

FACT SHEET

CITY OF SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA

TITLE

An ordinance enacting Section 14-23 of the City of Shreveport, Louisiana, Code of Ordinances relative to the mandatory sterilization of dogs and cats and otherwise providing with respect thereto.

DATE

July 12, 2022

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT

City Council

COUNCIL DISTRICT

City-wide

SPONSOR

Councilmember John Nickelson

PURPOSE

This ordinance enacts a new Section 14-23 in Chapter 14 of the Code of Ordinances.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Caddo Parish Commission passed Ordinance No. 6148 of 2021 regarding the mandatory sterilization of dogs and cats, effective July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2024. The Caddo Parish Commission found 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. The ordinance passed by the Caddo Parish Commission is not presently enforceable within the city limits of Shreveport; therefore the Shreveport City Council has been asked to adopt a mandatory sterilization of dogs and cats ordinance to further study the effect of mandatory sterilization.

TIMETABLE

Introduction: July 12, 2022
Final Passage: July 26, 2022

ATTACHMENTS

None

SPECIAL PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS

NA

FINANCES

NA

SOURCE OF FUNDS

NA

ALTERNATIVES

(1) Adopt the ordinance as submitted, or (2) Amend the ordinance, or (3) Reject the ordinance.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Council adopt this ordinance.

FACT SHEET PREPARED BY: Danielle A. Farr Ewing,
Clerk of Council

ORDINANCE NO. _____ OF 2022

AN ORDINANCE ENACTING SECTION 14-23 OF THE CITY OF SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA, CODE OF ORDINANCES RELATIVE TO THE MANDATORY STERILIZATION OF DOGS AND CATS AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO.

BY COUNCILMEMBER: JOHN NICKELSON

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission passed Ordinance No. 6148 of 2021 regarding the mandatory sterilization of dogs and cats, effective July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission found 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; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Shreveport has been asked to join the Caddo Parish Commission in passing a temporary mandatory sterilization ordinance in order for the Caddo Parish Commission to study the effect within the Shreveport city limits as well; and

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

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

WHEREAS, the Shreveport City Council, citizens of the City of Shreveport, and animal rights advocates throughout the United States believe that sterilization of dogs and cats is far more humane than euthanasia as a means of population control; and

BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Shreveport, Louisiana in due, legal and regular session convened, that Section 14-23 of the City of Shreveport, Louisiana, Code of Ordinances is hereby enacted to read as follows:

Sec. 14-23 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 city that is not spayed or not neutered.

- (d) Subsection (c) does 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 or other nationally or internationally recognized organization and participates in shows sponsored by these organizations. An animal owner who presents proof of registration and participation in shows 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 as documented by a licensed Veterinarian. This includes any developmental variation from the timeline expressed Subsection (d)(1) of this ordinance that would make sterilization of the animal inappropriate until maturity.
 - (4) Animal Establishment owners as defined in Section 14-2 of this code are exempted. Also exempted are 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.
 - (5) Honest Escape Exception: The spay/neuter requirement of this section shall not apply to any dog or cat intercepted by Caddo Parish Animal Control Officers if such dog is (a) collared and tagged with current rabies vaccination in accordance with section 14-16 of the code of ordinances; or (b) microchipped with information identifying the owner of such dog and current rabies vaccination in accordance with 14-16 of the code of ordinances.
- (e) The primary penalty for violation of this Section shall be the impounding of the dog/cat believed to qualify under Subsection (c), the neutering/spaying of such dog/cat, and the return of such dog/cat to its owner after an appropriate time for healing after surgery. Any further penalty imposed for any violation of this Section of the code of ordinances shall follow the schedule as provided in Section 1-14 of this code.

Secs. 14-24—14-28. - Reserved.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Caddo Parish Animal Services 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 this ordinance shall expire June 30, 2024, unless reenacted it as a permanent ordinance.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED 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 of this Ordinance which can be given affect without the invalid provisions, items or applications and to this end the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby declared severable.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that all Ordinances or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that this Ordinance shall become effective in accordance with the provisions of Shreveport City Charter Section 4.23.

THUS DONE AND ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Shreveport, Louisiana.

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM:

City Attorney's Office