

ORDINANCE NO 9

AN ORDINANCE REGULATING DOGS WITHIN THE CITY OF PORT ST. JOE; THE DISPOSITION OF UNCLAIMED DOGS; THE IMPOUNDING OF DOGS NOT MEETING THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS ORDINANCE; AND THE QUARANTINE OF DOGS SUSPECTED OF BEING RABID; AND PROVIDING FOR A PENALTY FOR THE VIOLATION THEREOF.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA:

Section 1. It shall be the duty of any person owning or keeping any dog within the City of Port St. Joe to procure each year from the City Clerk a license and tag therefor, such tag to have stamped thereon: "Port St. Joe, Florida" and the year for which same is issued. The tax for such license and tag shall be the amount of One Dollar (\$1.00) for the first dog of any one owner and Fifty Cents (50¢) each for the second and third dog. The tax shall not exceed an aggregate of Two Dollars (\$2.00) for all dogs owned by any one person. This license shall be due and payable during July of each and every year.

Section 2. Any dog found within the corporate limits of the City not having the tag as provided in Section one hereof for the current year shall be impounded and, if the owner of the same is known, such owner shall be notified. Notice mailed to the last known address of the owner shall be deemed sufficient notification within the meaning of this section.

Section 3. Any dog impounded hereunder may be released to the owner thereof or person claiming same if the Chief of Police of the City or, in his absence, the City Clerk shall be convinced of the validity of such claim and upon payment of One Dollar (\$1.00) as an impounding fee, the purchase of the license herein provided for, and Twenty-five Cents (25¢) per day for each day such dog remains impounded.

Section 4. Upon the expiration of three (3) days after impounding any dog, any unclaimed or unredeemed dog may be offered for sale and sold for cash; provided, however, that if any impounded dog is found to be so diseased as to be detrimental to the public health, the same shall be humanely disposed of.

Impounded dogs may be redeemed by a humane society or any other reputable person provided the owner fails to redeem the animal.

Section 5. Whenever any dog shall bite any person or other animal or there is any reason to believe that any dog has rabies, such dog and all other animals bitten by it may be taken in charge by the Chief of Police of the City or any City police officer and securely confined for such a time as is necessary to determine whether the disease exists. Upon the impounding of the dog, the owner of the same, if known, shall be immediately notified thereof. If it shall be determined that the dog has rabies, it shall be killed and the body disposed of to the satisfaction of the police authority of the City in accordance with existing sanitary regulations. If it shall be determined that the dog is free from rabies, the dog shall be returned to the owner.

Section 6. It shall be unlawful for any person to own or keep any vicious dog or dogs, or any dog that becomes a nuisance in the community by barking and raising any disturbance. Upon filing with the Chief of Police of this City of written statements under oath by three or more persons residing in separate households in the City within five hundred (500) feet of the place where such dog or dogs are kept or harbored, that the barking, whining or howling of such dog or dogs constitutes a nuisance, or that such dog is a vicious dog by reason of the fact that it has bitten or snapped at a person or persons and caused such person or persons to be in fear of their safety, it shall be the duty of the Chief of Police to deliver to such person keeping or harboring such dog or dogs, a written statement of the fact that such complaints have been made, and that the keeping or harboring of such dog or dogs is deemed a nuisance, and that the nuisance must be abated within ten (10) days from the date of notification. If the nuisance is not abated within ten (10) days, it shall be the duty of the Chief of Police to make an affidavit charging the person keeping or harboring such dog or dogs with maintaining a nuisance and/or a vicious dog, and have a warrant issued for the arrest of such person.

Section 7. It shall be unlawful for any person to own, keep or harbor any dog within the limits of the City without first having obtained therefor a rabies inoculation certificate from some registered veterinarian or the Chief of Police of the City if the inoculation is performed by the owner. The inoculation certificate shall be in force for one year from the date of issuance.

Section 8. It shall be the duty of the City Clerk prior to the issuance of any license or tag for any dog to ascertain whether or not such dog has been inoculated against rabies within one year from the date of any application for the issuance of a tag or license, and if the City Clerk shall find such dog has not been inoculated against rabies, he shall refuse to issue a license and tag for said dog. Evidence of vaccination shall consist of certificate signed by the person administering the vaccine and containing pertinent data for identification of the dog. The vaccination may be

administered by the owner under the supervision of the Chief of Police of the City.

Section 9. Any person aiding or abetting the violation of this ordinance, or counterfeiting or forging any certificate, permit, or tag, or making any misrepresentation in regard to any matter prescribed by this division, or by resisting, obstructing, or impeding any authorized officer in enforcing this ordinance, or refusing to produce for vaccination any dog in his possession or any person who shall violate any provisions of this ordinance shall, if convicted, be punished by a fine not to exceed Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) or imprisonment for not more than thirty (30) days or both by such fine and imprisonment.

INTRODUCED at a regular meeting of the City Commission of the City of Port St. Joe on the 21st day of January, A. D. 1964, and PASSED AND ADOPTED at a meeting of the City Commission on the 18th day of February, A. D. 1964.

/s/ Frank Hannon  
Mayor-Commissioner

ATTEST:

/s/ J. B. Williams  
City Auditor and Clerk