

ADOPTED

SEP 09 2025

**Board of Supervisors
James City County, VA**

ORDINANCE NO. 7A-27

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND REORDAIN CHAPTER 3, ANIMAL LAWS, OF THE CODE OF THE COUNTY OF JAMES CITY, VIRGINIA, BY AMENDING ARTICLE II, DOGS, DIVISION 2, LICENSES, SECTION 3-30, UNLICENSED DOGS PROHIBITED; SECTION 3-31, DOG LICENSES; SECTION 3-32, DISPOSITION OF FUNDS; SECTION 3-33, VETERINARIANS TO PROVIDE TREASURER WITH RABIES CERTIFICATE INFORMATION; CIVIL PENALTY; SECTION 3-34, EVIDENCE SHOWING INOCULATION FOR RABIES PREREQUISITE TO OBTAINING DOG OR CAT LICENSE; SECTION 3-35, DISPLAY OF LICENSE AND RECEIPT; SECTION 3-36, DUPLICATE LICENSE TAGS; SECTION 3-37, ANNUAL FEE IMPOSED ON DOGS AND KENNELS; SECTION 3-38, DOG LICENSE FEE; EXEMPTION FOR CERTAIN DOGS; SECTION 3-39, PRESUMPTION FOR DOG NOT WEARING COLLAR.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of James City, Virginia, that Chapter 3, Animal Laws, is hereby amended and reordained by amending Article II, Dogs, Division 2, Licenses, Section 3-30, Unlicensed dogs prohibited; Section 3-31, Dog licenses; Section 3-32, Disposition of funds; Section 3-33, Veterinarians to provide treasurer with rabies certificate information; civil penalty; Section 3-34, Evidence showing inoculation for rabies prerequisite to obtaining dog or cat license; Section 3-35, Display of license and receipt; Section 3-36, Duplicate license tags; Section 3-37, Annual fee imposed on dogs and kennels; Section 3-38, Dog license fee; exemption for certain dogs; Section 3-39, Presumption for dog not wearing collar.

Chapter 3. Animal Laws

Article II. Dogs

Division 2. Licenses

Sec. 3-30. Unlicensed dogs prohibited.

It shall be unlawful for any person to own a dog four months old or older in the county unless the dog is licensed and has a valid rabies vaccination, as required by the provisions of this ~~article~~ chapter.

Sec. 3-31. Dog licenses.

- (a) Required; application. Not later than 30 days after a dog has reached the age of four months or 30 days after a dog is obtained, Every owner of a dog over the age of four months dog owners who reside within the boundary limits of the county owned, possessed, or kept in the county shall obtain a dog license by making an oral or written application with the county treasurer or his designee.
- (b) License fee and vaccination certificate. Each application shall be accompanied by the amount of the license fee and current certificate of vaccination ~~as required by this chapter~~ or satisfactory evidence that such certificate has been obtained.

- (c) Authority of treasurer, issuance of license receipt. The treasurer, or his designee, shall only have authority to license dogs of resident owners who reside within the boundary limits of the county and may require information to this effect from any applicant. Upon receipt of the License fee and proper application and a valid rabies vaccination certificate, the treasurer or his designee shall issue a license. ~~The treasurer, or his designee receipt for the amount on which, he~~ shall record the name ~~and address~~ of the owner, the date of payment, ~~the year for which issued~~, the serial number of the tag, ~~whether male or female, whether spayed or neutered, or whether a kennel~~, and deliver the metal license tags or plates provided for herein. The tag shall be stamped or otherwise permanently marked to show the name of the county and bear a serial number or other identifying information as may be prescribed by the board of supervisors.
- (d) Retention of information; ~~treasurer to destroy unsold tags~~. The information thus received shall be retained by the treasurer, open to public inspection during the period for which such license is valid. ~~All unsold tags shall be recorded and the unissued tags destroyed by the treasurer at the end of each calendar year.~~
- ~~(e) False statements. It shall be unlawful for any person to make a false statement verbally or on an application in order to secure a dog license to which he is not entitled.~~

Sec. 3-32. Disposition of funds.

- (a) The county treasurer shall keep record all money collected for dog license fees pursuant to section 3-31 in a separate account from all other funds collected for dog license fees in a separate account from all other funds collected by the treasurer, to be used by the county by him, pursuant to this section in accordance with Code of Va., § 3.2-6534 and Code of Va., § 3.2-6535. ~~The county shall use the dog license funds for the following purposes:~~
- ~~(1) The salary and expenses of the animal control officer and necessary staff;~~
 - ~~(2) The care and maintenance of a public animal shelter;~~
 - ~~(3) The maintenance of a rabies control program;~~
 - ~~(4) Payments as a bounty to any person neutering or spaying a dog up to the amount of one year of the license fee as provided in section 3-31;~~
 - ~~(5) Payments for compensation as provided in section 3-24; and~~
 - ~~(6) Efforts to promote sterilization of dogs and cats.~~
- (b) ~~Any part or all of any surplus remaining in such account on December 31 of any year may be transferred into the general fund of the county.~~

Sec. 3-33. Veterinarians to provide treasurer with rabies certificate information; civil penalty.

Each veterinarian who vaccinates a dog against rabies or directs a veterinary technician in his employ to vaccinate a dog against rabies shall provide the owner a copy of the rabies vaccination certificate. The veterinarian shall forward within 45 days a copy of the rabies vaccination certificate or the information contained in such certificate to the treasurer of the locality in which the vaccination occurs.

The rabies vaccination certificate shall include at a minimum the signature of the veterinarian, the animal owner's name and address, the species of the animal, the sex, the age, the primary color, the primary breed, ~~the secondary breed~~, whether or not the animal is spayed or neutered, the vaccination number, and the vaccination expiration date. The rabies vaccination certificate shall indicate the locality in which the animal resides.

It shall be the responsibility of the owner of each vaccinated animal that is not already licensed to ~~apply for a license~~ obtain a county license for the vaccinated dog. If the treasurer determines, from review of the rabies vaccination information provided by veterinarians, that the owner of an ~~unlicensed~~ a dog has failed to apply for a license within 90 days of the date of vaccination, the treasurer shall transmit ~~an application a~~ notification to the owner ~~and request the owner to submit a completed application and pay the appropriate fee requesting payment for the license.~~ Upon receipt of ~~the completed application and the~~ payment of the license fee, the treasurer or other agent charged with the duty of issuing the dog licenses shall issue a license receipt and a permanent tag.

The treasurer shall remit any rabies vaccination certificate received for any animal owned by an individual residing in another locality to the local treasurer for the appropriate locality.

Any veterinarian that willfully fails to provide the treasurer with a copy of the rabies vaccination certificate or the information contained in such certificate shall be subject to a civil penalty of \$10.00 per certificate. Monies raised pursuant to this subsection shall be placed in the county's general fund for the purpose of animal control activities including, but not limited to, spay or neuter programs.

Sec. 3-34. Evidence showing inoculation for rabies prerequisite to obtaining dog ~~or cat~~ license.

No license tag shall be issued for any dog unless there is presented to the treasurer or his designee satisfactory evidence that such dog has ~~been inoculated or vaccinated~~ a current vaccination against rabies by a currently licensed veterinarian or currently licensed veterinary technician who was under the immediate and direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian on the premises.

Sec. 3-35. Display of license ~~and receipt~~.

~~Dog license receipts shall be carefully preserved by licensees and exhibited promptly upon request for inspection by the animal control officer or other officer of the county. The animal control officer or other duly appointed officers may check such receipts door to door at any time during the license year.~~ Dog license tags shall be securely fastened to a substantial collar by the owner or custodian and worn by such dog. It shall be unlawful for the owner to permit any licensed dog four months old or older to run or roam at large at any time without a license tag. The owner of the dog may remove the collar and license tag required by this section when (i) the dog is engaged in lawful hunting, (ii) the dog is competing in a dog show, (iii) the dog has a skin condition which would be exacerbated by the wearing of a collar, (iv) the dog is confined; or (v) the dog is under the immediate control of its owner.

Sec. 3-36. Duplicate license tags.

If a dog license tag is lost, destroyed or stolen, the owner or custodian shall at once apply to the county treasurer, or his designee, for a duplicate license tag, presenting ~~the original license receipt~~ a valid rabies certification. Upon affidavit of the owner before the county treasurer, or his designee, that the original license tag has been lost, destroyed, or stolen, the treasurer shall verify the valid rabies certification is recorded and issue a duplicate license tag which shall be immediately affixed to the collar of the dog by its owner. ~~The treasurer, or his designee, shall endorse the number of the duplicate license tag and the date of issuance on the face of the original license receipt.~~ The fee for a duplicate tag for any dog shall be \$1.00.

Sec. 3-37. Annual ~~f~~ Fee imposed on dogs and kennels.

There is hereby imposed ~~an annual dog~~ a license fee of \$15.00, valid for the life of the dog, upon ~~all dog kennels and~~ all dogs over the age of four months which are owned, possessed or kept in the county, ~~as follows:~~

- ~~(1) Male, female dogs\$8.00~~
- ~~(2) Spayed/neutered dogs5.00~~
- ~~(3) Kennel for up to ten dogs15.00~~
- ~~(4) Kennel for up to 20 dogs25.00~~
- ~~(5) Kennel for up to 30 dogs35.00~~
- ~~(6) Kennel more than 30 dogs50.00~~
- ~~(7) Duplicate for lost, destroyed or stolen tags1.00~~

It shall be unlawful for any person to conceal or harbor any dog on which any required license fee has not been paid.

Any person with an un-expired annual dog license issued prior to the effective date of this ordinance may trade the un-expired annual dog license for a lifetime dog license. No renewal fee will be required for these licenses.

Sec. 3-38. Dog license fee; exemption for certain dogs.

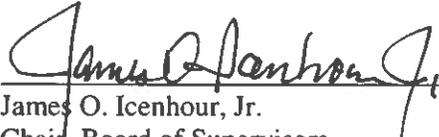
- ~~(a) The license tax as prescribed in this chapter is due not later than 30 days after a dog has reached the age of four months, or not later than 30 days after an owner acquires a dog four months of age or older, and each year thereafter.~~
- ~~(b) Any kennel license tax prescribed pursuant to this chapter shall be due on January 1 and not later than January 31 of each year.~~
- ~~(be) No license tax shall be levied on any dog that is trained and serves as a guide dog for a blind person, that is trained and serves as a hearing dog for a deaf or hearing impaired person or that is trained and serves as a service dog for a mobility-impaired or otherwise disabled person.~~

As used in this section, "hearing dog" means a dog trained to alert its owner by touch to sounds of danger and sounds to which the owner should respond and "service dog" means a dog trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of a mobility-impaired or otherwise disabled person. The work or tasks performed by a service dog shall be directly related to the individual's disability or disorder. Examples of work or tasks include providing nonviolent protection or rescue work, pulling a wheelchair, assisting an individual during a seizure, alerting an individual to the presence of allergens, retrieving items, carrying items, providing physical support and assistance with balance and stability, and preventing or interrupting impulsive or destructive behaviors. The provision of emotional support, well-being, comfort, or companionship shall not constitute work or tasks for the purposes of this definition.

Sec. 3-39. Presumption for dog not ~~wearing collar~~ displaying license.

Any dog not wearing a collar bearing a valid license tag shall prima facie be deemed to be unlicensed, and in any proceedings under this chapter the burden of proof of the fact that such dog has been licensed, or is otherwise not required to bear a tag at the time, shall be on the owner of the dog. Violations of the vaccination requirements of this section shall be handled in accordance with Article III of this Chapter. Any dog owner failing to pay any license tax required by this section later than 30 days after a dog has reached the age of four months or 30 days after a dog is obtained by an owner who resides within the county shall be guilty of a Class 4 misdemeanor. In addition, the court may order confiscation and the proper disposition of the dog.




James O. Icenhour, Jr.
Chair, Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:


Teresa J. Saeed
Deputy Clerk to the Board

	VOTES			
	<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
HIPPLE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	___	___	___
NULL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	___	___	___
LARSON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	___	___	___
MCGLENNON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	___	___	___
ICENHOUR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	___	___	___

Adopted by the Board of Supervisors of James City County, Virginia, this 9th day of September, 2025.

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