

4 **ORDINANCE NO. 2026-__**

5
6 AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
7 OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA, AMENDING SECTION 72.02
8 OF THE ALACHUA COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES, ENTITLED
9 “DEFINITIONS”; AMENDING SECTION 72.05 TO PROVIDE
10 AUTHORIZATION FOR ALACHUA COUNTY SHERIFF ANIMAL
11 BUREAU TO ISSUE NOTICES AND CITATIONS FOR
12 VIOLATIONS; PROVIDING FOR REPEALING CLAUSE,
13 PROVIDING FOR MODIFICATION AT PUBLIC HEARING,
14 PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION
15 IN THE CODE, AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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18 **WHEREAS**, Section 828.27, Florida Statutes, authorizes the governing body of a county
19 to enact ordinances relating to animal control or cruelty; and

20 **WHEREAS**, Section 828.27, Florida Statutes, authorizes law enforcement to issue
21 citations if there is probable cause to believe that a person has committed a civil infraction in
22 violation of a duly enacted ordinance; and

23 **WHEREAS**, Chapter 72 of the Alachua County Code, currently known as the Alachua
24 County Animal Ordinance, adopts the laws of the State of Florida relating to animals, and provides
25 the local requirements related to animal control and animal welfare, including those related to
26 licensing, enforcement, impoundment, and humane treatment; and

27 **WHEREAS**, the County adopted its initial 2017-07 ordinance on July 11, 2017; and

28 **WHEREAS**, the County now desires to amend said provisions to assist with the
29 enforcement of the Alachua County Code relating to animals and to otherwise benefit public
30 health, safety and welfare.

31 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT DULY ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY**

1 **COMMISSIONERS OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:**

2 SECTION 1. Section 72.02 of the Alachua County Code of Ordinances, entitled

3 “Definitions,” is hereby amended as follows:

4 **Sec. 72.02 – Definitions**

5 Animal Resources Bureau is the designated Bureau at the Alachua County Sheriff’s
6 Office assigned to the investigation of possible violations of any provisions of this
7 chapter and provisions of state law relating to animal cruelty, distress and neglect.

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9 SECTION 2. Amendment. Alachua County Code, Part II, Chapter 72 on Alachua

10 County Animal Ordinance , specifically Section 72.05 is amended as follows:

11 **Sec. 72.05. - Enforcement authority.**

12 Animal resources is designated as the county agency responsible for the proper
13 enforcement of this chapter and is assigned the administrative functions of carrying out the
14 provisions of this chapter and other authorized duties. In carrying out the duties of this chapter,
15 enforcement officers may employ equipment, including but not limited to control poles, nets,
16 leashes of any construction, chemical capture devices, snake tongs, oleoresin capsicum
17 aerosols, snake hooks, humane traps, collapsible batons, and carrying cages. Enforcement
18 officers are empowered to enter upon public property and private property with the consent
19 of the property owner or the occupant, or by a warrant, or as otherwise provided for by law,
20 for the purposes of investigating possible violations of any provision of this chapter and
21 provisions of state law relating to animal cruelty, distress, neglect, and control, and for
22 capturing an animal and issuing notices and citations. Each enforcement officer shall have the
23 power to enforce the provisions of this chapter. Each enforcement officer shall be immune
24 from all civil and criminal liability, for his or her reasonable, good faith entry upon real
25 property while under the discharge of duties imposed by this chapter. Persons assigned to the
26 Animal Resource Bureau shall have the authority to issue notices and citations.

27 SECTION 3. Repealing Clause. All ordinances or portions thereof in conflict herewith
28 are, to the extent of such conflict, hereby repealed.

29 SECTION 4. Modification. It is the intent of the Board of County Commissioners that
30 the provisions of this ordinance may be modified as a result of considerations that may arise
31 during public hearings. Such modifications shall be incorporated into the final version of the
32 ordinance adopted by the Board and filed by the Clerk to the Board.

1 SECTION 5. Severability. If any word, phrase, clause, paragraph, section or provision of
2 this ordinance or the application hereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid or
3 unconstitutional, such finding shall not affect the other provisions or applications of the
4 ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid or unconstitutional provisions or
5 application, and to this end the provisions of this ordinance are declared severable.

6 SECTION 6. Inclusion in the Code. It is the intent of the Board of County
7 Commissioners of Alachua County, Florida, and it is hereby provided that the provisions of this
8 ordinance shall become and be made a part of the Code of Ordinances of Alachua County,
9 Florida; that the section of this ordinance may be renumbered or re-lettered to accomplish such
10 intent and that the word “ordinance” may be changed to “section”, “article”, or other appropriate
11 designation.

12 SECTION 7. Effective Date. A certified copy of this ordinance shall be filed with the
13 Department of State by the Clerk of the Board within ten (10) days after enactment by the
14 Board and shall take effect upon filing with the Department of State.

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16 **DULY ADOPTED** in regular session, this ___ day of _____, 2026.

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18 **BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF**
19 **ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA**

20
21 ATTEST:

22 BY: _____
23 Ken Cornell, Chair
24 Board of County Commissioners

25 _____
26 J.K. “Jess” Irby, Esq.
27 Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM

28 _____
29 County Attorney

30 (SEAL)