

ORDINANCE NO. 16-01

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA; TO AMEND CHAPTER 6 – ANIMAL SERVICES AND CONTROL, SECTION 6-48, PERTAINING TO HOUSING ANIMALS CERTAIN DISTANCES FROM OCCUPIED BUILDINGS, AND ADDING A NEW SECTION 6-49, PERTAINING TO UNLAWFUL FEEDING OF STRAY DOGS AND CATS; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO PROVIDE FOR SEVERABILITY; TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the Code of Ordinances for the City of Waycross, Georgia, currently provides for the regulation of animals in the City of Waycross in Chapter 6; and

WHEREAS, the Commission of the City of Waycross desires to modify the ordinance to prohibit persons from maintaining or housing animals, to include both dogs and cats, within three hundred (300) feet of any occupied building, except the dwelling unit of the person maintaining or housing the animal; and

WHEREAS, the Commission also desires to add a new section to make it unlawful to feed any stray dog or cat; and

WHEREAS, the issue has been duly considered by the Commission of the City of Waycross, Georgia.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Commission of the City of Waycross, Georgia, and it is hereby ordained by the authority of the same as follows:

SECTION 1. The City of Waycross Code of Ordinances, Chapter 6, Section 6-48 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 6-48. - Required distances from occupied buildings.

Each person maintaining or housing animals or fowl within the corporate limits of the city shall keep them at the following distances from any occupied building, except the dwelling unit of the person maintaining or housing the animals or fowl:

Four (4) or more dogs and cats	300 feet
Five (5) or more rabbits, guinea pigs, hamsters, and similar animals	150 feet
Less than twenty-five (25) fowl	100 feet
Twenty-five (25) or more fowl	1000 feet

SECTION 2. The City of Waycross Code of Ordinances, Chapter 6, is also hereby amended to add a new Section 6-49 to read as follows:

Sec. 6-49. – Unlawful feeding of stray dogs or cats.

It shall be unlawful to feed any stray dog or cat, except pending return to a lawful owner or immediate transfer to the Animal Control Officer. The Animal Control Officer, at his or her discretion, may issue a warning for the first offense. It is not a violation of this section for any person to feed or shelter feral cats while working with a licensed veterinarian, animal control agency, or similar group registered with the City, to spay or neuter feral cats, which may be referred to as “fix and feed”.

SECTION 3. This Ordinance shall take effect and be enforced from and after the date of its final approval after second reading by the Commission of the City of Waycross, Georgia.

SECTION 4. If any portion of this ordinance shall be held to be invalid or unconstitutional, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect or impair the remaining portions unless it clearly appears that such other parts are wholly and necessarily dependent upon the part held to be invalid or unconstitutional.

SECTION 5. All ordinances and parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

SECTION 6. It is the intention of the City Commission and it is hereby ordained that the provisions of this Ordinance shall become part of the Code of the City of Waycross, Georgia and the sections of this Ordinance may be renumbered to accomplish such intention.


SO ORDAINED, this the 2 day of February, 2016.

CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA

BY:


JOHN KNOX, Mayor

ATTEST:


JULIE DINKINS, Clerk

Read First Time: 1-20-16

Read Second Time and approved: 2-2-16