

2025 CODE AMENDMENTS

Official Code of Cobb County Part I. – Chapter 10

Package I

Version I - distributed on October 3, 2025

Version II- distributed on November 13, 2025

Board of Commissioners Public Hearing Dates

November 12, 2025 – 9:00 a.m.

November 20, 2025 – 6:00 p.m.

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Cobb County...Expect the Best!

Chapter 10 – ANIMALS

ARTICLE II. – ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT

DIVISION 2. – ANIMAL SERVICE BOARD

Section 10-51 of the Official Code of Cobb County, Georgia, is amended, to read as follows:

Sec. 10-51. - Membership.

- (a) The Cobb County Animal Services Board shall consist of the following: One member of the Atlanta Humane Society of Cobb County board of directors or its designee (post 1); three interested citizens who have interest in domestic animals (posts 2, 3, 4); two veterinarians, at least one of whom shall be a member of the Cobb County Veterinary Medical Society (posts 5, 6); and one citizen chosen by the Chairman or Chairwoman of the Board of Commissioners (post 7). Members of the Animal Services Board shall adopt procedures and policies to govern potential conflicts of interest arising from the responsibilities and duties of their positions.

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DIVISION 3 – ANIMAL IMPOUNDMENT, REDEMPTION AND ADOPTION

Section 10-67 of the Official Code of Cobb County, Georgia, is amended, to read as follows:

Sec. 10-67. – Period of impoundment or confinement.

- (a) All periods specified in this section shall be deemed to commence at ~~12:01 a.m. of the day following the day~~ the time of impoundment or confinement.
- (b) Other than those dogs confiscated under sections 10-13(c), 10-97, or 10-121.7, all impounded animals shall be kept at the animal shelter for a period of not less than five working days unless redeemed within such period.
- (c) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (b), the CCAS Director is authorized to reduce the period of confinement or impoundment to not less than three working days unless redeemed within such period during:
- (i) a State of Emergency, as declared by the Board of Commissioners, or
 - (ii) periods of CCAS shelter overcrowding.

For the purposes of this paragraph, overcrowding shall mean when, in the judgment of the Director, the number of animals within the CCAS shelter pose a risk to the health, safety, or welfare of the animals themselves, CCAS staff, or both. The Director's determination as to overcrowding shall be based on factors such as available kennel space, staffing levels, animal well-being indicators, and disease control considerations.

- (d) Wildlife or wild animals as defined by this chapter which have been captured by or come to be in the custody of CCAS shall not be deemed impounded and need not be retained for any minimum

length of time. Wildlife and wild animals received by CCAS will be disposed of in accordance with federal and state guidelines.

- (e) Any animal which is voluntarily surrendered to CCAS shall be deemed permanently relinquished to CCAS and may be immediately adopted, destroyed or otherwise disposed of as though it had been impounded.

ARTICLE V. – MISCELLANEOUS OFFENSES

Section 10-135 of the Official Code of Cobb County, Georgia, is amended, to read as follows:

Sec. 10-135. – Selling/giving away of animals; use of animals as prizes.

~~Selling or giving away animals in front of or on private property or public property, other than the animal owner's property, without the owner's permission, is prohibited. A licensed rescue group, licensed animal shelter, licensed veterinarian, licensed pet dealer, or licensed humane society which has all required governmental licenses, registrations and has obtained permission from the owner of the business or property, may sell or give away animals on private or public property, including but not limited to: retail stores, businesses, flea markets, yard sales and CCAS property.~~

(a) For purposes of this Code section, the term:

(1) 'Consideration' means anything of value, including, but not limited to, cash, credit, electronic payment, services, or any type of property or interest in property. A transaction shall be deemed to be 'for consideration' if it occurs in connection with any payment of consideration or other commercial transaction, including, but not limited to, a sale, adoption, rehoming, lease, trade, exchange, swap, or barter transaction.

(2) 'Transfer' means a transaction in which for consideration a dog, cat, or domestic rabbit, or any interest in any such animal, is exchanged, offered to be exchanged, or advertised for a commercial purpose.

(b) It shall be unlawful for any person to engage in the transfer of any dog, cat, or domestic rabbit at any roadside, public right of way, parkway, median, public or commercial parking lot or sidewalk, park, recreation area, fair, flea market, or a similar transient market or outdoor location, regardless of whether such activity is otherwise authorized by any person or entity.

(c) This Code section shall not apply to:

(1) The transfer of any dog, cat, or domestic rabbit by a person or entity that has and produces upon request, whether in paper, electronic, or other form, a valid animal shelter license issued by the State;

(2) Any transfer that takes place at a residence or inside of a veterinarian's office or other business establishment;

(3) The transfer of any dog, cat, or domestic rabbit by a paid entrant as part of an event or show sanctioned by a national breed club or association, 4-H program, or similar agricultural exhibition; or

(4) The prearranged transfer between a dog, cat, or domestic rabbit seller and a specific purchaser that takes place at a police department, sheriff's office, or other similar law enforcement facility during daylight hours, unless otherwise prohibited.

(d) A CCAS animal services officer is authorized to enforce the provisions of this Code section and to impound any animal subject to a transfer in violation of this Code section.

(e) A person found guilty of violating this Code section shall be subject to a fine not to exceed:

(1) For the first offense, \$100.00;

(2) For the second offense, \$250.00; and

(3) For a third or subsequent offense, \$500.00.

(f) Each violation of this article shall constitute a separate offense.

State Law Reference – Unlawful transfer of certain domestic animals O.C.G.A. § 4-11-10.1

(Ord. of 9-23-80, § 21; Ord. of 6-11-85; Ord. of 10-24-89; Ord. of 5-24-05; Amd. of 10-24-23)