

**ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_, SERIES 2022**

**..TITLE**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE LOUISVILLE/JEFFERSON COUNTY  
METRO GOVERNMENT CODE OF ORDINANCES CHAPTERS 91 AND  
156 TO ENHANCE THE ENFORCEMENT OF ANIMAL LICENSING AND  
REQUIRE THE MICROCHIPPING OF CATS AND DOGS.**

**..BODY**

**SPONSORED BY: COUNCIL MEMBER DONNA PURVIS**

**WHEREAS**, Louisville Metro Animal Services is tasked with ensuring that all animals in Jefferson County are properly licensed, vaccinated, cared for, and when necessary, reunited with owners;

**WHEREAS**, the issue of stray animals, specifically dangerous dogs, creates an ongoing danger and nuisance in many communities in Jefferson County which is exacerbated by the inability of Louisville Metro to determine animal ownership;

**WHEREAS**, many animals required to be registered within Jefferson County are not, contributing to this ongoing problem is the unregulated breeding of dogs and cats, which leaves Louisville Metro Animal Control with an immense burden of dealing with a vast number of unregistered animals and breeders;

**WHEREAS**, this amendment will increase and enhance the tools available to Louisville Metro Animal Services and prioritize personal responsibility in pet ownership.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF  
THE LOUISVILLE/JEFFERSON COUNTY METRO GOVERNMENT (THE COUNCIL)  
AS FOLLOWS:**

**SECTION I:** The following section of the Louisville Metro Code of Ordinances (“LMCO”) Chapter 91 is amended as follows:

**§ 91.001 DEFINITIONS.**

**OWNER.** Any person owning or keeping animals in Jefferson County. Pursuant to 258.095, when applied to the proprietorship of an animal, includes:

- (1) Every person having a right of property in the animal; and
- (2) Every person who:
  - (a) Keeps or harbors the animal;
  - (b) Has the animal in his or her care;
  - (c) \_\_\_\_\_  
occupied by him or her; and
  - (d) Retrieves an impounded animal from the shelter.

**RESIDENTIAL BREEDERS.** An entity, organization, or person who breeds, sells or sold/transferred from property intended for residential use (as defined in the Land Development Code.)

**RESIDENTIAL BREEDER PROPERTY.** Property intended for residential use in the Land Development Code) utilized by residential breeders.

**SECTION II:** The following section of LMCO Chapter 91 is amended as follows:

**§ 91.020 DOG, CAT, AND FERRET LICENSES.**

~~(A) Effective upon passage of this chapter and from that day forward, Every owner of an animal who resides or whose animal resides in Jefferson County and who is regulated by this chapter shall apply to MAS or a license facility designated by the Mayor Director of MAS, for any appropriate license required by this chapter. Individual dog, cat, and ferret licenses shall be issued in conjunction with a valid rabies vaccination certificate and shall be valid for the term of the vaccination. License tags and rabies vaccination tags shall be required for each dog or cat four months of age or older. License and vaccination tags shall be firmly attached to a harness or collar worn by the animal.~~

(1) Individual dog, cat, and ferret licenses shall be required. Before issu  
valid rabies vaccination certificate shall be required. An issued license  
the term of the vaccination  
status at all times remains current. Licensing and rabies vaccinations shall be required  
for each dog, cat, or ferret four months of age or older. Individual dog, cat,  
licenses shall include the  
animal, date of vaccination, approximate  
including species, gender, breed and color  
by MAS for the purposes of this ordinance.

(2) A lifetime license shall be made available for a one-time fee.  
shall be valid for the lifetime of the licensed animal and transferrable to a new owner  
long as all information required in LMCO § 91.020(1) is accurately maintained and

updated by the owner of the animal, the animal is properly microchipped, \_\_\_\_\_  
vaccination requirements of this Chapter are met. Such lifetime license may \_\_\_\_\_  
at the discretion of MAS if the requirements of this section are not met.

(3) License and vaccination tags shall be issued upon completion of licensing  
and vaccination and such tags shall be firmly attached to a harness or collar worn by the  
animal.

(4) Animals kept temporarily (not in excess of 30 days unless granted an  
extension by MAS) for the purpose of breeding or showing shall not require an individual  
dog or cat license provided the owner has proof of a current rabies vaccination.

(5) \_\_\_\_\_  
because of age or \_\_\_\_\_  
veterinarian indicating why such animal should be exempted from vaccination  
objection to rabies vaccination shall be insufficient. Such documentation must b  
presented along with the required licensing application \_\_\_\_\_  
be considered.

(6) The cost of an individual unaltered dog, cat, or ferret license registered before  
the effective date of this chapter shall be as provided in § 91.009. In addition to the  
\_\_\_\_\_  
spay/neuter reba  
neuter surgery at participating veterinarians. That prescribed amount shall be as  
provided in § 91.009.

#### (B) TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP.

(1) LMAS shall create a Notice of Sale/Transfer form  
the ownership of a dog, cat, or ferret is transferred or the animal is sold  
is unlicensed or before such animal reaches four months of age, such form shall be  
completed, including all required information, and presented to MAS within 30 days of the  
sale or transfer. This form shall require the provision of the date of sale or transf  
age of the animal sold, the address of the purchaser  
the animal sold or transferred. Such form shall be completed by the seller or transferor of  
the animal.

(2) MAS shall send notice to unlicensed pet owners of the requirement that all  
dogs, cats, or ferrets must be licensed pursuant to this Chapter. If after notice is sent,  
the animal in question remains un-licensed, MAS may issue a civil penalty \_\_\_\_\_  
the owner or caretaker. No further notices shall be required after the original notice, and  
MAS may issue a citation for the same offense every thirty (30) days.

(3) If an owner transfers ownership of an animal covered by this section they  
must notify the department of the change within thirty (30) days of the date of change in

ownership. The new owner must obtain an updated license within thirty (30) days ownership transfer, which shall include all information required in LMCO § 91.020(A)(1).

~~(C) The cost of an individual unaltered dog, cat, or ferret license registered before the effective date of this chapter shall be as provided in § 91.009. In addition to the individual unaltered dog, cat, or ferret license, the owner shall also be issued a spay/neuter rebate certificate worth a prescribed amount towards the cost of a spay or neuter surgery at participating veterinarians. That prescribed amount shall be as provided in § 91.009.~~

(DC) Pursuant to KRS 258.095, the Metro Government hereby designates as license facilities those hospitals or clinics of veterinary medicine located within Jefferson County which agree to abide by the procedures established for the issuance of licenses by MAS. For each individual dog, cat, or ferret license issued, the license facility shall withhold and retain the amount of \$1 5.00 from the license fee collected for altered animals and \$10 for unaltered animals. For three-year licensing, the license facility shall withhold and retain \$15.00. A license facility shall withhold and retain \$20.00 for a lifetime license. This provision shall become effective the first day of the month following the adoption of this chapter and the amount of the fee paid the licenses facility shall remain in effect until amended by the Metro Council.

(ED) All offices or clinics of veterinary medicine shall notify clients of the legal licensing and permit requirements that are set forth in this Chapter client, the licensing and registration information required by MAS and notifying clients of the availability of online licensing/registration licensing. MAS shall create signage for the purpose of informing veterinarian clients

such care must place in a conspicuous place, clearly visible to all clients upon entry of the establishment, the MAS signage concerning licensing/registration and vaccination requirements. A violation of this section (LMCO § 91.020(D)) shall be a civil violation only, cited pursuant to the provisions of LMCO § 91.999(2). Each day that a violation continues after a citation has been issued or notice has been served shall be deemed a separate offense.

(FE) MAS shall maintain online licensing pursuant to this Chapter of a Notice of Sale/Transfer available to be conducted online. In the instance of through a license facility, MAS shall maintain a system for reimbursement to such facility.

**SECTION III:** The following section of LMCO Chapter 91 is amended as follows:

**§ 91.021 RESERVED. MICROCHIPPING REQUIRED.**

(A) The owner of any dog or cat must have the animal implanted with a registered microchip within ninety (90) days of the animal attaining four (4) months of age and owner obtaining ownership or maintaining residence within Jefferson County. A dog or unsuitable for microchipping by a licensed veterinarian. Such exemption must be made

in writing and the owner of the animal must present such proof to MAS upon licensing of the animal. For exempted dogs or cats, licensing shall be required yearly instance of a change in ownership of an un-microchipped dog or cat, shall be responsible for notifying the department of the change within thirty (30) days the date of the change in ownershi updated information through the obtainment of a new license pursuant to § 91.020.

(B) Owners of cats and dogs shall be required to maintain accurate registration through the following actions:

(1) The owner of a dog or cat shall maintain current contact information microchip registration company or Louisville Metro Animal Services.

(2) microchipped dog or cat, the owner shall update all contact information, including a address and/or telephone number, with the microchip registration company or Louisville Metro Animal Services within thirty (30) days of the date of the change in contact information.

(3) If there is a change in ownership of a registered dog or cat, the initial owner shall be responsible for ensuring that the microchip is no longer registered in the initial

shall be responsible for updating all information to include any new address and telephone number and have the registration information transferred to the new owner's name within thirty (30) days after the change in ownership.

(C) dogs and cats must be microchipped pursuant to this s animal remains un-microchipped, MAS shall issue a citation to the owner. notices shall be required after the original notice, and MAS may issue a citation for the same offense every thirty (30) days.

**SECTION IV:** The following section of LMCO Chapter 91 is amended as follows:

#### **§ 91.023 OTHER REQUIRED LICENSES AND PERMITS.**

(A) The following entities, organizations, and persons shall be required to obtain licenses or permits. shall be required in the following categories, in addition to those set forth elsewhere in this chapter.: Each separate location must be licensed separately, inspected and meet the requirements of this chapter prior to the license or permit being issued.

(B) License or permits in these categories shall be effective each July 1 and be valid for one year:

(1) Class A kennel or cattery.

- (2) Class B kennel or cattery.
- (3) Class C kennel.
- (4) Pet shop.
- (5) Livery, riding, or boarding stable, except for activities conducted at, or by, Churchill Downs.
- (6) Animal welfare group shelter.
- (7) Animal-drawn vehicles (one license per company).
- (8) Theatrical exhibition.
- (9) Wildlife permit.
- (10) Animal dealer.
- (11) Circus.
- (12) Boarding kennel or cattery.
- (13) Swine permit.
- (14) Dangerous dog.
- (15) Potentially dangerous dog.
- (16) Residential Breeders.

Each separate location must be licensed individually, inspected \_\_\_\_\_  
requirements of this chapter prior to any \_\_\_\_\_  
in these categories shall be effective each July 1 and be valid for one year.

However, the licenses required in subsections (B)(14) and (B)(15), and (B)(16), above, shall be in lieu of the dog license required by § 91.020, and the fee for any valid license previously issued under § 91.020 shall be credited against those required for dangerous or potentially dangerous dogs at the time of the subsequent license issuance.

(CB) The application for or the grant of a license set forth under subsection (A) and (B), above, except for dogs licensed under subsections (BA)(14) and (BA)(15), and ~~(B)(16)~~, is deemed to permit periodic inspections of the public areas of any such licensed entity during such entity's business hours for the purpose of verifying compliance with the terms and conditions of this chapter. This section, and all other provisions in this chapter

authorizing such inspections, shall be reasonably construed and applied by MAS personnel.

*(C) Responsibilities of license and permit holders under this section.*

~~(1) Persons or entities holding a permit or license in accordance with subsection (B) above are prohibited from the sale, exchange, or other transfer of ownership of any animal subject to reporting under § 91.076 to an offender listed on the Animal Abuse Offender Registry or an individual who resides at the same address as an offender on the Animal Abuse Offender Registry.~~

(21) Prior to the sale, exchange, or other transfer of ownership of any animal subject to reporting under § 91.076, any person or entity holding a permit or license in accordance with subsection (B) above is required to confirm that the potential owner of the animal is not listed on the Animal Abuse Offender Registry and does not reside at an address where an offender on the Animal Abuse Offender Registry also resides.

(2)  
(B) above are prohibited from the sale, exchange, or other transfer of ownership of any animal subject to reporting under § to an offender listed on the Animal Abuse Offender Registry or an individual who resides at the same address as an offender on the Animal Abuse Offender Registry.

(3) Any person or entity who sells, exchanges or transfers ownership of any animal in good-faith reliance on registrant information or lack of registrant information on the Animal Abuse Offender Registry shall not be subject to penalty under this section.

(4) This subsection shall not apply to the sale, exchange, or transfer of an assistance dog unless there is an injunction order and/or an abuse offense pertaining directly to an assistance dog.

(5) Nothing in this subsection shall prohibit any person or entity from refusing to sell, exchange, or transfer any animal to an offender listed on the Animal Abuse Offender Registry or an individual who resides at the same address as an offender on the Animal Abuse Offender Registry.

(6) Before the sale, exchange, or transfer of any animal, all persons and entities are encouraged to check the Animal Abuse Offender Registry.

**SECTION V:** The following section of LMCO Chapter 91 is amended as follows:

**§ 91.025 VACCINATIONS; FIXATION OF TAGS.**

(A) Every owner of a dog, cat, or ferret four months of age or older shall have it vaccinated against rabies. Any owner of a dog, cat or ferret reaching four months of age shall have such animal vaccinated by the tenth business day after the date the animal

attained this age. ~~Every owner of a puppy, kitten or ferret that is between three and four months old may have such animal vaccinated against rabies.~~ Such vaccination shall be in accordance with the vaccination requirements prescribed by the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians, Inc. (NASPHV) in the most current version of the annual "Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control." Vaccinations shall be performed by a veterinarian or qualified person.

**SECTION VI:** The following section of LMCO Chapter 91 is amended as follows:

**§ 91.124 RESIDENTIAL BREEDERS/RESIDENTIAL BREEDER PROPERTIES.**

(A)(1) An owner of Residential Breeder Property shall obtain a license/permit through MAS pursuant to LMCO §91.023. It shall be sufficient for the requirements of this section for a Residential Breeder while residing at the property for Residential Breeding, to possess a Residential Breeder License of the Residential Breeder Property.

(2) All Residential Breeders and owners of Residential Breeder Properties at a minimum, provide housing and care for all applicable animals, including those intended for sale or transfer, in compliance with LMCO § 91.090.

(3) The terms of LMCO § 91.124 91.120-25 is applicable. When in conflict, the requirements of the Louisville Metro Land Development Code shall supersede the requirements of LMCO § 91.124.

(4) Before a citation is issued to a property owner, issued pursuant to LMCO obtain, or have the Residential Breeder residing at their property obtain, permit/license for Residential Breeders. I days, a citation shall be issued and no further Notices of Violations shall be required that property for further violations occurring within a 24 month period. Each day that a violation continues to exist shall constitute a separate offense.

(B) A license may be revoked for a Residential Breeder if, when reasonable notice is given, the owner of Residential Breeder property and/or the Residential Breeder facilitate/allow or any other law enforcement officer to ensure compliance with this Chapter. Before the to schedule an inspection with the licensee/permittee. After revocation of the license/permit, a citation may thereafter be issued. Each day that a violation exist shall constitute a separate offense.

**SECTION VII:** The following section of LMCO Chapter 91 are renumbered as follows:

**§ 91.1245 PET SHOPS.**



**§ 91.1256 RIDING SCHOOLS OR STABLES.**

**§ 91.1267 ANIMAL WELFARE GROUPS.**

**§ 91.1278 ANIMAL-DRAWN VEHICLES.**

**§ 91.1289 SALE OF ANIMALS FROM ANIMAL SHELTER.**

**§ 91.12930 THEATRICAL EXHIBITIONS.**

**§ 91.1301 ELEPHANT RIDES.**

**SECTION VIII:** Appendix A of LMCO Chapter 91 is amended as follows:

***APPENDIX A: METRO ANIMAL SERVICES FEE SCHEDULE***

<i>Type of License</i>	<i>Annual Fee</i>
Altered dog, cat or ferret license	<del>\$10</del> <u>15.00</u> (or <del>\$27</del> <u>40.00</u> /3yrs, only when matched to triennial rabies vaccine) <u>Lifetime License - \$120</u>
Unaltered dog, cat or ferret license	<u>\$60</u> (or <u>\$160</u> /3yrs, only when matched to triennial rabies vaccine) <u>Lifetime License- \$480</u>
Transfer of pet license mid-year	\$5.00
Potentially dangerous dog license	\$275.00
Dangerous dog license	\$500.00
	0-5 runs and/or cages capacity; \$30.00
	6-25 runs and/or cages capacity; \$60.00
	26-50 runs and/or cages capacity \$90.00
Boarding kennel or cattery	51-75 runs and/or cages capacity \$120.00
	76-100 runs and/or cages capacity \$150.00
	101+ runs and/or cages capacity \$180.00
Class A kennel or cattery	<del>\$150.00</del> <u>300</u> for 5 animals or less
Class B kennel or cattery	\$100.00 for 5 animals or less
Class C kennel	\$100.00
<u>Residential Breeder</u>	<u>\$50.00</u>

**SECTION IX:** The following section of LMCO Chapter 156 is amended as follows:

**§ 156.052 EXTERIOR PROPERTY AREAS.**

(A) *Sanitation.* All exterior property and premises shall be maintained in a clean, safe and sanitary condition. The occupant shall keep that part of the exterior property, which such occupant occupies, or controls in a clean and sanitary condition.

(B) *Grading and drainage.* All premises shall be graded and maintained to prevent the erosion of soil and to prevent the accumulation of stagnant water thereon, or within any structure located thereon. Water retention areas and/or reservoirs approved by the Metropolitan Sewer District are exempted.

(C) *Sidewalks, driveways and yards.* All sidewalks, walkways, stairs, driveways, parking spaces and similar areas shall be kept in a proper state of repair, and maintained free from hazardous conditions. On residentially used lots the use of crushed stone as a hard-durable surface is permitted on lots of less than five acres the standards as promulgated by regulation by the Code Official for installation and maintenance are continually satisfied in the required front and side yards and right-of-ways.

(D) *Weeds.* All premises shall be maintained free from weeds or plant growth in excess of ten inches. All noxious weeds shall be prohibited. Weeds shall be defined as all grasses, annual plants and vegetation other than trees or shrubs provided, however, this term shall not include cultivated flowers and gardens. Any plant growth exceeding ten inches in height on land of more than three acres that abuts another parcel which contains a dwelling or commercial building thereon other than crops, trees, bushes, flowers or other ornamental plants, shall be at least 50 feet from the property line or 200 feet from an occupied structure, whichever is less.

(E) *Rodent harborage.* All structures and exterior property shall be kept free from rodent harborage and infestation. Where rodents are found, they shall be promptly exterminated by approved processes, which will not be injurious to human health. After extermination, proper precautions shall be taken to eliminate rodent harborage and prevent reinfestation. Information to alleviate and prevent the infestation of insects, mosquitoes, flies, rats and other vermin may be obtained from the Louisville Metro Public Health and Wellness Department.

(F) *Limitation on Animals in Residential Areas.* It shall be a violation of this Chapter for a property to be in violation of LMCO § 91.023, § 91.040, and/or § \_\_\_\_\_ property owner only shall be considered the alleged violator when cited under \_\_\_\_\_ 156.

(FG) *Exhaust vents.*

....

(GH) *Accessory structures.*

....

(HI) *Motor vehicles.*

....

(IJ) *Defacement of property.*

....

(JK) *Donation drop-off bins.*

....

**SECTION X:** The provisions of this Ordinance, excluding those provisions concerning LMCO § 91.021, shall take effect on three months after its passage and approval. The provisions of LMCO § 91.021 shall take effect eighteen (18) months after its passage and approval.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sonya Harward  
Metro Council Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
David James  
President of the Council

\_\_\_\_\_  
Greg Fischer  
Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Approval Date

**APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:**

Michael J. O'Connell  
Jefferson County Attorney

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
O-469-21 V.1 Amending LMCO Chapter 91