COUNTY OF GEORGETOWN

AN ORDNANCE TO AMEND THE GEORGETOWN COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES RELATED TO RESTRAINING ANIMALS

)

)

)

WHEREAS, on August 21, 2007, Georgetown County Council adopted Ordinance No. 2007-06, to amend animal control regulations for Georgetown County; and

WHEREAS, the same has been subsequently amended, and the noted ordinances are currently codified in Chapter 4, Article II, Animal Control, of the Georgetown County Code of Ordinances; and

WHEREAS, Georgetown County, after due deliberation and study has determined it to be in the best interest of the people of Georgetown County that such ordinance be further amended;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED AND DECREED by the Georgetown County Council, the governing body of Georgetown County, the following:

The Georgetown County Code of Ordinances, **Chapter 4. ANIMALS AND FOWL**, is hereby amended as follows:

A. Tethering: It shall be unlawful for any owner, possessor, or party having custody and control to tether any dog, cat, or other domestic animal except under the following conditions:

1. The animal must be over the age of six months, and;

2. The animal must be within the unobstructed visual range of the responsible party, and;

3. The animal at all times has free and unobstructed access to shelter, sustenance, and necessities of life, and;

4. The animal is not tethered on any property that is not occupied by a responsible party having care, custody, and control of the animal, and;

5. The animal is not left unattended nor tethered for longer than eight hours in any twenty-four hours period, and;

6. The animal is connected to the tether with a buckle type collar or a body harness made of nylon, polyester, cotton, and/or leather of the most suitable size and fit for the animal's neck and/or torso, and;

7. The tether is a minimum of twelve feet in length with a swivel type termination at both ends, and is not made of chain, and has a total weight of no more than five percent of the animal's body weight, and:.

8. The animal is not left outside from after sunset to sunrise nor during any periods of inclement or extreme weather without free and unobstructed access to shelter, sustenance, and necessities of life.

B. Kennels, Pens and Running Lines: It shall be unlawful for any owner, possessor, or party having custody and control to restrain or confine any dog, cat, or other domestic animal by any kennels, pens, running line, or other similar device except under the following conditions:

1. If attached to any pulley, running line, or trolley system:

a. The animal must be over the age of six months, and;

b. The tether is no more than approximately seven feet above ground and of sufficient length to allow a run of a minimum of approximately ten feet in any direction and has a total weight of no more than five percent of the animal's body weight,, and;

c. The animal is connected to the tether with a buckle type collar or a body harness made of nylon, polyester, cotton, and/or leather of the appropriate size and fit for the animal's weight, height, neck and/or torso, and size;

2. If kenneled or penned, the animal must:

a. Be within the unobstructed visual range of the responsible party; and,b. Not located on any property that is not occupied by a responsible party charged with having care, custody, and control of the animal; and,

c. In any enclosure in which the animal does not have sufficient room, given the size of the animal relevant to its enclosure to freely run and exercise, the animal shall not be confined for longer than six hours without being released for adequate exercise of a minimum of one hour total in any twenty-four hours period and of no less than fifteen minutes at any single time; and,

d. At all times have free and unobstructed access to shelter, sustenance, and necessities of life; and,

e. The animal is checked by a responsible party on regular intervals at least once every twenty-four hour period; and,

f. The animal is not abandoned or left unattended and confined during events of acts of God or Force Majeure.

g. Paragraphs a, b, c, notwithstanding, animals kept for lawful hunting, sporting, and farming use may be kenneled or penned on unoccupied property, provided that the requirements of paragraphs d, e, and f are met.

C. As used in this Ordinance, the terms "Animal," "Shelter," Sustenance" and "Necessities of life" shall have the same meanings as those same terms are defined in S.C. Code Ann. §47-1-10 and S.C. Code Ann. §47-1-70 and shall be deemed to apply in the singular or plural as the case may be. In addition, for purposes of this Ordinance, "shelter" as used herein shall mean, in addition to its meaning under §47-1-10, a structure that at a minimum includes a roof, three sides, and such insulation or other coverings as are reasonably necessary to adequately protect the animal from heat, cold, and other weather elements. If the structure may serve as shelter during any extreme weather conditions, including but not limited to extreme heat, temperatures below 45 degrees Fahrenheit, snow, hail, tornados, thunder storms, tropical storms or hurricanes, it must be constructed so as to provide sufficient safe and adequate shelter from any and all such extreme weather conditions.

D. In all cases of violations of this ordinance the owner, or in the cases of a minor, the parent, guardian, or responsible party of the minor, shall be held as the party responsible for any violation. Violations of this ordinance shall be punishable under S.C. Code Annotated §47-1-70B, as amended.

This Ordinance, No. 22-25, shall be effective upon third reading approval and final adoption.

DONE IN REGULAR MEETING THIS	DAY OF	, 2022.

(Seal)

Louis R. Morant, Chairman Georgetown County Council

ATTEST:

Theresa E. Floyd, Clerk to Council (Seal)

This Ordinance, No. 22-25, has been reviewed by me and is hereby approved as to form and legality.

(Seal)

John D. Watson III Georgetown County Attorney

First Reading:

Second Reading:

Third Reading: