

ORDINANCE NO. 6148 OF 2021

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

AN ORDINANCE ENACTING SECTION 8-37.1 OF THE CADDO PARISH CODE OF ORDINANCES REGARDING THE MANDATORY STERILIZATION OF DOGS AND CATS AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, dogs and cats are heavily overpopulated in the Parish of Caddo with 4,000 – 5,000 animals in Caddo Parish custody annually and 20% - 30% of animals euthanized by Caddo Parish staff or die while in Caddo Parish Custody; and

WHEREAS, it is in the interest of Caddo Parish citizens to reduce the number of dogs and cats taken in and euthanized at Caddo Parish Animal Services and Mosquito Control; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission, citizens of Caddo Parish, and animal rights advocates throughout the United States believe that sterilization of dogs and cats is far more humane than euthanization as a means of population control; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission finds it prudent to monitor and study the effect of mandatory sterilization of dogs and cats before making it a permanent part of the Parish Code of Ordinances.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, regular and legal session convened, that Section 8-47.1 of the Caddo Parish Code of Ordinances is enacted to read as follows:

Sec. 8-37.1 Owner Responsibilities-Dogs and Cats

- (a) Dog means any member of the *Canis lupus familiaris* family.
- (b) Cat means any member of the *Felidae* (feline) family.
- (c) No person may own, keep, reside with or harbor a dog or cat within the parish that is not spayed or not neutered.
- (d) Subsections (a) and (b) do not apply to:
 - (1) Puppies 52 weeks or younger and Kittens 26 weeks or younger.
 - (2) Any dog or cat which is registered with the American Kennel Club, United Kennel Club, American Dog Breeding Association, Continental Kennel Club, Cat Fanciers Association, American Cat Fanciers Association and participates at least once a year in a show sponsored by these organizations. An animal owner who presents proof of registration and participation on an annual basis in a show is exempt from the neutering and spaying requirements of this section.
 - (3) Animals with a chronic or debilitating disease or medical condition whose health will be seriously, permanently and detrimentally affected if it is spayed or neutered. Documented by a licensed Veterinarian.
 - (4) Animal Establishment owners as defined in Section 8-2 of this code. In addition to those who obtain an intact permit (males)/ breeding permit (females) for their pet which is microchipped and the permit is to be obtained annually to expire on December 31st of every year.
- (e) The penalty for violation of this Section shall solely be the impounding of the dog believed to qualify under Subsection (a), the neutering/spaying of such dog, and the return of such dog to its owner after an appropriate time for healing after surgery. No monetary penalty shall be imposed for any violation of this Section of the Code of Ordinances.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Caddo Parish shall, at Parish expense, spay or neuter as appropriate any dog found to be in violation of this Ordinance for the duration of this ordinance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if any provision or item of this ordinance or the

application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items or applications which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items or applications, and to this end, the provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared severable.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this ordinance shall take effect July 1, 2022.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this ordinance shall sunset June 30, 2024, unless re-enacted it as a permanent ordinance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all ordinances or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Approved as to legal form:

Parish Attorney

Date

DRAFT