



Commissioners Review Comprehensive Rewrite of Animal Control Ordinance

Posted on October 6, 2025 by Carey Fauscett-Anderson

TRENTON, Ga. (October 6, 2025) — The Dade County Board of Commissioners reviewed a complete rewrite of Chapter 14 of the county's Code of Ordinances, which governs animal control, during its October workshop meeting. The new draft is intended to consolidate years of amendments, improve clarity, and align local regulations with current state law.

County Attorney Robin Rogers explained that the existing ordinance had been revised numerous times over the years, creating inconsistencies and making enforcement difficult. "After reviewing the existing code, we found that it had been amended so often that it no longer flowed well," Rogers said. "This version replaces those piecemeal updates with a single, comprehensive document."

Commissioners discussed how to move forward with the proposal. Commissioner Bob Woods asked whether the rewrite incorporated all relevant state statutes as well as existing county provisions. Rogers confirmed that it did, explaining that the draft integrates both, ensuring compliance with state requirements while maintaining the county's established standards.

Commissioner Melissa Bradford expressed support for moving the process forward and suggested that the board could consider a first reading, with the understanding that amendments could still be made prior to final adoption.

Commissioners Bill Pullen and Phillip Hartline both agreed that a thorough review was warranted, emphasizing the importance of taking sufficient time to read the full document before advancing it to a vote.

Chairman Don Townsend summarized the discussion, noting that members of the Trenton-Dade Animal Control (TDAC) Advisory Board are also expected to review the draft and provide recommendations at their next meeting. "We've had a lot of good input over the past several months," Townsend said. "This is an important update, and we want to make sure the final version is both enforceable and fair to our citizens."



By consensus, the board agreed to table the draft for 30 days to allow time for additional feedback from commissioners, staff, and TDAC members. The updated ordinance is expected to return for consideration at the board's regular meeting on Thursday, November 6, 2025.

Once adopted, the revised Animal Control Ordinance will be codified into the County Code and serve as the governing framework for animal services and enforcement throughout Dade County.