

**Ordinance 2023-006**  
**General Animal Control Ordinance**  
**Repeals Ordinance 2004-01**  
**Amended 8/5/2019**

1. Definitions

At Large - Unrestrained and not under the control of the owner or other person acting for the owner, such control to be exercised (1) by confinement within a fence, wall, electronic fence or other enclosure in such a manner as to effectively prevent the escape of the animal; (2) by the restraint of the dog or cat by a leash not less than ten feet in length and secured to a collar, with swivel connections, in such a manner as to effectively prevent the escape of the dog or cat, provided, that the length of the leash shall be reduced to such length as to prevent the dog or cat, when so secured, from entering premises other than that of the owner; or (3) when the dog or cat is in a public place and off the premises of the owner, by the restraint of the dog or cat by a leash, not more than six feet in length and secured to a collar, with swivel connections, in such a manner as to effectively prevent the injury of the dog or cat. It is proved further that no dog or cat shall be restrained in an inhumane manner.

Animal - Animal shall include but not limited to domestic, farm animals (equine, cows, calves, yearlings, bulls, oxen, sheep, goats, lambs, kids, hogs, shoats and pigs), fowl (chickens, geese and ducks), as well as dogs and cats.

Animal Control Officer – The person or persons designated or appointed by the City Council and its authorized agents who shall be primarily responsible for the enforcement of this article.

Dog – All members of the canine family three months for more of age, including dogs, pet foxes, wolves and other such member of the canine family.

Cat – All members of the feline (cat) family.

City Pound – The pound of the City of Dothan pursuant to the contract Houston County with the City of Dothan regarding same.

Owner – Owner shall mean and include any person having a right or property in an animal, or who keeps or harbors an animal, or who has it in his care, or acts as its custodian, or who permits an animal to remain on or about any premises occupied by him.

2. The City Council shall appoint an Animal Control Officer and such deputies and assistants as may be necessary. It shall be the duty of the Animal Control Officer to enforce the provisions of this article; to catch and impound any animal running at large within the city; to attempt to rid the city of stray, homeless, unclaimed and diseased animals; to cooperate with the humane officer, the county animal control officer and the county rabies inspector.

3. (a) Confinement of animals on private premises. It shall be unlawful and punishable as a misdemeanor for any person owning, keeping, possessing, harboring or maintaining an animal to cause, permit or allow such animal to be at large on or about any place, lot or premises or portion of same within the city.

(b) Restraint of animals in public places and off premises. It shall be unlawful and punishable as a misdemeanor for any person owning, keeping, possessing, harboring or maintaining an animal to cause, allow or permit such an animal to run or be at large upon any street, alley, thoroughfare, sidewalk or public place in the city.

4. It shall be unlawful for any person to permit or allow any dog or cat in his charge or control to wear a dog or cat inoculation tag issued for a different dog or cat.

5. (a) Any animal which is found at large on any street, sidewalk, alley, thoroughfare or other place in the city shall be caught and taken by the Chief Animal Control Officer, his/her deputies and assistants and impounded in the City Pound pursuant to the provisions or terms of the agreement between Houston County and the City of Dothan.

(b) Any animal impounded may be redeemed by the owner thereof within seven days upon payment to the City of Ashford according to the schedule listed below.

- First penalty – 50.00
- Impoundment fee per night – 12.00
- Second penalty – 100.00
- Impoundment fee per night – 12.00
- Third penalty – up to 500.00 – required attendance to the Ashford Municipal Court with a court date issued by the officer
- Impoundment fee per night – 12.00

Payment of impoundment fees is not considered to be in lieu of any fine, penalty or other fees as may be established.

6. It shall be unlawful and punishable as a misdemeanor for the owner or other person in charge of an animal, whether such animal has attached to him a tag or not, to cause or permit such an animal to be or run at large on or about any place, lot or premises or portions of the same, such animal shall be kept within the limits of such wall, fence or enclosure. Whenever an animal is permitted to run at large within a wall, fence or other enclosure, as permitted under this section, it shall be the duty of the owner or person in charge of such an animal to give public notice or warning that such animal is at large within said enclosure by conspicuous posting at every unlocked entrance to such enclosure.

7. Any animal impounded under the provision of this Ordinance shall be dealt with as provided in Paragraph 5 hereof;

8. It shall be unlawful and punishable as a misdemeanor for the owner or other person in charge of any dog or cat to suffer or permit the loud and frequent or continued barking, howling or yelping of such dog or cat, as to annoy and disturb the neighbors.

9. It shall be unlawful for the owner or other person in charge thereof to harbor or keep in the City of Ashford a vicious dog or cat, unless the same is securely confined or bound in such a manner as to prevent such a dog or cat from biting or attacking a person or other animal. It shall be prima facie evidence that a dog or cat is a vicious dog or cat if it shall bite or fiercely attack any person whatsoever, or any other animal, such person or other animal at the time of said biting not being on the owner's premises.


10. Any person or persons violating this ordinance shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be punished by a fine of not less than two hundred fifty (\$250.00) and no more than five hundred (\$500.00). In addition, court may impose a sentence of imprisonment in the county jail, not to exceed six (6) months.

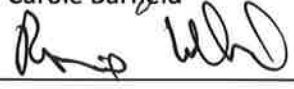
11. Ordinances 103, 157, 93-194 and 2004-001 are hereby repealed.

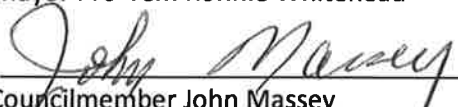
12. This Ordinance hereby replaces all previous ordinances, which may conflict with this Ordinance.

13. This Ordinance is severable and each and every provision, section, clause or portion of this Ordinance is hereby declared to be an independent provision and the holding of any provision, section, clause or portion of this Ordinance to be void, not in effect or unconstitutional shall not affect any other section, clause, provision or portion of this Ordinance which is not in and of itself held to be invalid or unconstitutional. It is further declared that the other provisions of this Ordinance would have been enacted regardless of any provision, which might be held invalid.

Adopted this the 4th day of December 2023.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Carole Barfield

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Pro-Tem Ronnie Whitehead


  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Councilmember John Massey

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Councilmember Josh Johnson

Attest:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Janet Rumley, City Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Councilmember Blake Rosenkoetter

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Councilmember James Smith