



VALENCIA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

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VALENCIA COUNTY

ORDINANCE 2022-02

**Amending Title IX, Chapter 90 of the
Valencia County Animal Control Code**

PASSED: March 2, 2022

EFFECTIVE: April 2, 2022

CHAPTER 90: ANIMAL CONTROL

WORDS AND PHRASES DEFINED

§ 90.001 SHORT TITLE AND LEGISLATIVE INTENT.

(A) This chapter shall be known and cited as the Valencia County Animal Control Chapter.

(B) It is the intent of the County Commission that enactment of this chapter will establish procedures that will:

- (1) Assist in providing control of animals not under the jurisdiction of the State Brand Inspector or of the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish;
- (2) Provide rabies control;
- (3) Provide for reporting of animals bites;
- (4) Protect animals from neglect and abuse;
- (5) Protect residents from annoyance and injury by animals;
- (6) Establish certain fees related to the chapter; and
- (7) Prescribe penalties for violations of the chapter.

§ 90.002 DEFINITIONS.

For the purpose of this chapter, the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning. Shall is always mandatory and not merely a directory; the masculine includes the feminine.

ABANDON. To withdraw protection, support or help with the intent of never again claiming right or interest in.

ADOPTION. To take by choice and assume responsibility for proper care in accordance with this chapter.

ANIMAL. Dog, cat, or any other mammal, excluding man and those controlled by the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, and the New Mexico Livestock Board, and poultry.

ANIMAL CONTROL CENTER or **SHELTER.** Any establishment authorized by the County of Valencia for the care and custody of impounded animals.

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER. The person who is responsible for the enforcement of this chapter and the regulations promulgated thereunder and under the supervision of Animal Control Director.

ANIMAL NUISANCES. Any dogs and/or cats habitually or continuously barking, howling, or otherwise disturbing the inhabitants of the county, or are kept and/or maintained in a manner as to disturb by noxious or offensive odors, or otherwise endanger the health and welfare of the inhabitants of the county.

BITE. The puncture or tear of the skin inflicted by the teeth of an animal.

COMMISSION. The elected governing body of the County of Valencia.

COMPETENT PERSON. A person having knowledgeable background to function in an appropriate and humane manner regarding the welfare of all animals.

CONFINED. Restrictions of an animal at all times by an owner or keeper to an escape-proof building or other enclosure away from other animals and the public.

COUNTY OF VALENCIA or **COUNTY.** Includes the land area within the boundaries of the County of Valencia, including privately owned land and state owned or federal