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ADOPTION

INTRODUCTION

CITY OF COVINGTON
STATE OF LOUISIANA

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2023-29

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF COVINGTON AMENDING THE COVINGTON CODE OF ORDINANCES CHAPTER 14. ANIMALS TO STRENGTHEN REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO DECLARING, IMPOUNDING, AND HARBORING DANGEROUS AND VICIOUS ANIMALS IN COVINGTON

WHEREAS, Chapter 14-Animals currently includes regulations related to identification and handling of dangerous and vicious animals; and

WHEREAS, the Covington Police Department has requested that the regulations be updated to reflect the coordinated effort with St. Tammany Parish Department of Animal services; and

WHEREAS, the revisions more thoroughly address the process by which animals are declared dangerous or vicious as well as the process of impoundment, release, and harboring.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Covington, at its regular session convened, that the Covington Code of Ordinances Chapter 14. Animals Article 1. In General Sec. 14-1.-Definitions, Sec.14-8.-Dangerous and Vicious Animals be amended as follows:

CHAPTER 14 ANIMALS

Sec.14-1. Definitions

For the purposes of this chapter, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings respectively ascribed for them.

Abandon means to completely forsake and desert an animal previously under the custody or possession of a person without first making reasonable arrangements for its proper care, sustenance, and shelter for a period of longer than 24 hours.

Animal means any living creature except human beings, including but not limited to, mammals, and reptiles, except when referring specifically to the control of rabies when the word animal shall mean only mammals.

At large means an animal shall be deemed at large if off the premises of its owner or keeper or not under the immediate control of a responsible person.

Bite means any abrasion, puncture, tear or piercing of the skin actually or suspected of being caused by an animal.

~~*Dangerous animal:* means any animal may be classified as dangerous if:~~

~~(1) When unprovoked, approaches in a dangerous or terrorizing manner, any person in an apparent attitude of attack when not on its owner's property.~~

~~(2) That has a known propensity, tendency, or disposition to attack when unprovoked, to cause injury or to otherwise endanger the safety of human beings or domestic animals.~~

~~(3) Any animal, which bites, inflicts injury, assaults, or otherwise attacks a human being or domestic animal without provocation on public or private property.~~

~~(4) It is owned primarily, or in part, for the purpose of dog fighting of any dog trained for dog fighting.~~

~~(5) It is deemed dangerous by the Covington Police Department.~~

Dangerous animal means any animal that has been classified as a dangerous animal in accordance with the requirements and procedures set forth in the dangerous animal section of this article.

Domesticated animals means animals that are kept as pets, such as dogs and cats.

Enclosure means a fence or structure of at least six feet in height, forming a pen suitable to prevent the unauthorized entry of human beings, and suitable to confine a dangerous animal. Such enclosure shall be securely closed and secured at all times and shall have secure sides. Such structures shall further have a secure bottom sufficient to prevent said animal from digging its way under and/or out of the said enclosure. The enclosure shall be located so as to prevent any person, except under conditions supervised by the animal's owner, from gaining any contact with said animal. The enclosure shall have adequate shelter for the animal consisting of at least a roof and three sides. (See minimum shelter requirements section 14-2)

Owner means any person, partnership, business, corporation, firm, investment stock company, association or other legal entity owning, keeping, or harboring any animal or having in his care an animal on or about his premises.

Undomesticated animals means horses, mules, cattle, goats, swine, and other animals that are not domesticated.

Wild or exotic animal means any live monkey, primate, raccoon, skunk, wolf, wolf-hybrid, squirrel, fox, fox-hybrid, coyote, coyote-hybrid, leopard, panther, tiger, lion, lynx or any other warm-blooded animal, bird, poisonous snake, or spider, which can normally be found in the wild state, or any crocodilian including, but not limited to, alligators, crocodiles, caimans, and gavials. Ferrets, non-poisonous snakes with a length not greater than six feet, rabbits, rodents, and birds which have been bred in captivity and which have never known the wild state shall be excluded from this definition

Sec. 14-8. Dangerous and vicious animals.

~~(a) *Dangerous animals:*~~

~~(1) *Confinement of dangerous animals:* Dangerous animals shall be confined within a dwelling or enclosure by their owner and/or keeper. Confinement shall be in such a manner that the animal cannot come in contact with any person or other animal except under supervised conditions.~~

~~(2) *Destruction of wild or dangerous animals:* Agents of the St. Tammany Parish Department of Animal Services shall destroy any wild or vicious dog or other animal found in violation of this article and which cannot be safely taken up or impounded. It shall be unlawful for any person other than agents of the St. Tammany Parish Department of Animal Services to kill any wild or dangerous animal, except under circumstances where such action is necessary for the defense or where such animal is imminently threatening or attacking any person.~~

~~This subsection (2) shall not apply to those individuals duly licensed by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to hunt and kill wild game during established hunting seasons, nor to the killing of wild animals threatening livestock.~~

~~(3) *Requirements for registration and harboring dangerous animals:* The owner and/or keeper of a dangerous animal shall secure a permit from the St. Tammany Parish Department of Animal Services, renewable each year from the anniversary date of such issue, provided said owner and/or keeper meets the following requirements:~~

~~a. The owner and/or keeper shall have the animal penned in a proper enclosure as defined in section 14-1 at all times when the animal is not confined and supervised within the owner's and/or keeper's dwelling or being moved or exercised.~~

~~b. The owner and/or keeper shall display in a prominent place on the premises on which the animal is kept a sign warning that a dangerous animal is housed on the premises. Such sign shall be easily readable by members of the general public and intelligible to young children and/or those who are unable to read or write the English language. A similar sign shall be posted on the animal's pen. These signs shall be provided by the St. Tammany Parish Department of Animal Services.~~

~~c. Prior to the issuance or renewal of a permit for a dangerous animal, its owner or keeper shall sign a statement attesting under oath that:~~

~~1. The owner and/or keeper shall, on or prior to the effective date of the permit for which application is being made, have a suitable enclosure as required by the provisions of this section for the harboring of the dangerous animal on the premises where the dangerous animal will be kept or maintained.~~

~~2. The owner and/or keeper shall notify the parish department of animal services immediately whenever a dangerous animal is on the loose, is unconfined, has attacked another animal or has attacked a human, has died, been sold, or given away, or has been relocated. If the animal has been sold or given away, the owner and/or keeper shall provide the name, address, and phone number of the new owner to the St. Tammany Parish Department of Animal Services.~~

~~3. The owner and/or keeper shall provide two color photographs of the animal clearly depicting the color, approximate size, and facial characteristics.~~

~~4. The owner and/or keeper shall show proof to the satisfaction of the department of animal services that the animal has received a micro-chip identification tag.~~

~~(b) *Control of dangerous animals:*~~

~~(1) All dangerous animals shall be confined in an enclosure which meets requirements set forth under the provisions of this section if the animal is kept outside of the owner and/or keepers dwelling. It shall be unlawful for any owner and/or keeper to maintain a dangerous animal upon any premises which does not have such a locked enclosure if the animal is kept outside of the owner's or keeper's dwelling.~~

~~(2) It shall be unlawful for any owner and/or keeper to allow any dangerous animal to be outside of the dwelling of the owner and/or keeper, or outside of the herein above defined enclosure, unless it is necessary for the owner and/or keeper to exercise the animal or to move the animal. Whenever the said animal is allowed outside the owner and/or keeper's dwelling or outside of its enclosure, the animal shall be restrained on a leash and collar having a minimum tensile strength of 300 pounds and not exceeding six feet in length. The animal shall be kept under the direct control and supervision of its owner and/or keeper at all times. Further, it~~

~~shall be unlawful to exercise a dangerous animal upon the public streets, sidewalks, rights-of-way, parks and property of the city.~~

~~(3) The requirements of this section for the maintenance of physical control over the animal shall not be satisfied by the mere chaining, roping, leashing, or similar restraining of the animal to inanimate objects such as stakes, trees, posts, or buildings.~~

~~(4) The owner and/or keeper of any dangerous animal shall:~~

~~a. Upon designation of the animal being dangerous by the Covington Police Department as a result of complaint or by other means, the owner and/or keeper will surrender said animal to the department of animal services to be impounded at the parish animal shelter until the owner and/or keeper provides an enclosure for the animal as defined in section 14-1 or for a maximum period of 30 days.~~

~~b. After the 30-day period set forth above, if the owner and/or keeper does not provide for the proper enclosure required by section 14-1, then said dangerous animal may be destroyed.~~

~~c. Within 15 days of issuance of a permit, the owner/keeper shall:~~

~~1. Display the warning signs required under the provisions of subsection (a)(3)c. of this section.~~

~~2. Sign the sworn statement required under the provisions of subsection (a)(3)c. of this section.~~

~~3. Submit to the parish department of animal services the photographs of the animal required under the provisions of subsection (a)(3)c. of this section~~

~~4. Show proof of micro-chip identification tag required under the provisions of subsection (a)(3)c. of this section or submit the animal to the department of animal services for micro-chip tagging.~~

~~d. Within ten business days of the declaration that the animal is a dangerous animal, the owner must procure and maintain in effect liability insurance, including coverage of claims arising from the conduct of the owner's animal, in an amount not less than $100,000.00 or adequate financial assurance acceptable to St. Tammany Parish.~~

~~e. The animal shall be spayed or neutered, at the owner's expense.~~

~~f. The owner and the animal must complete a course of animal obedience training approved by the department of animal services.~~

~~*Applicability:* The provisions of this section shall not apply to proprietors of animal hospitals, to veterinarians, or to search and rescue organizations and law enforcement agencies who keep or maintain dangerous animals on their professional premises in the usual and normal course of business, or to zoological gardens, theatrical exhibits, or circus provided that such animal hospital, veterinarian, zoological garden, theatrical exhibit, or circus possesses all permits required by the laws of this parish and state and complies with all other regulations concerning the keeping and maintenance of such animals.~~

~~*Penalty:* Any person found guilty of violating any of the provisions of this section shall be punished as provided in section 1-8 of this Code.~~

~~*Appeal mechanism:* In the event that an animal is deemed dangerous by the Covington Police Department, the owner and/or keeper of said animal can appeal that determination to the Covington Mayor's Court. The appeal shall be in writing and submitted to the Covington Police Department.~~

(a) As used in this section, the term "dangerous animal" means:

(1) Any animal which, when unprovoked, on two separate occasions within the prior 36-month period, engages in any behavior that requires a defensive action by any person to prevent bodily injury that occurs when the person and the animal are off the property of the owner and/or keeper of the animal;

(2) Any animal which, when unprovoked, bites a person causing an injury and is capable of causing serious bodily injury;

(3) Any animal which, when unprovoked, on two separate occasions within the prior 36-month period, has killed, seriously bitten, inflicted injury, or otherwise caused injury to a domestic animal off the property of the owner of the animal; or

(4) Any animal that has been deemed dangerous by another jurisdiction (i.e., another state, county, parish, or municipality).

(b) For the purposes of this section, the term "potentially dangerous animal" means:

(1) Any animal which, when unprovoked, has killed, seriously bitten, inflicted injury, or otherwise caused injury to a domestic animal off the property of the owner or keeper of the animal.

(2) Any animal which, when unprovoked, engages in any behavior that requires a defensive action by any person to prevent bodily injury when the person and the animal are off the property of the owner of the animal.

(c) The provisions of this section shall not apply to:

(1) Any animal which is owned, or the service of which is employed, by any state or local law enforcement agency for the principal purpose of aiding in the detection of criminal activity, enforcement of laws, or apprehension of offenders.

(2) Any animal trained in accordance with the standards of a national or regional search and rescue association to respond to instructions from its handler in the search and rescue of lost or missing individuals and which animal, together with its handler, is prepared to render search and rescue services at the request of law enforcement.

(3) Proprietors of animal hospitals, to veterinarians, zoological gardens, theatrical exhibit, or a circus, provided that such animal hospital, veterinarian, zoological garden, theatrical exhibit, or circus possesses all permits required by the laws of this parish and state and complies with all other regulations concerning the keeping and maintaining of such animals.

(d) No animal shall be declared dangerous or potentially dangerous if there is sufficient evidence presented to establish any of the following:

(1) The person taking defensive action to prevent bodily injury had provoked the animal by teasing, tormenting, abusing, or assaulting the animal.

(2) Any injury or damage is sustained by a person who, at the time the injury or damage was sustained, was committing a crime upon the property of the owner of the animal.

(3) Any injury or damage is sustained by a person who, at the time the injury or damage was sustained, was teasing, tormenting, abusing or assaulting the animal.

(4) Any injury or damage is sustained by a domestic animal which, at the time the injury or damage was sustained, was teasing, tormenting, abusing or assaulting the animal.

(5) If the animal was protecting or defending a person within the immediate vicinity of the animal from an unjustified attack or assault.

(6) If the injury or damage to a domestic animal was sustained while the animal was working as a hunting dog, herding dog, or predator control dog on the property of, or under the control of, its owner, and the damage or injury was to a species or type of domestic animal appropriate to the work of the dog.

(e) It shall be unlawful for any person to own, possess, keep or harbor a dangerous or potentially dangerous animal without properly restraining or confining the animal and complying with all other applicable requirements including, but not limited to, the requirement of registering the animal with the St. Tammany Parish Department of Animal Services and complying with the licensing requirements of this section.

(f) Impoundment.

(1) Any law enforcement officer making an arrest for violation of this section may lawfully take possession of all animals on the premises where the arrest is made or in the immediate possession or control of the person being arrested.

(2) In the event that a St. Tammany Parish animal control officer or law enforcement officer has probable cause to believe that an animal is potentially dangerous or dangerous, and the animal is found to be at large, the animal shall be immediately impounded by St. Tammany Parish Department of Animal Services.

(3) It shall be unlawful to harbor or conceal an animal which has bitten or inflicted serious bodily injury on a human when a person knows or has reason to know that an animal has bitten or inflicted serious bodily injury on a human and the person intentionally harbors or conceals the animal from any law enforcement or St. Tammany Parish animal control officer. Any law enforcement officer or St. Tammany Parish animal control officer may take possession of any animal that bites a person or is reported to have bitten a person within the limits of the city.

(g) Release from impoundment; hearing and voluntary compliance.

(1) Any animal impounded under the provisions of this section may be held pending the outcome of a City of Covington Mayor's Court hearing held in accordance with this section or until verification of voluntary compliance with the requirements applicable to the designation of the animal as potentially dangerous or dangerous.

(2) A notice of hearing shall be provided at the time of the notice of designation as a potentially dangerous or dangerous animal.

(3) Any owner aggrieved by a determination to designate his or her animal as potentially dangerous or dangerous may appeal that determination by appearing at the City of Covington Mayor's Court on such date listed on the subpoena or designation form.

(4) A City of Covington Mayor's Court hearing pertaining solely to the designation of the animal shall not be required if the owner consents to voluntarily comply with all of the ordinance requirements applicable to the particular designation and signs a declaration of voluntary compliance. The animal may be held until the owner's compliance with the ordinance requirements applicable to the particular designation of the animal has been verified by the St. Tammany Parish Department of Animal Services and the City of Covington Code Enforcement office.

(5) Impoundment fee for potentially dangerous or dangerous animals: The owner of such animal or animals shall be responsible for all fees associated with the capture, transport, vaccination, and impoundment of the animal or animals.

(h) Destruction.

(1) Any animal control officer or law enforcement officer may kill any dangerous or vicious animal which cannot be safely taken up or impounded and no animal control officer or law enforcement officer shall be liable for damages by reason of such killing.

(2) This subsection shall not apply to those individuals duly licensed by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to hunt and kill wild game during established hunting seasons, not to the killing of wild animals threatening livestock.

(i) Requirements for harboring potentially dangerous and dangerous animals.

(1) *Potentially dangerous animal.* The owner and/or keeper of an animal that has been designated as potentially dangerous shall meet the following requirements. If the animal is not under the control of the St. Tammany Parish Department of Animal Services, the proof of compliance must be submitted to the City of Covington Code Enforcement Office and the St. Tammany Parish Department of Animal Services within 30 days of the date of the signature for voluntary compliance, or the date of an order by the City of Covington Mayor's Court Magistrate, unless a shorter period is stated in the order by the City of Covington Mayor's Court Magistrate. Compliance with all requirements must be verified by the St. Tammany Parish Department of Animal Services prior to the animal being released to the owner and/or keeper.

(a) The owner and/or keeper shall secure a permit from the St. Tammany Parish Department of Animal Services, renewable each year from the anniversary date of such issue.

(b) The owner and/or keeper shall provide two color photographs of the animal that clearly depicts the color, approximate size, and facial characteristics of the animal.

(c) The owner and/or keeper shall provide satisfactory proof that the animal has been vaccinated and has received a microchip identification tag.

(d) The property of the owner and/or keeper is enclosed by means of a fence or structure, whether or not it is located along the boundary of the property, that is constructed in such a manner as to:

1. Prevent any unattended animal while outdoors and upon the premises of its owner and/or keeper, from going beyond or outside of the boundaries of the property; and

2. Not allow ready and unobstructed access to the animal by the general public.

3. Specifications pertaining to the fencing, structure, or enclosures must meet the requirements listed in Section 14-1.

(e) If the property of the owner and/or keeper is not enclosed by means of a fence or structure as provided for in subsection (d) of this section, it is permissible for the owner and/or keeper to sign a declaration agreeing that:

1. The animal will not be allowed outside of the owner and/or keeper's dwelling unless the animal is restrained or in a cage or pen. Dogs must be restrained on a leash and collar having a minimum tensile strength of 300 pounds and not exceeding six feet in length; and

2. The animal shall be kept under the direct control and supervision of its owner and/or keeper at all times.

a. The requirements for the maintenance of physical control over the animal shall not be satisfied by the mere chaining, roping, leashing, or similar restraining of the animal to inanimate objects such as stakes, trees, posts, or buildings.

b. Tethering of the animal is strictly prohibited.

(f) The owner and/or keeper signs a declaration acknowledging that he is required to immediately notify the City of Covington Police Department and the St. Tammany Parish Department of Animal Services whenever the animal is on the loose, is unconfined, has bitten a domestic animal or person, has died, been sold, or given away or has been relocated.

(g) If the animal has died, been sold, transferred, or given away, or has been relocated, the owner and/or keeper shall provide written notice of the event to the City of Covington Code Enforcement Office and St. Tammany Parish Department of Animal Services within two days thereof. The notice shall state that the animal has been sold, transferred, or given away, or has been relocated, and provide the name, address, and phone number of the new owner, or the new location of the animal. Additionally, at the time the animal is sold, transferred, or given away, the owner shall give written notice to purchaser, transferee, or donee that the animal has been designated as a potentially dangerous animal by the parish St. Tammany Parish Department of Animal Services.

(2) *Requirements for harboring a dangerous animal.* The owner and/or keeper of an animal that has been designated as dangerous shall meet the following requirements. If the animal is not under the control of the St. Tammany Parish Department of Animal Services, the proof of compliance must be submitted to the department within 30 days of the date of the signature for voluntary compliance, or the date of an order by the City of Covington Mayor's Court Magistrate, unless a shorter period is stated in the order by the City of Covington Mayor's Court Magistrate. Compliance with all requirements must be verified by the City of Covington Code Enforcement Office and the St. Tammany Parish Department of Animal Services prior to the animal being released to the owner and/or keeper:

(a) The owner and/or keeper shall secure a permit from the St. Tammany Parish Department of Animal Services, renewable each year from the anniversary date of such issue.

(b) The owner and/or keeper shall provide two color photographs of the animal that clearly depicts the color, approximate size, and facial characteristics of the animal.

(c) The owner and/or keeper shall provide satisfactory proof that the animal has been vaccinated and has received a microchip identification tag.

(d) The animal shall be spayed or neutered, at the owner's expense.

(e) The owner and the animal must complete a course of animal obedience training approved by the St. Tammany Parish Department of Animal Services.

(f) The owner must procure and maintain in effect a policy of liability insurance, including coverage of claims arising from the conduct of the owner's animal, in an amount not less than $200,000.00 or adequate financial assurance acceptable to City of Covington. Proof of insurance must be submitted to the St. Tammany Parish Department of Animal Services prior to the animal's release and annually thereafter upon renewal of the required permit. If the animal is not under the control of the St. Tammany Parish Department of Animal Services, the proof of insurance must be submitted to the City of Covington Mayor's Court Magistrate within 30 days of the date of the signature for voluntary compliance, or the date of an order by the hearing officer, unless a shorter period is stated in the order by the City of Covington Mayor's Court Magistrate.

(g) While on the property of the owner and/or keeper, a dangerous animal shall, at all times, be kept indoors, unless the animal is being restrained in accordance with the below requirements or the animal is in a secure enclosure meeting the requirements set forth immediately below:

1. The term "secure enclosure" means a securely enclosed and locked pen or structure that must be designed and constructed to prevent the dangerous animal from escaping and from coming into contact with either a human being, other than the owner and/or keeper, or any other animal. The materials used to construct the enclosure or pen must prevent the animal from escaping by digging out, going over, and going through the enclosure. The enclosure or pen shall provide a humane existence for the animal, protection from the elements, provide adequate exercise room, light and ventilation and shall be kept in a clean and sanitary condition. Additionally, in the case of a dangerous dog, the pen or structure must have minimum dimensions that measure four feet wide, ten feet long and six feet high. Such pen or structure shall have sides that are securely embedded in concrete, a secure top, and a bottom or floor that is permanently attached to the sides.

2. The term "restrained" means that whenever the dangerous animal is not indoors or in a secure enclosure on the property of the owner and/or keeper, for whatever reason, the animal shall be restrained in accordance with the following:

   a. A dangerous dog must be restrained on a leash and collar having a minimum tensile strength of 300 pounds and not exceeding six feet in length; and

   b. The animal shall be kept under the direct control and supervision of its owner and/or keeper at all times.

The requirement of restraining and being under the direct control of the owner or keeper shall not be satisfied by the mere chaining, roping, or leashing of the animal to inanimate objects such as stakes, trees, posts, or buildings. Tethering of a dangerous animal is strictly prohibited.

(h) Whenever a dangerous animal is taken off of the property of the owner and/or keeper, for whatever reason, the animal must wear a muzzle that prevents it from biting a person or an animal. Further, it shall be unlawful to exercise, or walk, a dangerous animal upon the public streets, sidewalks, rights-of-way, parks, and property of the parish.

(i) The owner and/or keeper of a dangerous animal shall post and maintain signs on the property, and on the secure enclosure, which must be sufficient to warn the general public, including young children, that a dangerous animal is being kept on the property. At a minimum, the signs shall be placed on the secure enclosure and at each normal point of ingress and egress. The signs shall be so placed as to be readily visible to any person approaching the property and secure enclosure. The location where the signs must be displayed shall be determined by the City of Covington Code Enforcement Office and the St. Tammany Parish Department of Animal Services. The St. Tammany Parish Department of Animal Services shall provide the signs to the owner and/or keeper at his expense.

(j) The owner and/or keeper signs a declaration acknowledging that he is required to immediately notify the City of Covington Police Department and the St. Tammany Parish Department of Animal Services whenever the animal is on the loose, is unconfined, has bitten a domestic animal or person, has died, been sold, or given away, or has been relocated.

(k) If the animal has died, been sold, transferred, or given away, or has been relocated, the owner and/or keeper shall provide written notice of the event to the City of Covington Code Enforcement Office and St. Tammany Parish Department of Animal Services within two days thereof. The notice shall state that the animal has been sold, transferred, or given away, or has been relocated, and provide the name, address, and phone number of the new owner, or the new location of the animal. Additionally, at the time the animal is sold, transferred, or given away, the owner shall give written notice to purchaser, transferee, or donee that the animal has been designated as a dangerous animal by St. Tammany Parish Department of Animal Services.

(c.) *Vicious animals:*

Animal determined as vicious: Any animal previously classified as dangerous which subsequently violates any section of this article, or whose owner and/or keeper subsequently violates any requirements established for the harboring of dangerous animals by this article, may be deemed vicious by the Covington Police Department or the St. Tammany Parish Department of Animal Services.

Removal from ~~parish~~ city: Any animal determined to be vicious shall be subject to immediate impoundment. The owner and/or keeper of the animal shall have ten days following the date of impoundment to provide a verifiable plan for removal of the animal from the parish. If after ten days, the owner or keeper has not provided an appropriate plan to the satisfaction of the St. Tammany Parish Department of Animal Services, the animal may be euthanized. An impounded animal for which no owner or keeper can be located within three days of impoundment, may be euthanized, or otherwise removed from the parish at the discretion of the St. Tammany Parish Department of Animal Services.

Appeal mechanism: In the event that an animal is deemed vicious by the Covington Police Department or the St. Tammany Parish Department of Animal Services, the owner and/or keeper of said animal can appeal that determination to the City of Covington Mayor's Court. The appeal shall be in writing and submitted to the Covington Police Department or the St. Tammany Parish Department of Animal Services.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that if any provision of this ordinance shall be held to be invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions herein which can be given effect without the invalid provision and to this end the provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared to be severable.

WHEREUPON, this ordinance having been submitted in writing, having been read by title and adopted at a public meeting of the City Council of the City of Covington, State of Louisiana, was then submitted to an official vote as a whole, the vote thereon being as follows:

MOVED FOR ADOPTION by Botsford seconded by Rolling.

YEAS: 7 **ABSENT:** 0

NAYS: 0 **ABSTAIN:** 0

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 5th day of December, 2023.

/s/ Larry Rolling
LARRY ROLLING
COUNCIL PRESIDENT

/s/ JoAnn D. Rucker
JOANN D. RUCKER
COUNCIL CLERK

Presented to the Mayor on this 6th day of December, 2023, at 8:55 o'clock A.M.

/s/ JoAnn D. Rucker
JOANN D. RUCKER
COUNCIL CLERK

Approved 6th or Vetoed ___ by the Mayor on this 6th day of December, 2023.

/s/
MARK R. JOHNSON
MAYOR

Received from the Mayor on this 6th day of December, 2023, at 10:50 o'clock AM

/s/ JoAnn D. Rucker
JOANN D. RUCKER
COUNCIL CLERK