



Commissioners Adopt Updates to County Animal Ordinance Following Months of Review

Posted on December 5, 2025 by Carey Fauscett-Anderson

TRENTON, Ga. (Dec. 4, 2025) — The Dade County Board of Commissioners unanimously adopted revisions to Chapter 14 – Animals of the county code during its December regular meeting, completing a months-long review process aimed at improving clarity, consistency with state law and enforceability.

County Attorney Robin Rogers presented the ordinance on second reading, noting that the updates were developed collaboratively over several months in coordination with commissioners, county staff and legal counsel. The revisions repeal conflicting language and establish clearer standards for animal control procedures and public safety protections.

Among the most significant changes, the updated ordinance aligns the county’s definition of a “dangerous dog” with Georgia state law and clarifies that classification hearings will be conducted through Probate Court, providing a defined legal pathway for due process.

During discussion, Commissioner Melissa Bradford thanked Rogers for her work on the ordinance and acknowledged the significant time and effort required to bring the revisions forward. Bradford described the ordinance’s adoption as a milestone and emphasized that continued evaluation and improvement will remain important.

“This has been a lot of work, and it’s a celebration to get it through,” Bradford said. “There’s still more work to be done, and we can continue to make it better.”

Commissioners also addressed public concerns raised during the ordinance review, including questions related to vaccination requirements for animals. Board members noted that rabies vaccination remains an important public health measure to protect residents, pets and first responders.

Commissioners Review Updated Animal Control Ordinance Draft



The Dade County Commission reviewed a comprehensive rewrite of the county's animal control ordinance to align local regulations with state law and improve enforcement clarity.

Posted on October 6, 2025
by: Carey Fauscett-Anderson

Following discussion, the board approved the ordinance on second reading as part of the consent agenda. The vote was unanimous.

The adoption of the updated animal ordinance reflects the county's commitment to balancing responsible pet ownership, public safety and clear, enforceable regulations. Commissioners indicated that county ordinances will continue to be reviewed and refined as community needs and state requirements evolve.

