of any animal shall fail to provide proper veterinary care to any animal when needed to prevent suffering.

Sec. 14-87. Protective custody

Whenever the Camden County Animal Control Officer finds that any animal is or will be without proper care under any section of this ordinance, whether or not through the absence of the owner, the Camden County Animal Control Officer may impound such animal for protective care; and in the event the animal is injured or suffering, the Camden County Animal Control Officer may take such action as called for to prevent undue pain and suffering, including immediate euthanasia of the animal.

- (a) Animals seized under this section will be housed at the species appropriate agency, or appropriate place designated by Camden County Animal Control, until disposition is determined in a court of law or by owner surrender to the Humane Society for disposal through adoption or euthanasia. An owner is responsible to maintain the cost of the animal(s) while they are being maintained in a seized state until such disposition is reached.
 - (1) Should an owner fail to pay the boarding fees for housing their animal(s), after 15 days the animal(s) will be considered abandoned and become the property of the Camden County Humane Society to be disposed of at the discretion of the Humane Society Executive Board and the Shelter Manager. (*Referenced O.C.G.A. § 17-5-54 (a) (4)*)
- (b) Persons convicted of animal cruelty under the provisions of this ordinance shall upon a first conviction be prohibited from owning animals for a period of one

year; upon a subsequent conviction said person shall be prohibited from owning animals for a period of five years within Camden County.

ARTICLE IV. IMPOUNDMENT

Sec. 14-121. Authorization

Any animal, confined or otherwise, found in violation of this chapter shall be confiscated and impounded by the animal control officer. (*Ord. of 5-18-1999, § 14-121*)

Sec. 14-122. Animals running at large

- (a) It shall be unlawful for the owner or keeper of any animal, other than a hunting dog during hunting season, to permit it to run at large in the county, or to stray from the premises of the owner or keeper, or go upon the premises of any other person.
- (b) If any properly tagged hunting dog is taken into custody by the animal control unit, such dog shall be boarded for a minimum of five days by a licensed animal shelter at the boarding cost provided in this article. No penalties shall be charged.
- (c) If an owner does not repossess his dog within five days of the dog's having been taken into the custody of the animal control unit, such dog shall be treated as abandoned.
- (d) It shall be unlawful for the owner of any animal to allow such animal to feed or to be loose on any part of the right-of-way of any public road of the county. (*Ord. of 5-18-1999, § 14-122*)

Sec. 14-123. Confinement of animals at large

Unrestrained dogs, nuisance animals and animals found running at large shall be taken by the animal control officer and impounded in a licensed animal shelter and confined in a humane manner. (*Ord. of 5-18-1999, § 14-123*)

Sec. 14-124. Pursuit of animals

The animal control officer may pursue the animal onto private property, including the owner's or custodians, but not into a human dwelling, to evoke capture of an animal subject to impoundment under this article. (*Ord. of 5-18-1999, § 14-124*)

Sec. 14-125. Notice to owner if known

If an animal impounded under the provisions of this article bears vaccination/identification tags, a reasonable effort to locate its owner shall be made. (*Ord. of 5-18-1999, § 14-125*)

Sec. 14-126. Tranquilization

Any animal that is found away from the premises of the owner and not under the control of the owner will be classified as being unconfined; therefore, it may be shot with a tranquilizer gun by the animal control officer in an attempt to capture the animal. The animal control officer operating the tranquilizer gun and/or the county health department or the board of commissioners shall not be held liable for any injury or death to an animal that might occur from the use of the tranquilizer gun or equipment. (*Ord. of 5-18-1999, § 14-126*)

Sec. 14-127. Biting animals

- (a) An animal, whether vaccinated against rabies or not, having bitten a human or other pet animal, shall be quarantined for a period of ten days, at the owner's property or in a place and manner approved by the animal control officer.
- (b) Any animal under such quarantine that is not confined by the owner or is running at large shall be immediately impounded by the animal control officer and boarded at a licensed animal shelter until the ten day period is over.
- (c) At the time quarantine is ordered by the animal control officer, the animal owner or custodian shall sign a home quarantine agreement or submit the animal to a licensed animal shelter for the ten-day period and pay any fees required. All expenses incurred for boarding the animal for this period of time shall be paid by the owner or custodian of the biting animal, unless the bite was provoked, in which event the person provoking the bite shall be responsible for all expenses incurred.
- (d) An unvaccinated animal bitten by a known rabid animal shall immediately be destroyed under the supervision of the animal control officer. Exceptions to this section are as noted by the state department of human resources.
- (e) Any animal, the rabies vaccination of which is current as evidenced by the certificate of vaccination, which is bitten by a known rabid animal, must be revaccinated, confined in a manner approved by the environmental health rabies control officer, an employee of the health department, for a period of 45 days and then released only if no signs of rabies are evident. (*Ord. of 5-18-1999, § 14-127*)

Sec. 14-128. Confinement area

The area or facility used to confine any animal in compliance with the provisions of this article shall be subject to the approval of the animal control officer. The confinement area or facility may include a licensed animal shelter, kennel, animal hospital, or other place in the county that provides:

- (1) Construction and management that will keep the animal dry and clean and will prevent its escape or exposure to the public.
- (2) Assurance that the animal will have safe and adequate water and food.
- (3) Adequate and clean space for the animal to exercise.
- (4) Protection against excessive heat, cold and other inclement weather.
- (5) Space, cages, pens and other necessary equipment to isolate the animal for its protection against injury and infectious disease.
- (6) A method and procedure for the identification of the animal and the date of its admission to the area. (*Ord. of 5-18-1999, § 14-128*)

Sec. 14-129. Report of bites

- (a) Any person bitten by an animal shall be required to immediately notify the animal control officer and/or health department.

- (b) The owner or custodian of any animal having signs suggestive of rabies shall confine the animal and immediately notify the animal control officer and the rabies control officer of the state department of health, reporting any information regarding any person bitten or attacked by such animal.
- (c) The health department or the animal control officer shall report all known cases of rabies in the county to the state department of human resources. (*Ord. of 5-18-1999, § 14-129*)

Sec. 14-130. Period of impoundment for dogs and cats

Impounded dogs and cats shall be kept for a period of time depending upon the physical condition of the animal. Abandoned or severely ill/injured animals may be destroyed immediately at the discretion of the authorized animal shelter and animal control officer. (*Ord. of 5-18-1999, § 14-130*)

Sec. 14-131. Fees and charges

Any owner of or person adopting an impounded animal shall pay such fees and charges as set forth by the authorized animal shelter. (*Ord. of 5-18-1999, § 14-131*)

Sec. 14-132. Deadline for payment of license taxes and fees after impoundment; adoption or euthanasia

Any dog or cat impounded under this article whose owner, possessor or representative shall not come forward within five working days after the impoundment and pay the fees specified in this article shall be put up for adoption or euthanasia in some humane way. (*Ord. of 5-18-1999, § 14-132*)

Sec. 14-133. Redemption

- (a) Any person reclaiming an animal impounded under this article must supply appropriate proof of proper rabies vaccination or pay a vaccination fee as set forth in the schedule of fees and charges on file at the authorized animal shelter or in the Office of the County Clerk.
- (b) Any animal not reclaimed by an owner or custodian within five working days becomes property of the authorized animal shelter and may be placed for adoption or humanely euthanized at the discretion of the authorized animal shelter. (*Ord. of 5-18-1999, § 14-133*)

THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS HAVE BEEN REMOVED FROM THE DOCUMENT, BUT ARE RETAINED FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION.

Suggested Addition:

- (c) Enclosures generally. It shall be unlawful for any person to keep any domestic animal except under the following conditions:
 - (1) Any housing or enclosure used by any domestic animal, fowl or livestock shall be well drained, free from accumulations of animal excrement and objectionable odors and otherwise reasonably clean and sanitary.
 - (2) Animal excrement shall be disposed of in a manner approved by a health unit designated by the board of health.
 - (3) A proper enclosure for a dangerous dog or a potentially designated dog shall be an enclosure as described in the section pertaining to such animals.
(Ref: Madison, Ga. Animal Code Chapter One, Section 14-113)

Section 14-17. Registration of Animals

- (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to own a dog or cat in Camden County without providing a tag bearing the name, address and/ or phone number of the owner/caretaker and tag shall be securely attached to the collar or harness worn by said animal
- (b) The animal's rabies tag shall be construed to be a license/registration tag for Camden County *(Referenced O.C.G.A. § 31-19-3)*
 - (1) Fees shall be levied not to exceed .50¢ for each [animal] vaccinated, such fee to be collected by the veterinarian administering the anti-rabies vaccine required by this chapter. *(Referenced O.C.G.A. § 31-19-7 (b))*
- (c) Persons owning, harboring, possessing, or keeping any livestock shall register said livestock with the Animal Control Department, listing type and number of animals, along with contact phone numbers in the event said livestock is found to be at large and off the premises of the owner/caretaker; in the event of a natural disaster requiring impoundment of said animals for their safe keeping. No fees shall be charged for this registration, but Camden County reserves the right to charge registration fees at a later date.

(Note: To help offset the cost of the Animal Control program, Camden County should charge license fees for all pet animals, i.e.: dogs and cats. Fees should reflect the status of the animal, i.e.: spayed or neutered, and the status of the owner, i.e.: senior citizen.)