

Chapter 14 - ANIMALS¹¹

Footnotes:

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Editor's note— Res. No. 18-22, § 1(Exh. A), adopted May 8, 2018, amended Ch. 14 in its entirety to read as herein set out. Former Ch. 14, §§ 14-1—14-176, pertained to similar subject matter, and derived from Res. No. 00-08, §§ 4-4(d)(1), 4-4(d)(1)(a), 4-4(d)(1)(b), 4-4(d)(2), 4-4(d)(3), 4-7(e), 4-7(e)(1)—(e)(3), 4-8(a)(1)—(a)(9), 4-8(b), 3-28-2000; Res. No. 04-05, §§ 1—5, 1-27-2004; Res. No. 07-21, § 1(Exh. A), 6-26-2007; Res. No. 07-37, § 1(Exh. A), 8-14-2007; Res. No. 09-07, § 1, 6-9-2009; Res. No. 09-17, § 4, 6-9-2009; Res. No. 10-08, § 3, 5-25-2010; Res. No. 12-16, § 1, 7-10-2012.

Cross reference— Health and sanitation, ch. 34; animal control in parks, § 50-12; animals on multiuse trails, § 50-66.

State Law reference— Georgia Animal Protection Act, O.C.G.A. § 4-11-1 et seq.; authority to exercise animal control, Ga. Const. art. IX, § II, ¶ III(a)(3).

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:

Abandonment (of an animal) means the act of any person who:

- (1) Abandons an animal by leaving an animal unattended for a period of time in excess of 24 hours without food, water, adequate ventilation or shelter on public or private property, including, but not limited to, the property of the owner/custodian;
- (2) Puts out, leaves, abandons, or in any other way discards any animal on public or private property, including, but not limited to, the property of the owner/custodian, and including, but not limited to, leaving an animal contained in a box, bag, fence, house or other structure or tethered; or
- (3) Places an animal in the custody of a state licensed entity, such as, but not limited to, a veterinary clinic, grooming facility, boarding facility, or pet sitter for treatment, boarding, or other care, and fails to reclaim the animal by the agreed upon time. The entity shall abide by the requirements of O.C.G.A. § 44-14-490 in disposing of the animal.

Animal means any type of domestic animal commonly kept as a pet including, but not limited to, dogs and cats.

Animal establishment means any pet shop, kennel, grooming shop, auction, performing animal exhibition or other facility engaged in the handling of animals, excluding licensed veterinarians and veterinary clinics and hospitals.

Animal shelter means any facility operated by any governmental entity, humane society, or other organization for the purpose of impounding or caring for animals held under the authority of this chapter or state law.

At large means an animal is considered at large when it is not under control as provided in this chapter.

Auctions means any place or facility where animals are regularly bought, sold or traded, except for those facilities otherwise defined in this chapter. Individual sales of animals by owners are not auctions as defined in this chapter.

Community cat means any free-roaming cat, lacking discernible evidence of ownership, that may be cared for by one or more residents of the immediate area who is/are known or unknown.

Community cat caregiver means a person who, in accordance with trap-neuter-vaccinate-return provides care, including food, water, shelter or medical care to a community cat. A community cat caregiver shall not be considered the owner, harbinger, controller, provider, processor or keeper of a community cat.

Cruelty means every act, omission or neglect whereby unjustifiable pain, suffering, maiming or death may be caused or permitted to any animal as defined in this section.

Ear-tipped cat means an unowned cat with a ¼-inch of the left ear removed while the cat is under anesthesia to identify the cat as being sterilized (spayed/neutered) and vaccinated for rabies.

Fenced enclosure means an enclosure made of wire, wood, stone or other materials which is of sufficient height and strength to act as a barrier against the passage of the animal it is intended to enclose. An "invisible fence" is not an acceptable fenced enclosure for an animal.

Hobby breeder means a person who offers for sale one litter of animals during a 12-month period per household. A household which sells two litters during a 12-month period, even if the litters are produced from different animals, will not be considered a hobby breeder and will be subject to the registration procedures applicable to animal establishments and breeders as designated in this chapter.

Humane manner means care of an animal to include, but not to be limited to, adequate heat, ventilation, sanitary shelter, wholesome fresh food, and access to fresh, clean, wholesome water at all times, consistent with the normal requirements and feeding habits of the animal's size, species and breed.

Kennel means any premises where any person who engages in the business of boarding, breeding, buying, letting for hire, training for a fee or selling animals, excluding licensed veterinarians and veterinary clinics and hospitals and facilities owned and/or operated by government entities.

Neutered means incapable of sexual reproduction.

Nuisance means an animal shall be considered a nuisance if it:

- (1) Damages, soils, defiles or defecates on private property (other than the property of the owner of the animal), or public property and recreational areas;
- (2) Causes unsanitary, dangerous or offensive conditions;
- (3) Causes a disturbance by excessive barking or other noise making;
- (4) Molests, attacks or interferes with persons on public or private property, unless the animal is a guard dog actively performing its duties while confined to the property of the owner or responsible person; or
- (5) Chases vehicles or attacks other animals.

Owner means any person owning, possessing, harboring, keeping or having custody or control of an animal subject to this chapter. This definition is intended to include any person that is the custodian of an animal. Provided however, an owner does not include a community cat caregiver.

Pet shop means any person engaged in the business of buying or selling two or more species of live animals with the intent that they be kept as pets.

Shelter (adequate) means protective cover for a domestic animal appropriate for the species and providing adequate space to maintain the animal in good health, which also prevents pain, suffering or a significant risk to the animal's health.

- (1) Adequate shelter includes, but is not limited to, the following:
 - a. Sufficient coverage and insulation to protect an animal from extreme hot and cold temperatures;

- b. Sufficient protection from the elements to keep the animal dry;
 - c. Sufficient shade and ventilation to prevent an animal from overheating and/or dehydrating; and
 - d. Adequate bedding or resting area suitable for the breed, species, age, size, and medical condition of the animal.
- (2) Adequate shelter is structurally sound housing which provides an animal with:
- a. Adequate space;
 - b. Four solid walls or an "igloo" type of structure;
 - c. A roof;
 - d. A dry floor that is either:
 - 1. Solid; or
 - 2. Grids, provided the animal can easily stand, walk, lay and sit on the grids without its feet or body parts being caught, damaged, or injured. The grids and area under the grids must be designed so that they can be cleaned and sanitized.
 - e. An entrance; and
 - f. Adequate space for the number of animals on the property.
- (3) Materials not suitable for shelters include, but are not limited to:
- a. Inadequately insulated containers;
 - b. Crates with exposed sharp edges;
 - c. Metal or plastic drums;
 - d. Abandoned or parked vehicles;
 - e. Porches or decks;
 - f. Lean-tos;
 - g. Any other structure that fails to provide sufficient protection from the elements; and
 - h. Any other structure that is not safe or suitable for housing the species.

Space (adequate) means:

- (1) Sufficient safe space for adequate exercise suitable to the age, size, species and breed of animal;
- (2) Sufficient space during periods of confinement, suitable to the age, size, species and breed of animal to permit the animal to turn about freely, stand, sit, or lie, move, etc. in a comfortable and normal position; or
- (3) For sick or injured animals, confinement as directed by a veterinarian.

Spayed means incapable of sexual reproduction.

Trap-neuter-vaccinate-return means the process of humanely trapping, sterilizing (spay/neuter), vaccinating for rabies, ear tipping and returning community cats to their original location.

Under control means any animal shall be considered under control if it is on the property and/or premises of its owner, or is secured by a leash, chain, or lead of sufficient strength to prevent it from escaping from its owner when away from the premises of the owner. An animal may be considered under control if the owner is accompanying the animal and has voice, whistle or other control over such animal and such animal is trained to respond to such voice, whistle or other control. The burden of proving that an animal is trained to respond to voice, whistle or other control remains with the owner of such animal and a rebuttable presumption exists that an animal which is not confined to the premises of its owner

without being secured by a chain, leash or lead of sufficient strength or fence to prevent it from escaping is not under control of its owner.

Unsanitary means and involves conditions such as, but not limited to, filth and bacteria, which endanger the health of humans and/or animals.

Veterinary clinic and hospital means a clinic or hospital operated by a licensed veterinarian.

Vicious animal means any animal which constitutes a physical threat to human beings or other animals by virtue of one or more documented unprovoked attacks or threats of attack of such severity as to cause physical injury, or significant mental trauma to the victim. An animal is also considered to be vicious if it makes an unprovoked attack on people, other animals or on physical property on or off its owner's property. Animal attacks shall be documented by reporting such attacks to the county animal control office. If the animal attack involves the biting of a person or another animal, the attack shall also be reported to the county animal control office.

Wild and exotic animals means any monkey or other nonhuman primate, such as raccoon, skunk, wolf, squirrel, fox, leopard, panther, tiger, lion, lynx, ferret, bear, llama, wild rabbit, tarantula, wild rodent, and reptiles, including, but not limited to, crocodiles, alligators, poisonous snakes, caiman, and gaviel, and any other animal so designated by the animal control department, but shall not include cats or dogs.

(Res. No. 18-22, § 1(Exh. A), 5-8-2018)

Cross reference— Definitions generally, § 1-4.

Sec. 14-2. - Scope of chapter.

Nothing in this chapter shall be interpreted or applied so as to create any power or duty in conflict with the preemptive effect of any federal, state or municipal law.

(Res. No. 18-22, § 1(Exh. A), 5-8-2018)

Sec. 14-3A. - Enforcement responsibility.

The provisions of this chapter shall be enforced by the animal control department, the marshal's office, and the county sheriff's department. Persons in violation of this chapter shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the superior court, magistrate court or recorder's court of the county.

(Res. No. 18-22, § 1(Exh. A), 5-8-2018)

Sec. 14-3B. - Animal control department.

The county animal control department shall be a division of the county marshal's office and shall be under the supervision and control of the chief marshal.

(Res. No. 18-22, § 1(Exh. A), 5-8-2018)

Sec. 14-4. - Interference.

No person shall interfere with, hinder or molest the animal control department or any other officer in the performance of his duties. No person shall seek to release any animal in the custody of the animal control department, except as provided in this chapter.

(Res. No. 18-22, § 1(Exh. A), 5-8-2018)

Sec. 14-5. - Right of entry.

- (a) The animal control officers, sheriff's deputies and other enforcement officers of the county are hereby authorized to enter upon any premises or parcel of land for the purpose of seizing and impounding any animal found therein or thereon to be in violation of this chapter, including, but not limited to, an animal that has bitten a person within ten days of the biting incident.
- (b) An animal control officer or law enforcement officer may use any force necessary to remove any animal locked in a closed vehicle or trailer if the animal exhibits distress, including, but not limited to, lethargic behavior, excessive panting or drooling, seizures, state of unconsciousness, or hyperactivity. If the vehicle is damaged during such removal, the animal control officer or law enforcement officer shall not be liable for any damage to the vehicle.
- (c) An animal control officer or law enforcement officer who is responding to the notification of abandoned animal may enter the property by reasonable means under the circumstances to remove or render aid to the abandoned animal.

(Res. No. 18-22, § 1(Exh. A), 5-8-2018)

Sec. 14-6. - Summons.

Representatives of the animal control department, county marshal's office and officers of the county sheriff's department are hereby authorized to issue a summons to any person for violation of any provision of this chapter. The summons shall be in a form approved by the county court with jurisdiction, shall designate the offense charged and shall require the person so charged to appear before the county court with jurisdiction on a date certain to answer all charges therein.

(Res. No. 18-22, § 1(Exh. A), 5-8-2018)

Sec. 14-7. - Equipment.

The animal control department is authorized to employ any equipment it deems necessary to enforce the provisions of this chapter, including, but not limited to, humane wire box traps, and the animal control department may, subject to conditions it may determine, lend such traps or other equipment to private persons for the purpose of Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Return.

(Res. No. 18-22, § 1(Exh. A), 5-8-2018)

Sec. 14-8. - Penalties for violations.

Violators of this chapter (Chapter 14: Animals) shall be punished for a misdemeanor as follows:

- 1st violation resulting in a conviction, guilty plea, nolo contendere plea: a fine of not less than \$300.00 nor more than \$1,000.00, and, where deemed appropriate by the court, a period of incarceration not to exceed 60 days.
- 2nd violation resulting in a conviction, guilty plea, nolo contendere plea: a fine not less than \$500.00 nor more than \$1,000.00, and, where deemed appropriate by the court, a period of incarceration not to exceed 60 days.

- 3rd violation and all subsequent violations resulting in a conviction, guilty plea, nolo contendere plea: a fine of \$1,000.00, and, where deemed appropriate by the court, a period of incarceration not to exceed 60 days. Additional offenses shall be treated as third offenses.

No portion of the fine may be waived, stayed, deferred, withheld, suspended, substituted or otherwise excused or negated. Community service may be included in addition to any penalty, but not in lieu of the fine provided herein. Any violator shall be responsible for all court costs as determined by the court. If such violation is continued, each day's violation shall be a separate offense.

(Res. No. 18-22, § 1(Exh. A), 5-8-2018)

Sec. 14-9. - Records.

It shall be the duty of the animal control department to keep, or cause to be kept, accurate and detailed records of the impoundment and disposition of all animals coming into its custody.

(Res. No. 18-22, § 1(Exh. A), 5-8-2018)

Sec. 14-10. - Maintenance of premises.

An animal owner's premises shall be maintained in such a manner as not to constitute either a private nuisance to the adjoining property owners or a nuisance to the public generally. Pens in which animals are confined or maintained shall be cleaned regularly so that they are kept free from offensive odors which would disturb any person residing or operating a business within 50 feet of the premises.

(Res. No. 18-22, § 1(Exh. A), 5-8-2018)

Sec. 14-11. - Animal or fowl enclosures.

It shall be unlawful for any person to have, control or possess any pasture or enclosure for livestock or fowl in any fashion not authorized by the zoning ordinances of the county. All pastures or enclosures shall at all times be kept and maintained in a proper, clean and sanitary condition.

(Res. No. 18-22, § 1(Exh. A), 5-8-2018)

Sec. 14-12. - Confinement of animals.

It shall be the duty of any animal owner to ensure an animal is under control of its owner and to prevent the animal from having access to the property of another person. An animal may leave the property of the animal owner, but the animal owner must have the animal under control and must prevent the animal from having access to the property of another person without the permission of that person, or from attacking, threatening or harassing other persons, or from damaging other persons' property. No animal shall be allowed to roam free and when not on the property of its owner must be on a leash, or similar physical control device, and in the control of a person. This section shall not apply to community cats or community cat caregivers.

Any owner of a domestic animal will confine that animal inside a building or fenced enclosure. No animal shall be tied as a permanent measure of restraint, nor left unattended on a chain, lead, runner, cable, rope, leash, or similar tethering device in an unfenced area where people or other animals can wander into the tethered animal's proximity. Any animal owner restraining an animal without the use of a fenced enclosure will be in violation of this chapter. Animals who are tied on a chain, lead, runner, cable, rope, leash or other similar tethering device as a temporary measure of restraint within a building or

fenced enclosure shall not be tethered more than 12 hours in any 24-hour period. This section shall not apply to community cats or community cat caregivers.

Any owner of a female animal in heat (capable to be bred and become pregnant) shall confine such animal in a building or secure enclosure (sufficient to prevent the female animal in heat from escaping and to prevent another animal from entering the enclosure) to prevent breeding. Any female animal in heat roaming loose or tethered without the protection of a fence or barrier will be in violation of this chapter. This section shall not apply to community cats or community cat caregivers.

Owners who permit their animals to defecate on public or private property other than their own property are required to immediately pick up the feces, bag the feces, and properly dispose of the feces. Such animal waste shall be removed by placing said matter in a closed or sealed container and thereafter disposing of it in the animal owner's or public trash receptacle, sanitary disposal unit or other closed or sealed refuse container. This paragraph shall not apply to:

- (1) Persons using guide dogs or assistance dogs;
- (2) Hunting dogs being used in a legal hunt with permission of the property owner; or
- (3) Law enforcement officers working police trained dogs.
- (4) Community cats.

(Res. No. 18-22, § 1(Exh. A), 5-8-2018)

Sec. 14-13. - Restraint.

It shall be the duty of any animal owner to restrain his animal in such a manner as to prevent the animal from attacking, threatening, or harassing any person on the public right-of-way of the roads, streets, highways and sidewalks in the county.

(Res. No. 18-22, § 1(Exh. A), 5-8-2018)

Sec. 14-14. - Vicious animals.

Any owner of a vicious animal shall confine it within a building or secured enclosure (sufficient to prevent the animal from escaping and to prevent a person or another animal from entering the enclosure) and will not remove it from such building or fenced enclosure unless it is securely muzzled and under restraint by a person who is at least 18 years of age or older. Any vicious animal not secured as provided in this chapter is hereby declared a nuisance and may be impounded pursuant to the provisions of this chapter and/or confined by the animal control department for a period of 30 days, provided that, if an action is brought in any court of competent jurisdiction concerning the attack or attempt to attack by such animal, the period of confinement may be extended within the discretion of the animal control department, until the entry of a final order of disposition in such action. Further, in any prosecution of an owner or a responsible person of any vicious animal for any violation of this chapter, the court may, upon conviction entered against the owner or responsible person, order that the animal be humanely destroyed.

(Res. No. 18-22, § 1(Exh. A), 5-8-2018)

Sec. 14-15. - Animal noises/barking.

- (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to permit a domestic animal under his or her ownership or possession to disturb the peace of any other person by loud, persistent, habitual barking, howling, growling, yelping or whining. No person shall be charged with violating this subsection unless a written warning has previously been issued by an animal control officer within 90 days of the charged violation. No citation for violation of this subsection shall be issued unless there are at least two

complaining witnesses who shall have signed a written statement stating the address of the dog owner, a description of the dog and of the offense date, time and location of the offense.

- (b) It shall be a violation of this chapter for an owner or an individual in possession of the property upon which the animal or animals are being located at the time of the offense to allow the animal or animals to make any vocalizations listed in subsection (a) above which are plainly audible to a person of ordinary hearing ability not located on the same property as the animal or animals making such vocalizations for more than 15 minutes without interruption or more than 30 minutes if the vocalization is intermittent.
- (1) These time limits do not apply if the vocalizations are given as a warning to the presence of a person trespassing, threatening to trespass or unambiguously taunting the animal.
 - (2) Animal control officers enforcing this subsection are not required to measure the vocalizations with the use of a sound level meter.
 - (3) Upon notification of a complaint concerning such vocalizations, the owner or individual in possession of the property upon which the animal or animals are located shall be given a written notice from the animal control division indicating that such animal or animals are creating a disturbance and advising the owner or individual in possession of the property of some possible solutions to rectify the nuisance. The complainant must provide the officer the address where the animal or animals were located at the time of the offense before any written notice shall be sent. The owner or individual in possession of the property shall then have ten days to resolve the disturbance.
 - (4) If the disturbance is not resolved within ten days and the animal control division receives a second complaint from the original complainant, he will be asked to provide a sworn statement documenting the violations. Upon receipt of the complainant's sworn statement, the animal welfare division may, if satisfied that sufficient evidence is shown, issue a citation in accordance with the requirements of this chapter. Sufficient evidence can include, but is not limited to, any of the following:
 - a. A second sworn statement regarding the vocalizations from another individual residing at a different address located near the animal(s) creating the disturbance.
 - b. Video or other similar visual and audio recordings of the animal or animals while the disturbance is ongoing as provided for above.
 - c. Other sufficient evidence regarding the vocalizations.
 - (5) If the disturbance is not resolved within ten days and the animal control division receives another complaint from another individual residing at a different address located near the animal or animals creating the disturbance, both complainants will be asked to provide a sworn statement. Upon receipt of the sworn statements, the animal control division may issue a citation in accordance with the requirements of this chapter.
 - (6) The original complaint will remain on file and active for a period of 90 days following the ten-day resolution period. If no further complaints are made during the 90-day period, the complaint shall expire and the process begins again.
 - (7) An example of the complaint form is as follows:

Instructions for Barking Dog Complaint Form

In order to issue a citation for a barking dog complaint, animal control must have issued a written warning to the owner within the past 90 days. All barking dog complaint citations require at least two witnesses that have signed a written statement stating the address of the animal owner, a description of the dog and of the offense, and the date, time, location of the offense. It is important that both witnesses' statements are about the same events (not two separate event dates). If the owner of the dog contests the citation, all witnesses may be subpoenaed to testify in Magistrate Court regarding the Complaint. If the complainant refuses to appear in court as witness, the citation will be dismissed. Once completed and signed, the original barking

complaint form may be submitted to animal control in person or by mail. No fax or email submissions will be accepted.

PAULDING COUNTY ANIMAL CONTROL BARKING DOG COMPLAINT FORM

In response to your most recent complaint, a written warning was issued at the residence of the barking dog. Should the problem continue, the next step would be to issue a citation. In order to issue a citation, our office must receive signed written statements from two individuals (may be from the same household) who are willing to go to court and testify. These statements *must be received within 90 days* of the most recent warning. If more than 90 days elapses, the process may begin again or no further warnings may be issued. This form has been sent to you should you choose to send a written statement.

Paulding County Animal Control Ordinance 14-15: It shall be unlawful for any person to permit a domestic animal under his or her ownership or possession to disturb the peace of any other person by loud, persistent, habitual barking, howling, growling, yelping or whining. No person shall be charged with violating this subsection unless a written warning has previously been issued by an Animal Control officer within ninety days of the charged violation. No citation for violation of this subsection shall be issued unless there are at least two complaining witnesses who shall have signed a written statement stating the address of the dog owner, a description of the dog and of the offense date, time and location of the offense.

WITNESS #1:

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

WITNESS #2:

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

OWNER:

OWNER'S NAME (IF KNOWN): _____

OWNER'S ADDRESS: _____ APT #: _____

DESCRIPTION OF DOG:

MOST RECENT DATE OF PROBLEM: _____ TIME: _____

COMPLAINT DETAILS (attach additional pages if needed):

By signing below, I am requesting that Paulding County Animal Control issue a citation to the owner listed above. I understand that I will be required to appear as a witness in Magistrate Court and give testimony under oath regarding this complaint. I certify that the statements above are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

SIGNATURE OF WITNESS #1 DATE

Sworn to and subscribed before me this ____ day of _____, 201__.

Notary Public

SIGNATURE OF WITNESS #2 DATE

Sworn to and subscribed before me this ____ day of _____, 201__.

Notary Public

Please bring in person or mail this form to:

PAULDING COUNTY ANIMAL CONTROL
779 INDUSTRIAL BLVD. N.
DALLAS, GA 30132

PLEASE NOTE: We cannot accept faxed or emailed witness statements.

(Res. No. 18-22, § 1(Exh. A), 5-8-2018)

Sec. 14-16. - Rabid animals.

- (a) Every veterinarian shall report promptly to the state department of human resources and the animal control department all cases of rabies in animals treated by the veterinarian, giving the name and addresses of the owner of any animals bitten by the rabid animal, so far as known.
- (b) Any person who knows that an animal, domestic or wild, is rabid or suspects an animal of having rabies or knows that an animal has been bitten by a rabid animal, shall promptly report the information, to the extent known, to the state department of human resources and the animal control department.
- (c) It shall be the duty of the owner, the health department, physicians, hospitals or other person or agency gaining information that any domestic animal or person has been bitten or is probably infected with rabies, to incarcerate or impound the animal in the facility of a competent veterinarian or animal shelter within this county, where the animal shall be held for observation for any period of time as may be reasonably necessary to determine whether the animal is infected with rabies.

(Res. No. 18-22, § 1(Exh. A), 5-8-2018)

Sec. 14-17. - Cruelty.

- (a) It shall be unlawful for any person by commission or omission to:
- (1) Overdrive, overload, overwork, torture, beat, mutilate, kill needlessly, carry or confine in a vehicle in an inhumane manner, or otherwise mistreat any animal;
 - (2) Fail to provide any animal they own or provide care for with proper food and veterinary care;
 - (3) Fail to provide any animal they own or provide care for with access to adequate shelter to protect it from all types of weather, 24 hours daily;
 - (4) Fail to provide any animal they own or provide care for access to good and wholesome fresh water at all times;
 - (5) Intentionally poison any domestic animal;
 - (6) Allow or permit any fight between animals, or to allow or permit a fight in or upon any premises in that person's possession or under that person's control;
 - (7) Allow an animal they own or provide care for to be kept in unsanitary conditions;
 - (8) Keep or confine any animal in other than a humane manner.
- (b) It shall be unlawful to release any animal on any property with the intent to abandon the animal. Each person who does abandon, knowingly or willingly permits such abandonment or aids in the abandonment of any animal, shall be in violation of this chapter. This section shall not apply to community cats that are part of a trap-neuter-vaccinate-return program or a shelter-neuter-vaccinate-return program or the respective community cat caregivers.

(Res. No. 18-22, § 1(Exh. A), 5-8-2018)

Sec. 14-18. - Vaccination proof required.

- (a) Any animal owner within the county shall have their animals over three months of age, including, but not limited to, dogs and cats, inoculated for the prevention of rabies in a manner pre-approved in writing by the county health department or by a licensed veterinarian in a manner consistent with state law and county department of health policies and regulations. Animal owners must be able to provide satisfactory documentation to animal control representative in the event that the animal:
- Has been impounded by an animal control employee,
 - Is in the care and custody of animal control after being identified as a stray or abandoned animal,
 - Has been found to be the cause, source or is otherwise identified as being involved in a violation of any other county ordinance or state law,
 - Has bitten or scratched a human,
 - Has bitten or scratched another animal,
 - Has been in contact or otherwise exposed to a suspected rabid animal,
 - Is being walked in a public area.

For the purposes of this chapter, satisfactory documentation shall include at least one of the following:

- A current rabies vaccination tag identifying the name or otherwise identifying title of the animal in question which also displays a state-issued rabies vaccination control number,
 - A copy of the paid invoice from a veterinarian's office, indicating that the animal in question was administered a rabies vaccination,
 - A letter or form from a veterinarian's office, stating that the office records indicate that the animal in question was administered a rabies vaccination; and that such vaccination is currently effective,
 - A letter or form from the county health department, stating that the office records indicate that the animal in question was administered a rabies vaccination; and that such vaccination is currently effective.
- (b) The animal control department may adopt any other rabies control regulations as it deems necessary for the protection of the public health and safety.
- (c) All rules and regulations of the county board of health and the state department of human resources presently existing or as adopted in the future pertaining to rabies control and vaccination are incorporated in this chapter by reference as though fully set forth in this chapter.

(Res. No. 18-22, § 1(Exh. A), 5-8-2018)

Secs. 14-19—14-39. - Reserved.

ARTICLE II. - ANIMAL ESTABLISHMENTS

DIVISION 1. - GENERALLY

Sec. 14-40. - Reserved.

Sec. 14-41. - Permit required.

No person shall operate an animal establishment without first obtaining a permit from the animal control department in compliance with this chapter, nor may any person operate an animal establishment in a manner in violation of any provision of this chapter.

(Res. No. 18-22, § 1(Exh. A), 5-8-2018)

Sec. 14-42. - Duration; renewal.

The period of a permit issued under this article shall begin with the first day of the calendar year and run for one year. Renewal application for permits shall be made 30 days prior to and up to 60 days after January 1 of each year. Application for a permit for a new establishment under the provisions of this chapter shall be made within 60 days of the start of business or operation.

(Res. No. 18-22, § 1(Exh. A), 5-8-2018)

Sec. 14-43. - Separate facilities.

Every facility regulated by this article shall be considered a separate enterprise requiring an individual permit for each separate facility at different locations but owned by the same person shall be considered as two animal establishments.

(Res. No. 18-22, § 1(Exh. A), 5-8-2018)

Sec. 14-44. - Action on application.

The animal control department shall either issue or decline to issue a permit required by this article to the applicant. If a permit is not granted, it shall notify the applicant in writing of the reason for denial.

(Res. No. 18-22, § 1(Exh. A), 5-8-2018)

Sec. 14-45. - Delay for reapplication upon denial.

Any animal establishment denied a permit under this article may not reapply for a period of at least 30 days. Each application shall describe any previous denial or revocation.

(Res. No. 18-22, § 1(Exh. A), 5-8-2018)

Sec. 14-46. - False information in application.

If an applicant for a permit required by this article is shown to have withheld or falsified any material information on any application, the animal control department may refuse to issue or is entitled to revoke any permit.

(Res. No. 18-22, § 1(Exh. A), 5-8-2018)

Sec. 14-47. - Revocation of permits.

- (a) The animal control department may revoke any permit if the person holding the permit refuses or fails to comply with this chapter, or any other law or regulation governing the protection and keeping of animals, including refusal to allow inspection of the animal establishment as provided in this section.
- (b) Whenever a permit is revoked for cause, or pending any proceeding to contest such action, the animal control department shall have the power of entry to inspect all premises where the animals are being kept and shall notify the owner in writing as to the period of time that reasonably shall be allowed for removal of animals from the premises and shall state the specific reasons for revocation. If any owner shall fail to remove the animals as directed, the animal control department may impound the animals pursuant to the provisions of this chapter.

(Res. No. 18-22, § 1(Exh. A), 5-8-2018)

Sec. 14-48. - Miscellaneous requirements.

- (a) An animal establishment shall not sell, trade or give away any dog or cat over three months of age unless the dog or cat has been vaccinated as required by this chapter.
- (b) Building temperature shall be maintained at a level that is healthful for every species of animal kept in the kennel. Adequate ventilation shall be maintained.

- (c) Each animal shall have sufficient space to stand up, lie down, and turn around without touching the sides or top of cage, excluding tails.
- (d) Cages are to be of material and construction that permit cleaning and sanitizing.
- (e) Cage floors shall be of concrete, unless radiantly heated, and shall have a resting board or some type of bedding.
- (f) Runs shall provide an adequate exercise area and protection from the weather. Runs shall have an impervious surface.
- (g) All animal quarters and runs are to be kept clean and in a sanitary condition.
- (h) The food shall be free from contamination, and shall be wholesome, palatable and of sufficient quantity and nutritive value to meet the normal daily requirements for the condition and size of the animal.
- (i) All animals shall have fresh water available at all times.

(Res. No. 18-22, § 1(Exh. A), 5-8-2018)

Sec. 14-49. - Hobby breeder.

A person shall be considered a hobby breeder if they offer for sale or donation no more than one litter of animals during a 12-month period per household. A hobby breeder will not be subject to the registration procedures applicable to animal establishments and breeders as designated in this article. Hobby breeders shall only distribute such animals through private residences and may not be affiliated with any pet shop, breeder or animal establishment. Under this definition, a household which sells or donates two litters during a 12-month period, even if the litters are produced from different animals, will not be considered a hobby breeder and will be subject to the registration procedures applicable to animal establishments and breeders as designated in this article. Hobby breeders shall be required to register themselves as a "hobby breeder" with animal control, provided however, that there shall be no cost to the hobby breeder to register.

(Res. No. 18-22, § 1(Exh. A), 5-8-2018)

Sec. 14-50. - Pet distribution.

It shall be unlawful for any person to sell, barter, or gratuitously distribute any animal, fowl or reptile in a public place without an appropriate permit or license. This prohibition shall include, but not be limited to, such distribution in commercial areas and along public roadways. Hobby breeders are also prohibited from distributing or selling animals along public roadways and in commercial areas and are restricted to distributing and selling animals from private residences. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit that gratuitous distribution of pets in private residential areas.

(Res. No. 18-22, § 1(Exh. A), 5-8-2018)

Secs. 14-51—14-65. - Reserved.

DIVISION 2. - PET SHOPS

Sec. 14-66. - Compliance with chapter.

All pet shops, including pet shops operated in conjunction with another holding facility, shall in addition to the other requirements of this chapter comply with the minimum standards of this section. Failure to meet these standards shall be grounds for denial or revocation of a permit.

(Res. No. 18-22, § 1(Exh. A), 5-8-2018)

Sec. 14-67. - Water.

There shall be available hot water at a minimum temperature of 160 degrees Fahrenheit for washing feed and water bowls and disinfection, and cold water easily accessible to all parts of the pet shop. Fresh water for consumption shall be available to all species of animals at all times. Containers are to be cleaned and disinfected each day.

(Res. No. 18-22, § 1(Exh. A), 5-8-2018)

Sec. 14-68. - Room temperature.

The room temperature of the pet shop shall be maintained at a level that is healthful for every species of animal kept in the shop.

(Res. No. 18-22, § 1(Exh. A), 5-8-2018)

Sec. 14-69. - Cages and enclosures.

All cages and enclosures in pet shops are to be of a nonporous material for easy cleaning and disinfecting. Each cage must be of sufficient size that the animal will have room to stand, turn and stretch out to the animal's full length.

(Res. No. 18-22, § 1(Exh. A), 5-8-2018)

Secs. 14-70—14-85. - Reserved.

DIVISION 3. - WILD AND EXOTIC ANIMALS

Sec. 14-86. - License required.

No person or business shall own, harbor or permit to be kept or harbored a wild or exotic animal within the county, other than those persons who have received a written license to harbor and/or own a wild or exotic animal, as described in this division, and those licensed animal establishments which have received approval in writing by the animal control department as a license for such animal.

(Res. No. 18-22, § 1(Exh. A), 5-8-2018)

Sec. 14-87. - Licensing.

Licenses required by this division may be granted upon presentation of evidence satisfactory to the animal control department that appropriate safeguards for the protection of the public are maintained and that the state department of natural resources has been properly notified of the proposed harboring of such wild and/or exotic animal and have not objected to harboring of such animal.

(Res. No. 18-22, § 1(Exh. A), 5-8-2018)

Sec. 14-88. - Public notice.

All persons and or businesses which have received a license to harbor, keep and/or own a wild or exotic animal, as described in this division, shall at all times conspicuously post on the premises where the wild and/or exotic animal is harbored, kept, housed, or sheltered, a notice in form and substance approved by the animal control department which states that a wild and/or exotic animal is kept on the premises. In addition, the person and or business which has received a license to harbor, keep and/or own a wild or exotic animal, as described in this division, shall at all times conspicuously post on the premises where the wild or exotic animal is harbored, kept, housed, or sheltered, a copy of the written license to harbor, keep and/or own a wild or exotic animal.

(Res. No. 18-22, § 1(Exh. A), 5-8-2018)

Sec. 14-89. - Sales.

Any animal establishment approved by the animal control department for offering for sale any wild and exotic animal shall post conspicuously at the place of sale or display a notice in form and substance approved by the animal control department which no person may lawfully own, keep, harbor or permit to be kept or harbored, any wild and exotic animal within the county, without obtaining a written license and approval for such animal.

(Res. No. 18-22, § 1(Exh. A), 5-8-2018)

Sec. 14-90. - Impoundment.

The animal control department may impound any wild or exotic animal that is owned or harbored in violation of this chapter, and may destroy or rehabilitate any such animal upon conviction of its owner or other responsible person for a violation of this section, notwithstanding the impoundment provisions of this chapter. Any wild or exotic animal impounded pursuant to the provisions of this subsection shall remain impounded or confined by the animal control department until a final order of disposition is entered by a court of competent jurisdiction with respect to the violations of the provisions of this chapter.

(Res. No. 18-22, § 1(Exh. A), 5-8-2018)

Secs. 14-91—14-120. - Reserved.

ARTICLE III. - IMPOUNDMENT AND ADOPTION

Sec. 14-121. - Authorized.

Any animal at large, with the exception of community cats, or otherwise in violation of the provisions of this chapter may be impounded in the animal shelter in a humane manner, for a period of not less than three days. If within that time an animal so impounded has not been reclaimed by its owner in accordance with the provisions of this chapter, the animal shall become the absolute property of the animal control department, which may convey ownership of the animal to any responsible person on any conditions that the animal control department may prescribe, or the animal control department may humanely destroy the animal.

- (1) Subject to the state dangerous dog control law and the provisions of this chapter related to rabies control and the rules and regulations of the board of health and this chapter, any animal found running at large or otherwise engaged in any activity or existing in a condition prohibited by this chapter or by the state's dangerous dog control code shall be taken and impounded at the animal shelter.
- (2) Any person may take into custody any animal running at large in violation of this chapter with Paulding County Animal Control.

- (3) Any person who takes into custody an animal running at large in violation of this chapter shall deliver such animal to the animal shelter without fee or charge. However, a person may house the animal for three business days while attempting to locate and/or contact the owner. Once in custody of the animal shelter, the shelter shall hold and dispose of such animal in the same manner as though such animal had been running at large and impounded by officers of PCAC.

(Res. No. 18-22, § 1(Exh. A), 5-8-2018)

Sec. 14-122. - Entry onto private property.

An animal control officer may follow an animal that has been seen by that officer running at large onto private property to capture and impound the animal. No injunction, action or claim for damages may be brought against the animal control department or its officers, agents or employees with respect to actions contemplated in this article.

(Res. No. 18-22, § 1(Exh. A), 5-8-2018)

Sec. 14-123. - Notice generally.

The animal control department shall make a reasonable effort to notify the owner of any animal impounded in the animal shelter that the animal has been impounded, the manner by which the animal may be reclaimed, and that the animal may be destroyed and shall become the property of the animal control department as provided in this article.

(Res. No. 18-22, § 1(Exh. A), 5-8-2018)

Sec. 14-124. - Notice when owner known.

Following the impoundment of an animal found at large which has on it its owner's address and prior to its destruction, the animal control authority shall give the owner three days' notice of the proposed destruction by letter, or phone, or knocker.

(Res. No. 18-22, § 1(Exh. A), 5-8-2018)

Sec. 14-125. - Refusal to release.

Notwithstanding any provisions of this chapter to the contrary, the animal control department may refuse to release any animal impounded in the animal shelter for rabies or contagious disease quarantine or for use as evidence in a criminal prosecution, for any time period as the animal control department may determine.

(Res. No. 18-22, § 1(Exh. A), 5-8-2018)

Sec. 14-126. - Destruction.

- (a) Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter to the contrary, the animal control department may humanely destroy any animal impounded in the animal shelter when the animal control department reasonably believes that the destruction of the animal is necessary to prevent disease or injury to the animals or to humans due to overcrowding in the animal shelter, the presence or threatened presence of contagious disease, the likelihood of danger or injury to humans or animals, or any other condition.

- (b) Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter to the contrary, the animal control department may humanely destroy any animal impounded in the animal shelter when the animal control department reasonably believes the animal has sustained an injury or disease which will likely result in maiming, prolonged and/or severe suffering or death.

(Res. No. 18-22, § 1(Exh. A), 5-8-2018)

Sec. 14-127. - Fees authorized.

The animal control department may set all appropriate fees pertaining to the care and impoundment of impounded animals.

(Res. No. 18-22, § 1(Exh. A), 5-8-2018)

Sec. 14-128. - Liability for fees.

The owner of an animal impounded in the animal shelter shall be liable for all fees and charges, notwithstanding the destruction or adoption of the animal.

(Res. No. 18-22, § 1(Exh. A), 5-8-2018)

Sec. 14-129. - Adoption.

The animal control department may convey ownership of any animal which has become the property of the animal control department to a responsible person subject to any conditions as may be prescribed by the animal control department, including, but without limitation, the following:

- (1) Payment of an adoption fee to be set by the animal control department and any vaccination, licensing or veterinary costs;
- (2) Evidence satisfactory to the animal control department that the animal has been, or will be, examined by a veterinarian and vaccinations against rabies and other disease have been or will be administered;
- (3) Evidence satisfactory to the animal control department that the animal has been, or will be, neutered or spayed.

Any person who fails to comply with the conditions prescribed for an adoption shall be in violation of this chapter.

(Res. No. 18-22, § 1(Exh. A), 5-8-2018)

Secs. 14-130—14-170. - Reserved.

ARTICLE IV. - ANIMAL CONTROL HEARING BOARD

Sec. 14-171. - Composition.

There is hereby created in and for the unincorporated area of Paulding County, Georgia a board to be known as the Paulding County Animal Control Hearing Board, which shall consist of not more than five members who shall be appointed for a term of not more than one year each. All proposed appointments to the animal control hearing board shall be subject to the nomination and confirmation process whereby recommendations for nominations shall be submitted to the chairman of the county board of

commissioners who shall present formal nominations to the board of commissioners for a vote and confirmation.

In making these nominations for the county animal control hearing board, the chairman of the county board of commissioners shall seek proposed recommendations of members to make up the county animal control hearing board as follows:

- (1) One member shall be recommended by the post one commissioner to the chairman for nomination;
- (2) One member shall be recommended by the post two commissioner to the chairman for nomination;
- (3) One member shall be recommended by the post three commissioner to the chairman for nomination;
- (4) One member shall be recommended by the post four commissioner to the chairman for nomination;
- (5) One member shall be the recommended by the chairman as an at-large member.

Each member so appointed shall be a resident of the county and shall serve for a term as designated and until a successor shall be appointed to replace such member as provided herein. Term periods shall run from January 1 though December 31 of each calendar year.

In the event any recommendation is not received or not nominated by the chairman of the board of commissioners or not confirmed by the board of commissioners, the chairman of the board of commissioners may make a substitute nomination of another resident of the county subject to confirmation by the board of commissioners.

(Res. No. 18-22, § 1(Exh. A), 5-8-2018)

Sec. 14-172. - Purpose.

The county animal control hearing board is a limited authority board and is hereby authorized to conduct the hearings regarding the classification of animals as "dangerous" or "potentially dangerous" as contemplated by O.C.G.A. §§ 4-8-22 and 4-8-24. In doing so, the animal control hearing board shall adopt and substantially follow the procedures for these hearings as set forth in section 14-173.

(Res. No. 18-22, § 1(Exh. A), 5-8-2018)

Sec. 14-173. - Policy and procedures.

- (a) As provided by O.C.G.A. § 4-8-22 and Resolution No. 04-05 of the county board of commissioners, the county animal control hearing board has been created and designated as the local hearing agency for hearings regarding the classification of dogs as dangerous or potentially dangerous by the county animal control department.
- (b) These hearings shall be held only when requested by the dog owners, in writing, in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 4-8-24 and shall be convened by the animal control hearing board for the limited purpose of considering evidence regarding the animal control department's determination that the animal at issue is a dangerous dog or a potentially dangerous dog. At its first called meeting of the year, the animal control hearing board shall select its schedule for meetings. Such schedule shall consist of one meeting per month to be held on a standard day and time (for example: the 2nd Thursday of the month at 12:00 p.m.; the 15th of the month at 5:00 p.m.) and location (for example: Public safety building conference room, Henry Winn Development Building conference room). Such meeting schedule and location shall be advertised in the local legal organ as public meetings in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 50-14-1 and posted at the selected meeting location.

- (c) Requests for hearings shall be sent to the animal control department who is responsible for forwarding the notice to the chairman of the county animal control board. When a hearing is requested, the chairman of the animal control hearing board shall review the approved schedule and select the next available hearing date, provided the date is within the applicable 30-day time limit provided by O.C.G.A. § 4-8-24. Notice of the time, date and place of the hearing will be provided to the animal control department who will then send notice of same to the dog owner by certified mail.
- (d) The animal control department shall be responsible for providing the animal control hearing board with all documentation it deems necessary to understand the case, including, but not limited to, incident reports and animal control department citations. In doing so, the animal control department shall provide at least one copy of all such documentation for every board member as well as one additional copy to be submitted for the minutes of the hearing.
- (e) The hearing shall be presided over by the chairman of the animal control hearing board or another officer of the board in the absence of the chairman, and shall be attended by a representative of the county attorney's office. The secretary of the animal control hearing board or another officer of the board in the absence of the secretary shall be responsible for taking minutes of the hearing which minutes shall be written and approved at the board's next scheduled meeting. The minutes will be kept on file at the animal control department's office. In order for the hearing to proceed, a quorum of the animal control hearing board must be present.
- (f) The chairman or any other member shall review the following procedures that will be adhered to during the hearing:
 - (1) Anyone in attendance at the hearing wishing to speak on behalf or in opposition to designation of the animal as a dangerous dog or a potentially dangerous dog that is on the agenda for a hearing must be recognized and they will be asked to state their name and place of residence, and then to sign their name on a sheet provided by the board.
 - (2) The person recognized to speak will be allowed to speak on any point relevant to the animal classification being considered.
 - (3) The animal control department shall begin the proceeding by stating the contents of its investigation, conducted pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 4-8-23, and its decision to designate the dog as a dangerous dog or a potentially dangerous dog. The animal control department shall be given a maximum of 15 minutes to present its case. If more than one speaker represents animal control, the 15 minutes shall be divided among the various speakers. Speakers are encouraged to refrain from presenting information that has previously been stated. In no case, however, shall the animal control department in its presentation be allowed more than the allotted time, no matter how many speakers represent the group, unless so extended by the board. The animal control department may choose, but is not required to be, represented by an attorney.
 - (4) The dog owner shall next be provided an opportunity to present information to the board. The dog owner shall be given a maximum of 15 minutes to present his case. Any groups which are present are encouraged to choose a spokesperson to present their views. If more than one speaker represents the dog owner, the 15 minutes shall be divided among the various speakers. Speakers are encouraged to refrain from presenting information that has previously been stated. In no case, however, shall the dog owner be allowed more than the allotted time no matter how many speakers represent the dog owner unless so extended by the board. The dog owner may choose, but is not required to be, represented by an attorney.
 - (5) The chairman may then ask if there any persons present wishing to speak in favor of the animal control's determination to classify the dog as a dangerous dog or a potentially dangerous dog. If so, proponents of the classification are allowed to speak, but shall be given a maximum of 15 minutes in total to present their case. Any groups which are present are encouraged to choose a spokesperson to present their views. The chairman may request representatives of each side to speak for the entire group. If more than one speaker represents a group, the 15 minutes shall be divided among the various speakers. Speakers are encouraged to refrain from presenting information that has previously been stated. In no case, however, shall any group be

allowed more than the allotted time no matter how many speakers represent the group unless extended by the board.

- (6) The chairman may then ask if there any persons present wishing to speak in opposition of the animal control's determination to classify the dog as a dangerous dog or a potentially dangerous dog (besides the dog owner). If so, opponents of the classification are allowed to speak, but shall be given a maximum of 15 minutes in total to present their case. Any groups which are present are encouraged to choose a spokesperson to present their views. The chairman may request representatives of each side to speak for the entire group. If more than one speaker represents a group, the 15 minutes shall be divided among the various speakers. Speakers are encouraged to refrain from presenting information that has previously been stated. In no case, however, shall any group be allowed more than the allotted time no matter how many speakers represent the group unless extended by the board.
 - (7) Any documentation provided to the board by either the animal control department, the dog owner, or any other group, must include one original to be filed with the meeting minutes and at least one copy for each board member.
 - (8) During and following the hearing presentations, the board and/or the county attorney's office may ask any pertinent questions of the animal control department, or its representative, or the dog owner, or his representative, or any other group or person who offered oral testimony to aid in their understanding of the case. Questions and responses shall not be counted as part of the maximum 15-minute presentation time limit.
 - (9) No further public input will be allowed without the consent of the board.
 - (10) At the conclusion of the public hearing, the chairman will request a motion to close the hearing and after voting on same, the hearing shall be closed.
 - (11) The chairman will announce to the persons in attendance at the hearing that the board may choose one of three options with regard to the case: (1) To sustain (agree with) the classification of the animal as a dangerous dog or potentially dangerous dog; (2) to modify the classification as a dangerous dog or potentially dangerous dog; or (3) to overrule the animal control department's classification of the animal as a dangerous dog or potentially dangerous dog.
- (g) Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 4-8-24, the animal control hearing board has ten days in which to make its decision and the decision shall be in writing mailed to the dog owner by certified or overnight mail and it shall state a date in which the decision/classification is effective. The dog owner is responsible for providing to the board an address in which to mail the board's decision. Provided however, the board shall try to make an effort to vote on its decision on the date of the hearing and announce its decision, but the board reserves the right to use the ten day period allotted by law.
- (h) The decision by the animal control hearing board must be approved by at least a simple majority of the board; provided however, a quorum of the board must be present for the hearing.

(Res. No. 18-22, § 1(Exh. A), 5-8-2018)

Sec. 14-174. - Minutes.

The animal control hearing board shall be responsible for selecting a chairman of the animal control hearing board and a secretary responsible for keeping the minutes of each hearing. The hearing minutes, when drafted and adopted, shall be forwarded to the county animal control office for filing and record maintenance. The county attorney's office shall be in attendance at each meeting of the animal control hearing board to ensure the terms of O.C.G.A. § 4-8-24 are followed.

(Res. No. 18-22, § 1(Exh. A), 5-8-2018)

Sec. 14-175. - Meetings.

The county animal control hearing board shall select one date every month to hold its meetings along with a meeting location and shall advertise the board's yearly schedule in the local legal organ and post the meeting schedule at the meeting location in accordance with the Georgia Open Meetings Law. Provided however, the animal control hearing board shall meet only upon the call of a meeting pursuant to a dog owner's request for a hearing pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 4-8-24. In the event no hearings have been requested, the animal control hearing board's scheduled meeting shall be cancelled and notice of the cancellation will be posted at the meeting location.

When requesting a hearing, the dog owner shall send his request to the county animal control office. The animal control office shall be responsible for informing the chairman of the animal control hearing board of the request. The chairman of the animal control hearing board will review the calendar for the next available hearing date in which to hold the hearing pursuant to the terms of O.C.G.A. § 4-8-24(d) and provide the date, time and location of the hearing to the animal control office so that the applicable notices can be sent setting the hearing.

(Res. No. 18-22, § 1(Exh. A), 5-8-2018)

Sec. 14-176. - Compensation; expenses.

The members of the county animal control board shall be paid at a flat rate to help defray their costs and expenses incurred as a member of said board at a rate of \$25.00 per member per meeting. In the event the animal control board or any member thereof is required to incur any expenses which are the subject matters of these hearings, said board members shall be reimbursed at the current rate of reimbursement as is available to the office of the board of commissioners of the county pursuant to the written policy thereon. Provided however, that all expenses must be pre-approved by the county finance department for reimbursement prior to the expenses being incurred for it to be eligible for reimbursement.

(Res. No. 18-22, § 1(Exh. A), 5-8-2018)