

ORDINANCE 2002 - 54

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 74-34, AS AMENDED, WHICH REGULATED AND LICENSED THE KEEPING OF DOGS; SPECIFICALLY AMENDING SECTION 6, IMPOUNDMENT; AND SECTION 7, REDEMPTION OF IMPOUNDED ANIMALS; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Nassau County Board of County Commissioners has been requested by the Animal Control Division to shorten the impoundment period due to overcrowding conditions in its current facility.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED this 18th day of November, 2002, by the Board of County Commissioners of Nassau County, Florida, that Ordinance 74-34, as amended, shall be further amended as follows:

1. **SECTION 6. IMPOUNDMENT.**

(a) *When lawful period of confinement.* Unlicensed dog or dogs without tag found running at large shall be taken up by the animal warden and impounded in the shelter designated as the county animal shelter, and there confined in a humane manner for a period of not less than ~~seven~~ (7) five (5) days, and may thereafter be disposed of in a humane manner if not claimed by their owners. Dogs not claimed by their owners before the expiration of ~~seven~~ (7) five (5) days shall become the property of the county and may be disposed of at the discretion of the said county, except as hereinafter provided in the cases of certain dogs. All licensed dogs with tags shall be returned to their owners where possible and all owners shall be called by

telephone if the phone number is on the tag, or contacted by mail.

(b) *Transfer to humane society.* The animal warden may transfer title of all animals held by it at its animal shelter to the humane society after the legal detention period has expired and the animal has not been claimed by its owner.

(c) *Repeated violations.* When dogs are found running at large for three (3) consecutive times over a period of one year and their ownership is known to the animal warden, such dogs need not be impounded, but the agent may, at his discretion, cite the owners of such dogs to appear in court to answer to charges of violation of this ordinance.

(d) *Notification of owner.* Immediately upon impounding dogs, or other animals, the animal warden shall make every possible effort to notify the owners of such dogs, or other animals so impounded, and inform such owners of the conditions whereby they may regain custody of such animals.

2. SECTION 7. REDEMPTION OF IMPOUNDED ANIMALS.

(a) The owner shall be entitled to resume possession of any impounded dog, except as hereinafter provided in the cases of certain dogs, upon compliance with the license provisions in Section 6-42 and the payment of impoundment fees set forth herein.


(b) Any other animal impounded under the provisions of this ordinance may be reclaimed by the owner upon the payment of impoundment fees set forth herein.

(c) Any animal impounded under the provisions of this ordinance and not reclaimed by its owner within ~~seven~~ five (5) days may be humanely destroyed by the animal warden, have its title transferred to the humane society as provided for in Section 6-45(b), or placed in the custody of some person deemed to be a responsible and suitable owner, who will agree to comply with the provisions of this ordinance and such other regulations as shall be affixed by the County of Nassau. Provided if the animal is one as to which the respective rights of the owner and the persons in possession or custody are determined by state law, such law shall be complied with.

(d) The owner of an animal, impounded and not redeemed within the required holding period, shall be responsible for legal fees incurred whether or not claimed.

3. This Ordinance shall become effective pursuant to law.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA



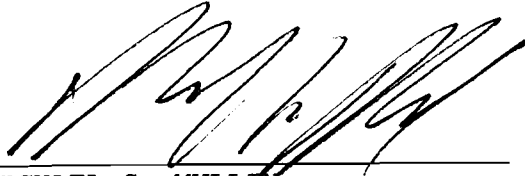
NICK D. DEONAS
Its: Chairman

ATTEST:



J. M. "CHIP" OXLEY, JR.
Its: Ex-Officio Clerk

Approved as to form by the
Nassau County Attorney

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. S. Mullin', is written over a horizontal line.

MICHAEL S. MULLIN