

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF
HENRY COUNTY, GEORGIA

ORDINANCE #25- 7

An ordinance of the Henry County Board of Commissioners *to amend Chapter 3-4 - Public Safety, Subchapter 1. Animals, Article IV. Disposition of the Code of Henry County to Provide for the Microchipping of Impounded Animals*

WHEREAS, the Henry County Board of Commissioners is authorized to adopt ordinances and resolutions for the governing and policing of the unincorporated areas of the County for the purpose of protecting and preserving the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the County; and

WHEREAS, Henry County Animal Care and Control has seen an increase in animal intakes in the County year over year; and

WHEREAS, to decrease the number of animals in the shelter, save lives, and increase the efficiency of getting animals returned to their rightful owners,

WHEREAS, Animal Care and Control staff request an addition to the current Animal Control Ordinance to microchip all animals that are impounded to the Henry County Animal Shelter; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners has determined, in consultation with staff, that it is in the best interest of the County to so add this ordinance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT AND IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED, the Board of Commissioners of Henry County, as follows:

Article IV: Disposition

Section 3-4-46: Microchipping of Impounded Animals

The purpose of this ordinance is to promote the responsible care and management of pets, facilitate their identification, efficiently return animals to rightful owners, and reduce the number of lost or stray animals within Henry County.

(a) Additional definitions for the purposes of this Section 3-4-46:

- "Animal" refers to dogs and cats.
- "Microchip" refers to a small electronic device implanted under the skin of an animal, which stores a unique identification number.
- "Owner" refers to any person who has custody or control of an animal.

(b) Microchipping Requirements

1. All animals that have been impounded at the Henry County Animal Control

- Shelter must be microchipped before being reclaimed by their owner/caretaker.
2. Microchipping will be performed by a Henry County Animal Control Officer or other personnel of Henry County Animal Care and Control.
 3. If any animal impounded is found to contain a microchip, the owner's information will be verified and updated, if needed.
 4. The cost of the microchip will be either included in the cost of an adoption or, in the case of a reclaim, the charge will be added to the fees assessed to the owner reclaiming their animal.

(c) Registration

1. Henry County Animal Care and Control will ensure that the microchip is registered with a national pet recovery database, including current contact information.
2. Changes to the registered information must be updated with the microchip registry within 30 days of any change.

(d) Penalties

1. Repeated violations may result in increased fines and/or additional penalties as the court deems necessary.

(e) Exceptions

1. Animals with medical conditions that contraindicate microchipping, as certified by a licensed veterinarian, are exempt from this requirement. A letter from the veterinarian would need to be provided to Henry County Animal Care and Control.
2. Temporary exemptions may be granted on a case-by-case basis upon written request and approval by the Director of Henry County Animal Care and Control.

(f) Implementation

1. During a brief introductory period, microchips may be supplied by Henry County Animal Care and Control at a reduced cost to Henry County residents.
2. Since Henry County Animal Care and Control handles all animal code enforcement within Henry County's municipalities, it is recommended that each municipality within the jurisdictional boundaries of Henry County adopt similar and cooperative legislation. This will help lessen any confusion with the public they serve.
3. This ordinance shall be reviewed annually, and amendments may be made as necessary to address any issues or changes in best practices.

This 17th of June, 2025.

HENRY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BY: 
Carlotta Harrell, Chair

ATTEST:


Stephanie Braun, County Clerk



Proposed Policy:

Article IV: Disposition

Section 3-4-46: Microchipping of Impounded Animals

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(a) Additional definitions for the purposes of this Section 3-4-46:

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- “Microchip” refers to a small electronic device implanted under the skin of an animal, which stores a unique identification number.
- “Owner” refers to any person who has custody or control of an animal.

(b) Microchipping Requirements

1. All animals that have been impounded to the Henry County Animal Control Shelter must be microchipped before being reclaimed by their owner/caretaker.
2. Microchipping will be performed by a Henry County Animal Control Officer or other personnel of Henry County Animal Care and Control.
3. If any animal impounded is found to contain a microchip, the owner’s information will be verified and updated, if needed.
4. The cost of the microchip will be either included in the cost of an adoption or in the case of a reclaim, the charge will be added to the fees assessed to the owner reclaiming their animal.

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2. This ordinance shall be reviewed annually, and amendments may be made as necessary to address any issues or changes in best practices.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Meeting Date:

June 17, 2025

Action Type:

Action Requested by BOC

Department Requesting Agenda Item:

Animal Control

Attachments/Exhibits for Agenda Item:

1. Stray Microchipping Ordinance-RNM edits-clean

Presenter:

Michael Hobgood

Agenda Item:

An ordinance by the Henry County Board of Commissioners amending Chapter 3-4 – Public Safety, Subchapter 1: Animals, Article IV – Disposition, to require the microchipping of impounded animals. *(Presenter: Michael Hobgood, Animal Control Director)(Exhibit 16)*

Background/Summary:

The purpose of this ordinance is to promote the responsible care and management of pets, facilitate their identification, efficiently return animals to rightful owners, and reduce the number of lost or stray animals within Henry County. This should also deter repeat offenses of allowing their animals to run stray through neighborhoods and provide a safer environment for residents and their pets.

All animals that have been impounded at the Henry County Animal Control Shelter will be microchipped before being reclaimed by their owner/caretaker. Microchipping will be performed by a Henry County Animal Control Officer or other personnel of Henry County Animal Care and Control. If any animal impounded is found to contain a microchip, the owner's information will be verified and updated, if needed. The cost of the microchip will be added to any fees assessed to the owner when reclaiming their animal.

Repeated violations may result in increased fines and/or additional penalties as the appropriate court deems necessary.

Included exceptions to the code will be:

1. Animals with medical conditions that contraindicate microchipping, as certified by a licensed veterinarian, are exempt from this requirement. A letter from the veterinarian would need to be provided to Henry County Animal Care and Control.
2. Temporary exemptions may be granted on a case-by-case basis upon written request and approval by the Director of Henry County Animal Care and Control.

Financial Implications/Considerations:

There are no financial implications that will impact the county.

Additional Comments/Recommendation:

Staff recommend the board vote to enact this as part of the county's animal control code for

immediate implementation.