

1 Introduced January 28, 2003, by  
2 Councilwoman Williams, seconded by  
3 Councilman Binder (both by request of  
4 Administration)

5 **Item No. 03-01-2333**

6 **ORDINANCE NO. 3113**

7  
8 An ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of Slidell,  
9 Chapter 6 Animals, by providing for changes in the Animal Control Ordinance.

10  
11 NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the Slidell City Council that it  
12 does hereby amend the Code of Ordinances of the City of Slidell, Chapter 6 Animals, as  
13 follows:  
14

15 **Sec. 6-1. Definitions.** Add the following definitions in alphabetical order:

16 *Animal Classification Appeals Committee* means a three-member committee  
17 consisting of a licensed veterinarian, a law enforcement officer and a resident of the  
18 Parish.  
19

20 *Feral* means not domesticated or cultivated or having escaped from  
21 domestication and become wild.  
22

23 *Severely Injured* means any animal which because of major trauma, broken  
24 bones, blood loss or other easily apparent life-threatening condition, is not expected to  
25 live or is in severe pain or suffering.  
26

27 *Terminally Ill* means any animal that, because of apparent sickness or condition,  
28 is not expected to live or is in dire physical distress.”;  
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4  
5 Change the definition of "*Enclosure*" to read as follows:

6 "*Enclosure* means a securely enclosed and locked pen or structure, suitable to  
7 prevent the dog from coming into contact with either a human being other than the  
8 owner or any other animal, and designed to prevent the animal from escaping. The pen  
9 or structure must have minimum dimensions of six (6) feet by twelve (12) feet. This  
10 structure shall be a minimum of 10-gauge chain link fencing, six (6) feet in height. This  
11 pen shall have a self-closing and self-latching mechanism. Such pen shall have secure  
12 sides and a secure top to prevent the dog from escaping over, under, or through the  
13 structure. The enclosures shall provide a humane existence for the dog and protection  
14 from the elements. The pen shall meet all of the requirements of a dog pen and the pen  
15 side shall be embedded securely in a concrete floor."  
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22 Delete **Sec. 6-31(e)** in its entirety and replace with:

23  
24 "(e) In Home Rabies Observation

25  
26 (1) The Animal Control Center may consider in-home ten (10) days rabies  
27 observation only if the following criteria are met:

- 28  
29 a. The owner of the animal agrees to the in-home observation and signs  
30 a form recognizing such agreement.  
31  
32 b. The animal was not at large at the time of the bite.  
33  
34 c. The owner signs an indemnity clause holding the Animal Control  
35 Center and City harmless from any and all liability which might arise  
36 while the animal is undergoing in-home observation.  
37  
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4  
5 d. The Animal Control Center may inspect the facilities at any time to  
6 determine compliance.

7  
8 e. The animal is secured on the property at all times during observation in  
9 a room, pen, or other structure to prevent escape and contact with  
10 other animals or humans, other than the owner.

11  
12 f. At the discretion of the Director animals may be required to be  
13 examined by a licensed veterinarian within twenty-four (24) hours after  
14 the end of the observation period, and the Animal Control Center shall  
15 be notified of release within twenty-four (24) hours thereof.

16  
17 g. The Animal Control Center shall be notified immediately if the animal  
18 dies, escapes or becomes ill during the observation period.

19  
20 h. If the Animal Control Center observes any violation of this exception,  
21 the animal shall then be seized and taken to the Animal Control Center  
22 or a licensed veterinary facility; and the owner may be issued a  
23 summons for violation of this part.

24  
25 (2) All law enforcement agencies are exempt from this requirement.  
26 Vaccination status of all K-9 or enforcement dogs shall be retained by  
27 the agency involved.”  
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5 **Sec. 6-36. Redemption of impounded animals.** Add the following:

6 “(g) Any animal impounded by the Animal Control Center, which is not weaned  
7 and has no mother at the time of impoundment and is considered stray or abandoned  
8 may be cause for the Animal Control Center to humanely dispose of such animal as  
9 soon as possible after impoundment.  
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12  
13 (h) Any animal, seriously injured, diseased or terminally ill animal impounded  
14 by the Animal Control Center shall be cause for the Animal Control Center to waive the  
15 three or ten day holding period, as the case may be, and euthanize said animal in a  
16 humane manner as soon as possible. Euthanasia shall only be performed after a  
17 decision by the impounding animal control officer and either a supervisor or the director.  
18  
19

20  
21 (i) The Animal Control Center is empowered to euthanize severely injured,  
22 feral, terminally ill, stray or untagged animals whose owners are unknown and which  
23 animals may be suffering severe pain without having to hold said animal for the required  
24 three or ten day period. Euthanasia shall only be performed after a decision is made by  
25 the impounding officer and a supervisor or director, or by the impounding officer solely if  
26 in the field.”  
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30  
31 **Sec. 6-62. Disposition and impoundment.**

32 Delete the words “or vicious”.

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34  
35 **Delete Sec. 6-63. “Dangerous and vicious animals”** in its entirety and replace  
36 with the following:  
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4  
5 **“Sec. 6-63. Animal classification appeals committee.**

6 (a) Hereby established is a three-member Animal Classification Appeals  
7  
8 Committee, which in its judgment shall fairly represent the Animal Control Center,  
9  
10 animal owners, and citizens of the City. The committee shall make decisions relating to  
11  
12 appeals that have been initiated concerning dangerous dogs and vicious dogs.

13 (b) All members of the committee shall be appointed by the City Council.  
14  
15 Recommendations may be made by the City Animal Control Director. The three  
16  
17 members shall be appointed for staggered terms of three years. If a vacancy occurs  
18  
19 otherwise than by an expiration of a term, it shall be filled by appointment for the  
20  
21 unexpired term. Members may be reappointed by the City Council. Each of the  
22  
23 committee members shall be a resident of the Parish of St. Tammany. Membership  
24  
25 shall automatically be vacated if the member moves outside the limits of the parish.  
26  
27 Any member may be removed by the City Council. In addition, the chairman of the  
28  
29 committee may remove any member who has missed three or more regularly scheduled  
30  
31 meetings in one calendar year without a valid reason.

32 (c) One (1) member shall be a licensed Louisiana veterinarian, one (1)  
33  
34 member shall be a commissioned law enforcement officer, and one (1) member shall be  
35  
36 a private citizen.”  
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4  
5 Re-designate **Sec. 6-64. "Live animals as prizes"** as **"Sec. 6-68"**.

6 Add a new Sec. 6-64. as follows:

7  
8 **"Sec. 6-64. Liability insurance for dangerous dogs.**

9 The owner or keeper shall present to the director of Animal Control Center proof  
10 that the owner or keeper has procured liability insurance in the amount of at least one  
11 hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000.00), covering any damage or injury which may be  
12 caused by such dangerous dog during the twelve-month period for which licensing is  
13 sought, which policy shall contain a provision requiring the city to be named as an  
14 additional insured and the City shall be notified by the owner or keeper of any  
15 cancellation, termination or expiration of the liability insurance policy."  
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20  
21 Add a new section Sec. 6-65. as follows:

22 **"Sec. 6-65. Guard dogs.**

23 Guard dogs must be kept within a structure or a fenced enclosure at all times,  
24 and any guard dog found at large may be processed as a dangerous dog pursuant to  
25 the provisions of this title. Any premises guarded by a guard dog shall be prominently  
26 posted with a sign containing the wording 'guard dog' or words of similar import plus a  
27 contact phone number of responsible party. It shall be the owner's responsibility to  
28 immediately notify the Animal Control Center when a guard dog has escaped and is  
29 running at large. Signs shall be approved by Animal Control."  
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5 Add a new Sec. 6-66. as follows:

6 **"Sec. 6-66. Dangerous dogs.**

7  
8 (a) A dog may be classified as dangerous under any of the following  
9 circumstances:

10  
11 (1) The dog has attacked, caused serious injury or otherwise endangered the  
12 safety of human beings, or has a known propensity, tendency, or  
13 disposition to attack, to cause serious injury or to otherwise endanger the  
14 safety of a person who is conducting himself or herself peacefully and  
15 lawfully.

16  
17  
18 (2) The dog has attacked, caused serious injury or death to a domestic  
19 animal.

20  
21  
22 (3) The dog has been owned or kept primarily or in part for the purpose of dog  
23 fighting.

24  
25  
26 (4) Upon recommendation by a law enforcement agency or an employee of  
27 the Animal Control Center.

28  
29 (b) A dog will not be classified as dangerous if the threat, injury or damage  
30 was sustained by a person who, at the time, was unlawfully on the property with the  
31 intent to commit a crime or tort upon the premises occupied by the owner of the dog, or  
32 was tormenting, abusing, or assaulting the dog or if the dog was defending or protecting  
33 its owner from unjustified attack or assault, or was protecting or defending its young or  
34 other animals from harm or attack.  
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4 (c) The Animal Control Center may investigate reported incidents involving  
5 dogs that may be dangerous. Upon such investigation, if the Animal Control Center  
6 finds the dog to constitute a dangerous dog as defined in this section, said dog shall be  
7 so classified. The owner shall receive written notification of the Animal Control Center's  
8 classification of the animal. Said notification shall include the procedure for appeal.  
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11  
12 (d) The owner of a dog that has been classified as dangerous shall abide by  
13 the following mandates within ten (10) days after the dog has been so classified:  
14

15 (1) A number shall be assigned to each dog that has been classified as  
16 dangerous. A microchip shall be inserted in the dog by Animal Control or  
17 a veterinarian at the owner's sole expense. Any dangerous dog already  
18 microchipped need not be rechipped if the existing microchip is legible and  
19 can properly identify that dog.  
20

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23 (2) The owner shall immediately notify the Animal Control Center when a  
24 dangerous dog:  
25

- 26 a. Is loose or unconfined.  
27  
28 b. Has bitten a human being or attacked another animal.  
29  
30 c. Was sold, given away, or died; or  
31  
32 d. Has moved to another address.

33 (e) Each owner shall execute a document to be supplied by the Animal  
34 Control Center, acknowledging that said owner is aware of the dangerous dog  
35 classification, and that said owner shall comply with the requirements of this section,  
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4 provided that person resides within the City limits. Prior to a dangerous dog being sold  
5 or given away, the owner shall provide the name, address, and phone number of the  
6 new owner to the Animal Control Center.  
7

8  
9 (f) A dangerous dog must be confined in a securely enclosed and locked pen  
10 or structure, suitable to prevent the dog from coming into contact with either a human  
11 being other than the owner or any other animal, and designed to prevent the animal  
12 from escaping. The pen or structure must have minimum dimensions of six (6) feet by  
13 twelve (12) feet. This structure shall be a minimum of 10-gauge chain link fencing, six  
14 (6) feet in height. This pen shall have a self-closing and self-latching mechanism. Such  
15 pen shall have secure sides and a secure top to prevent the dog from escaping over,  
16 under, or through the structure. The enclosures shall provide a humane existence for  
17 the dog and protection from the elements. The pen shall meet all of the requirements of  
18 a dog pen and the pen side shall be embedded securely in a concrete floor.  
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25 (g) The owner shall prominently display a sign to be provided by the Animal  
26 Control Center at the owner's expense on his premises at all entry points warning that  
27 there is a dangerous dog on the property.  
28  
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30 (h) A dangerous dog may be off the owner's premises or out of its enclosure  
31 only if it is muzzled and restrained by a substantial chain or leash not exceeding four (4)  
32 feet in length and under the control of an able-bodied person. The muzzle must be  
33 made in a manner that will not cause injury to the dog or interfere with its vision or  
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4 respiration, but must prevent it from biting any person or animal. It must be wire mesh  
5 designed for the specific breed.  
6

7  
8 (i) The Animal Control Center, at its discretion, may require a dangerous dog  
9 to be spayed or neutered.  
10

11 (j) The Animal Control Center, in the exercise of its discretion, shall have the  
12 authority to make whatever inspections are deemed necessary to ensure that the  
13 provisions recited herein are complied with.  
14

15  
16 (k) A dangerous dog shall not be used as a guard dog.  
17

18 (l) An owner of a dangerous dog shall have the option to have said dog  
19 humanely euthanized at his expense by the Animal Control Center or licensed  
20 veterinarian if said owner is unable to comply with the requirements recited herein.  
21

22 (m) The Animal Control Center shall have the right to inspect the premises of  
23 dangerous animals' enclosures to ensure compliance with this part.  
24

25  
26 (n) The owning, keeping or harboring of a dangerous animal in violation of  
27 this title is deemed a public nuisance.  
28

29 (o) If the Animal Control Center reasonably believes that an owner cannot or  
30 will not abide by the above requirements, a seizure warrant may be requested, pending  
31 final disposition of the case.  
32

33  
34 (p) A citation may be issued to the owner of any dangerous dog alleged to be  
35 in violation of this part. The investigating officer may issue such citation upon the  
36 receipt of a single complaint. Said complaint shall specify the address or location of the  
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4 alleged violation, the nature, time and date(s) of that act, the name and address of the  
5 owner, if known, and a description of the animal.  
6

7 (q) Appeal process:

8  
9 (1) The owner of a dog that has been classified as dangerous may appeal this  
10 classification to the Animal Classification Appeals Committee within five-  
11 days after the Animal Control Center so classifies said dog. A notice of  
12 appeal must be filed with the director of the Animal Control Center within  
13 five (5) days of the receipt of notice of classification. The director shall  
14 then notify the Animal Classification Appeals Committee.  
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18 (2) The appeal must be heard by the Animal Classification Appeals  
19 Committee within ten (10) days after the owner has submitted a notice of  
20 appeal.  
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22  
23 (3) The owner shall, until final disposition of the appeal, take whatever  
24 measures are necessary to prevent any future incidents from occurring.  
25 Failure to prevent future incidents shall result in additional citation and/or  
26 seizure of the dog at the owner's expense until the case is heard by the  
27 Animal Classification Appeals Committee or otherwise resolved.  
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30 (4) The classification of a dog as dangerous shall be revoked only by a  
31 majority vote of the Animal Classification Appeals Committee.  
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34 (5) All decisions by the Animal Classification Appeals Committee shall be final  
35 and binding."  
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4  
5 Add a new Sec. 6-67 as follows:

6 **"Sec. 6-67. Vicious dog**

7  
8 (a) A dog may be classified as vicious if said dog has:

9  
10 (1) Attacked and caused severe and/or gross injuries or death to a human  
11 being; or

12  
13 (2) Previously been classified as dangerous and an incident has occurred as  
14 set forth in subsection 6-66(a).

15  
16 (b) A dog will not be classified as vicious if the threat, injury or damage was  
17 sustained by a person who, at the time, was unlawfully on the property with the intent to  
18 commit a crime or tort upon the premises occupied by the owner of the dog, or was  
19 tormenting, abusing, or assaulting the dog or if the dog was defending or protecting its  
20 owner from unjustified attack or assault, or was protecting or defending its young or  
21 other animals from harm or attack.  
22

23  
24 (c) The Animal Control Center may investigate reported incidents involving  
25 dogs that may be vicious. Upon such investigation, if the Animal Control Center finds  
26 the dog to constitute a vicious dog as defined in this title, said dog shall be so classified.  
27 The owner shall receive written notification of the Animal Control Center's classification  
28 of the animal. Said notification shall include the procedure for appeal. The  
29 classification of vicious shall be added to the registration records of the dog, kept at  
30 Animal Control.  
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4 (d) The animal will be kept at the Animal Control Center and placed in rabies  
5 quarantine, if necessary, for the proper length of time, or held for five (5) days after the  
6 owner's receipt of notification, and then shall be euthanized unless the owner initiates  
7 an appeal procedure within five days.  
8  
9

10 (e) Appeal process:

11 (1) Any dog that has been classified as vicious shall be impounded by the  
12 Animal Control Center. The owner of a dog that has been classified as  
13 vicious may appeal this classification to the Animal Classification Appeals  
14 Committee within five days after the Animal Control Center impounds such  
15 dog.  
16  
17

18 (2) The animal will remain impounded at the Animal Control Center until such  
19 time as the Animal Appeal Committee hears and decides the appeal of the  
20 owner. The appeal must be heard by the Animal Classification Appeals  
21 Committee within ten (10) days after the owner has submitted a notice of  
22 appeal.  
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24

25 (3) The classification of a dog as vicious shall be revoked only by a majority  
26 vote of the Animal Classification Appeals Committee. If the committee  
27 does not revoke the vicious dog classification, the dog will be kept an  
28 additional ten (10) days and then be humanely euthanized at the expense  
29 of the owner by the Animal Control Center. If the committee revokes the  
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4 vicious dog classification, such dog shall then be classified as dangerous,  
5 with approval of the committee. The committee shall provide the owner  
6 with written notice of its decision by mailing same to the dog's owner at  
7 his last known address.  
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11 (4) The owner will be responsible for payment of all boarding costs and other  
12 fees as may be required to humanely and safely keep the animal at the  
13 Animal Control Center through the appeals process.  
14

15  
16 (5) Written notice is prescribed in paragraph 3 above in order to give the  
17 owner of a dog classified as vicious time to apply to a court of competent  
18 jurisdiction for any remedies which may be available. Should the owner of  
19 a dog that has been classified as vicious wish to appeal the decision of the  
20 Animal Classification Committee to uphold the vicious classification, then  
21 a court injunction must be obtained within ten (10) days of said decision in  
22 order to delay the euthanasia of such dog. Should an injunction be  
23 obtained, the owner will be responsible for payment of all boarding costs  
24 and other fees as may be required to humanely and safely keep the  
25 animal at the Animal Control Center through the court appeal process.  
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28 Applicable fees shall be paid in advance."  
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33  
34 Add a new section 6.68 as follows.

35 **"Sec. 6-68. Live animals as prizes." (This is the former Sec. 6-64)."**  
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5 ADOPTED this 25th day of February, 2003.  
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7 

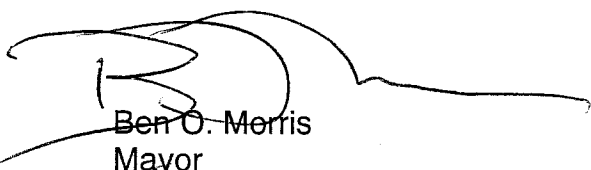
8 Pearl Williams  
9 President of the Council  
10 Councilwoman-at-Large

11 DELIVERED 9:30 a.m.

12 2/27/03 to the Mayor

13 RECEIVED 9:00 a.m.

14 2/28/03 from the Mayor

15   
16 Ben O. Morris  
17 Mayor

18 

19 Shawn B. McManus  
20 Clerk of the Council  
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