

## **WARREN COUNTY DOMESTIC ANIMAL CONTROL ORDINANCE**

### **PREAMBLE**

The Warren County Board of Supervisors, in order to promote the health, safety and general welfare of the citizens of Warren County and to promote the humane treatment of domestic animals therein, hereby adopts this ordinance for the control of domestic animals in the area of Warren County outside the corporate limits of the City of Vicksburg.

### **SECTION 1— DEFINITIONS**

Domestic animal — any domestic dog or cat.

Owner — any person having right of property in a domestic animal or who has custody or who keeps or harbors a domestic animal.

Dangerous or vicious animal — any dog or cat which attacks, chases or bites a person or who habitually attacks other domestic animals or livestock or poultry without provocation or attempts such actions, except if teased, tormented or abused or in defense of its owner or his property or his domestic animals, livestock or poultry by a willful trespasser.

Abused or neglected animals — any domestic animal that has been tortured, tormented, unjustifiably injured, neglected, abandoned or deprived of necessary sustenance, food or drink.

Animal control agency — the Vicksburg-Warren Humane Society.

### **SECTION 2 — CONFINEMENT TO PREMISES**

The owner of any dangerous or vicious animal shall confine such animal to his or her property by chain, fence or other means and shall not permit the animal to roam at large. The owner of such animal shall post an appropriate sign on his or her property as a warning to the public.

Any female domestic animal in heat shall likewise be confined so as not to come in contact with any like domestic animal of the opposite sex, except for intentional breeding purposes.

### **SECTION 3 — MANDATORY RABIES VACCINATION; TAG REQUIRED**

All domestic animals over the age of three (3) months shall be vaccinated for rabies pursuant to the requirements of Section 41-53-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended "Rabies Inoculation of Dogs and Cats Required". Further, it shall be the duty of the owner of such animals to securely attach the metal tag provided by the manufacturers of the rabies vaccine and/or the person performing the vaccination, as provided for under Section 41-53-1 (vaccination) and Section 41-53-7 (tag), Mississippi Code of 1972,

as amended. Further, all domestic animals shall likewise wear a tag disclosing the name, address and telephone number of the owner.

Absence of a current vaccination tag shall be prima facia evidence that the domestic animal has not been vaccinated for rabies and it may be impounded.

#### SECTION 4 — IMPOUNDMENT

Any domestic animal may be seized and impounded if:

1. it bites a person
2. it is a dangerous or vicious animal which is not confined
3. it is a female in heat which is not confined
4. it does not display on its collar a current rabies vaccination tag
5. it is an abused or neglected animal
- 6.

#### SECTION 5 — RELEASE FROM IMPOUNDMENT

When a domestic animal has been impounded pursuant to SECTION 4 above, the impounding official shall immediately notify the owner of such impoundment, if such animal is properly identified pursuant to SECTION 2 above, or is the owner can otherwise be identified.

If the impounding official determines the domestic animal to be dangerous or vicious, a female in heat or not displaying a current rabies tag, the owner must warrant that such animal will be confined or vaccinated, respectively, before release. A \$50.00 deposit shall be required to insure compliance; upon verification of confinement or vaccination, whichever is required or if both are required, the deposit will be returned to the owner.

A domestic animal that has been impounded may be released to the owner only upon payment of all fees and costs required by this ordinance.

If an impounded animal has not been claimed by the owner within five (5) business days of its impoundment, it may be placed for adoption or destroyed pursuant to the policies and procedures of the Vicksburg — Warren Humane Society.

Any domestic animal which is seriously injured, which has bitten a person and cannot be captured using ordinary means or which otherwise has been determined to be a dangerous and vicious animal that cannot be caught may be destroyed immediately by the appropriate law enforcement official.

Any domestic animal that has bitten a person shall be immediately surrendered by the owner for confinement for rabies observation or the owner may make private arrangements for confinement at a veterinary clinic for rabies observation for a period of time over which rabies symptoms will or will not become evident

## SECTION 6 — FEES

The following fees shall be charged for the impoundment of any domestic animal required under SECTION 4 above;

1. First redemption within one (1) calendar year \$25.00
2. Second redemption within one (1) calendar year \$50.00
3. Third or subsequent redemption within One (1) calendar year \$100.00
4. Per diem impoundment charge \$5.00/day
5. Additional fees may be required for rabies confinement and observation.

These fees shall be paid at the Vicksburg — Warren Humane Society shelter and shall be made payable to Warren County.

Any necessary veterinary expenses incurred for the treatment of sick or injured domestic animals impounded must be paid before redemption.

## SECTION 7 — ENFORCEMENT

The provisions of this ordinance shall be enforced primarily by the Vicksburg — Warren Humane Society, serving as the animal control agency for the Warren County Board of Supervisors by contract, but may also be enforced by any law enforcement officer pursuant to Section 41- 53-1 et seq (Dog and Rabies Control) and Section 97-41-1 et seq (Cruelty to Animals, Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended. The animal control agency shall investigate incidents of animal abuse or neglect and may file charges for violation of law.

The Vicksburg-Warren Humane Society, as animal control agency may make such rules, policies or regulations for the care, adoption or disposition of domestic animals taken into custody pursuant to this ordinance as it sees fit and said Society may set appropriate fees or charges for its services.

The Vicksburg- Warren Humane Society, in its role as animal control agency for the Warren County Board of Supervisors shall endeavor to educate the general public as to the provisions of this ordinance, to actively pursue the adoption of domestic animals in its care that are suitable for adoption, humanely dispose of the domestic animals in its care that are not redeemed or adopted and to promote the humane treatment of all animals, domestic or otherwise.

SO ORDERED this the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of November, 2003, by the Warren County Board of Supervisors.