

LEON COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. R20- 42

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA, RATIFYING AND CONFIRMING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE KNOWN AS THE ANIMAL CLASSIFICATION COMMITTEE, WHICH SHALL OPERATE AND FUNCTION AS A DECISION-MAKING COMMITTEE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

RECITALS

WHEREAS, section 767.12 (3), Florida Statutes provides that Animal Control shall afford the owner of the animal sought to be classified an opportunity for a hearing prior to making a final determination regarding the classification of the animal or penalty; and

WHEREAS, in 2001, the Board of County Commissioners appointed 7 citizens to the County Animal Classification Committee; and

WHEREAS, the Leon County Animal Classification Committee was established prior to the adoption of Board Policy No.03-15, “Board Appointed Citizen Committees”; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to adopt this enabling resolution to reauthorize this committee under Board Policy No. 03-15;

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA, that:

Section 1. Animal Classification Committee.

1. The Leon County Board of County Commissioners (the “Board”) hereby ratifies and confirms the establishment of an advisory committee known as the Leon County Animal Classification Committee (the “ACC”), as set forth in section 4-93 of the Code of Laws of Leon County, and as provided for in section 767.12, Florida Statutes.

2. The purpose of the ACC is to afford a person who owns an animal that is the subject of a dangerous dog investigation an opportunity after the initial investigation, for a hearing prior to making a final determination regarding the classification or penalty.

3. The ACC shall function and operate as a Decision-Making Committee in accordance with Board Policy No. 03-15, Board-Appointed Advisory Committees: Establishment, Appointment, Function, Operation, and Dissolution.

4. The ACC shall have as its goal to ensure the fair and unbiased review of the initial classification determination made by the Director of Animal Control. All hearings conducted by the ACC will be de novo.

5. The ACC shall be charged with the duties and responsibilities for considering the evidence, related history, ordinance requirements, and to provide recommendations as to the classification and disposition of any animal that is the subject of a Dangerous/Aggressive classification. The ACC shall submit its finding in writing.

6. The ACC membership shall be composed of at least three but no more than seven members. The ACC shall consist of a county sheriff or designee appointed by the Sheriff, a licensed veterinarian and a citizen appointed by the Board of County Commissioners. The members shall serve on an as needed basis, selected from a pool of qualified candidates appointed by the full Board as follows:

- (1) Three licensed veterinarians to the extent such are available for appointment.
- (2) Three citizens to the extent such are available for appointment, who demonstrate by training, education, experience or employment, both an interest in animal welfare and control, and the objectivity and demeanor to fairly hear dog classification cases.

7. The terms of the ACC membership presently appointed shall continue for one year upon the effective date of this Resolution until the designated expiration dates of membership. Thereafter, the ACC membership shall be appointed to three-year terms. Vacancies may be filled at any time by the Board for the unexpired term of a member.

8. The members of the ACC shall not be subject to full and public disclosure of financial interests.


9. The ACC shall be assisted by staff from the Division of Animal Control.

Section 2. Effective Date.

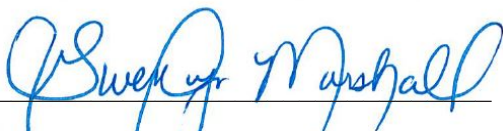
This Resolution shall have effect upon adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of County Commissioners of Leon County, Florida, this 8th day of December, 2020.

LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA


By: 
Rick Minor, Chair
Board of County Commissioners

ATTESTED BY:
Gwendolyn Marshall, Clerk of Court
& Comptroller, Leon County, Florida

By: 



APPROVED AS TO FORM:
Chasity H. O'Steen, County Attorney
Leon County Attorney's Office

By: Chasity H. O'Steen


Digitally signed by Chasity H. O'Steen
DN: cn=Chasity H. O'Steen, o=Leon County
Board of County Commissioners, ou=County
Attorney's Office,
email=osteenc@leoncountyfl.gov, c=US
Date: 2020.12.17 10:51:45 -05'00'