

MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE ON ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL

CHAPTER I. OBJECT AND APPLICABILITY OF THIS ORDINANCE

Article 1.- The present Ordinance aims to regulate the topic of animals ownership and/or care, in order to make it compatible with adequate standards of hygiene, public health and safety of people and properties, as well as to guarantee the proper protection and welfare of animals.

Article 2.- The Municipal Health Department shall have the power to manage all aspects relating the subject of this ordinance.

Article 3.- Applicability

The present ordinance shall be applicable within the boundaries of Torrevieja municipality, and shall apply to all natural and legal persons which fall under the concept of animal owner, trader, carer, trainer, tamer, member of pigeon training and/or ornithology association or similar, animal farmer or person relating to animals, either permanently, occasionally or accidentally.

Conservation and Protection of local wildlife, hunting and fish farming activities, and experimentation and vivisection of animals, together with other specific animal-related matters regulated in their specific legal bodies, will not be under the application of the present Ordinance.

Article 4.- Pets, animals destined to human exploitation, wild animals and abandoned animals.

For the purposes of this by-law, a pet is an animal kept by the human for the sole pleasure of companionship, whether wild or domesticated, native or non-native species, with no intention of economical profit.

Farmed or exploited animal is the one that, being either wild or domesticated, native or non-native, is kept by the humans for economical profit or exploitation.

A feral or wild animal is the one that, being native or non-native, terrestrial, aquatic or aerial, shows clear signs of not having coexisted together with humans, which can be concluded after the observation of the behaviour the animal displays or after his/her lack of identification with humans.

Article 5.- Justified or necessary harm

A justified harm or a necessary harm is the one done onto the animal for her/his own benefit, and there must be a logical cause-effect link in between the harm caused and the benefit aimed, and in virtue of health or humane needs.

CHAPTER THREE

GENERAL DISPOSITIONS

Article 6.- Animal Slaughter

Animal slaughter shall be carried away in an instantaneous and painless way, inside authorised premises and under the supervision of a veterinarian.

Article 7.- Animal transportation

Transportation of alive animals shall be done in the most rapid manner and with the appropriate cages, which shall be adapted to the physical and ethological characteristics of the animals transported, with sufficient space, and duly protected from knocks, from adverse climatology or from any other type of aggression that may occur during transportation.

Cages shall be kept properly sanitized and shall be totally disinfected and wormed. Cage's materials must be safe and not cause any harm or wounds.

Cages shall indicate on their external part that they contain alive animals as well as the indications of UP and DOWN.

Animals shall be regularly fed and provided with drinking water, in order to avoid their suffering.

Loading and unloading of alive animals shall be performed by experienced staff and respecting the specific conditions of the animals.

As a general rule, transportation of sick, wounded, debilitated, pregnant and lactating animals as well as animals that are not in good physical conditions, will be forbidden, except for assistance purposes.

Article 8.- Veterinarians

All veterinarians must open a file on each animal they assist, containing information about the medical assistance provided to them, vaccines and mandatory medical treatments applied, and these files will be available for perusal by the corresponding authority. Veterinarians shall as well collaborate with the elaboration of the municipal census on pets.

Animals with no known owner, or with obvious symptoms of suffering a contagious illness,

terminal conditions or that appear to be severely wounded, shall receive first aids or any necessary health treatment as determined by the veterinarian.

CHAPTER FOUR

PETS

Article 9.- Pet owner's obligations

Pet owner's will have the following obligations: to keep the animal in good health and hygiene conditions, to provide him/her with shelter, and to adopt all necessary measures in order to avoid the animal to get lost or to escape.

Pet owner's are liable for any harm caused by the animal to other people.

Pets must be properly sheltered in adequate conditions of habitability, security and well-being, according to his/her specific breed or species. Pets must be properly fed and supplied with drinking water, in order to assure them a good nutritional and healthy balance.

Pet owners must also protect their pets from any possible aggression or nuisance from other people or other animals.

Pet owners must cover for all mandatory and preventive health treatments as established by the administrative authorities, and must also inform to the veterinarian services, as soon as detected, about any possible symptom observed in their pet that may denote the presence of a contagious disease transmissible to man.

In case of potentially dangerous animals, their owners must as well accomplish with the prevailing legal regulations on the matter.

Owners are obliged to register at the Municipal Animals Registry all animals belonging to canine or feline species, as well as wild animals as long as they are kept as pets or domestic animals and regardless of their level of aggressivity, and if they belong to any species or breeds that could cause death or injuries to other people, animals or cause harm to things. In the rest of cases, animal's registration will be voluntary.

SECTION I

ABOUT ANIMAL'S OWNERS

Article 10.- Guardian Dogs

The present ordinance must be scrupulously accomplished when being the owner of a watch dog,

specially the contents of article 9 regarding animals registration.

Guardian dogs must at all times be under the surveillance of their owners and must be kept in premises where they can not hurt any other person, animal or cause harm to things. Those premises will be properly signalled with a warning post about the presence of the guardian dog.

Under any circumstances must an animal be abandoned outdoors or left to live constantly outdoors, and must always have a proper shelter where he/she can protect him/herself from rain, cold, heat, wind... or adverse climate conditions. Animal's kennels must be wide enough and properly isolated.

Guardian dogs must be at least six months old and can not remain leashed for more than three consecutive hours. This rule shall apply to any leashed animal. When animals are to be kept tethered, they must have freedom of movement and the leash must have a minimum length of four times the full length of the animal (measured from the muzzle or snout to the tip of the tail). A bowl with fresh drinking water must be at reach in these cases.

In all cases, watch dogs must be kept within opaque fences with such a thickness that will not allow the muzzle or extremities of the animal to stick out, and they will never be left in abandoned houses or land plots.

Article 11.- Animals in urban housing

When animals are to be kept inside a house, housing conditions must be appropriate and must not endanger normal standards of hygiene, health and public security. Animals so kept must not disturb neighbours, and the alleged number of animals will never justify such nuisances.

When the corresponding municipal authority declares, after a technical veterinarian report, that animals can not continue to live on certain houses or premises, owners must remove animals from the house, and if they did not carry out this task, municipal services shall proceed to the removal of animals, notwithstanding the owner's liability.

In case of reported cruelty, torture, undernourishment or mistreatment of animals, the Local Corporation shall have the power, after the corresponding procedure and physical examinations of the animals concerned, to order the removal of these animals and to determine a new location for them. The same power shall be applied in cases of contagious diseases to man or to other animals, and the Local Corporation shall decide, after the proper report is issued by the municipal veterinarian services, the application of a medical treatment or even the euthanasia.

All pets kept inside an urban housing must have enough space, ventilation, humidity, temperature, light and proper shelter in order to meet their vital needs. Under any circumstances may an animal be locked in rooms, small rooms or abandoned houses.

Article 12.- It is forbidden to continuously keep dogs, cats and other animals in flat's balconies or terraces. If animals bark, meow or make other noises characteristic of their species, during the nighttime, owners can be sued. They may be also prosecuted when keeping animals outdoors during adverse weather conditions or if the shelters provided to animals make those adverse conditions even worse.

Article 13.- Animals in public streets

Dogs must be walked always leashed. They shall be also muzzled when the animal's character could be aggressive or dangerous, or when the local authority determines so, and in any case, always under the owner's responsibility. Dogs must wear a collar with an identification tag of the register number assigned at the Municipal Animal Registry. In any case, animals will be identified through indelible means duly authorised and homologated.

Article 14.- Dogs and other animals may remain unleashed only within the special areas, as delimited by the Local Corporation. In open areas or public gardens with no assigned delimited areas, the animal must always wear a collar, be leashed, and muzzled when necessary.

Access to sand beaches is always forbidden, except for the dog friendly beaches and in the terms legally established. Access to playgrounds for children, public streets and public or community swimming pools is also forbidden. When all these aforementioned areas were not properly fenced, animals must be leashed to avoid their access to such areas.

Article 15.- Animal's stools

Any person walking a dog or any other animal has the responsibility to avoid the animal's stools to be left on streets, roads, promenades, gardens and in general on any pedestrians area. When there were not specific areas for leaving animal's faeces, the carrier or the person taking care of the animal must lead him/her to the kerbside or close to the sewer grid, or close to non pedestrians areas and in every case must avoid playgrounds. In all cases the person responsible for the animal shall pick up the stools left and even clean the dirt left on the street areas when necessary. For this purposes:

- a) waterproof bags can be used
- b) after the picking-up, bags shall be tightly sealed or tied and then thrown into proper waste bins
- c) when bags have not been used, stools may be left only in the specific delimited areas for dogs when available, or on the sewer's grids.

Article 16.- Transportation of animals in private vehicles

Animals must be transported in private vehicles in a way that assures both the safe driving of the vehicle and the appropriate transportation of the animals from their physiological and ethological perspective. They must travel in the rear part of the vehicle and must not have access to the driver during the transportation.

Animals shall be left inside a vehicle only for short periods of time and in the shade, with the car windows slightly open in order to allow proper ventilation. Local Police officers may rescue any animal left inside a vehicle when his/her life may be in danger.

In the event of an animal being hit by a vehicle when walking on urban streets, the driver of such a vehicle is obliged to report the accident as soon as possible to the local authorities, notwithstanding the pertinent police reports that shall be elaborated, and with the purpose of assuring the safe driving to the rest of road users.

If the animal were injured after the car struck, the driver has the obligation of taking the injured animal to the nearest veterinarian centre, if the owner or harbourer of the animal is not present or is unable to take the injured animal by his/her own means and if there is no danger for the physical integrity of the driver. Under any circumstances must an injured animal be left alone and unattended.

Article 17.- Guide Dogs

Guide dogs may travel in any public transportation and have access to public premises, spaces and entertainments, free of charge, when accompanying the visually impaired person, and when accomplishing with the regulations about proper accreditation, as contained in the Law 1/1998 of

the 5th of May on Accessibility and Suppression of Architectural, Urban and Communication Obstacles issued by the Valencian Government.

Article 18.- Public Transportation

As a general rule, all small animals being carried inside cages, kennels or any other similar device that assures the well-being of the animal and the impossibility of the animal to escape from such pet carriers, may all have access to public transportation.

In the rest of cases, the driver may deny the access to public transportation to the animals that may cause nuisances to the rest of passengers. If there were a specific place inside the vehicle for the purposes of animal transportation, the animal may then be transported in such areas.

Article 19.- Lifts

As a general rule, and for the exception of guide dogs, using lifts with pets must be done when lifts are not being used by other people when those people requires so.

Article 20.- Animals inside public premises

Except for guide dogs, the owners of hotels, guesthouses, bars, restaurants, coffee places, public premises and similar places, will have the freedom to decide if dogs may enter their premises, and they must duly signal it at the entrance of premises.

Even when dogs are allowed in the premises, dogs must still be properly identified, wear a muzzle and be tethered with a leash, tie or resistant rope. This conditions may be required as well for other type of animals.

Article 21.- Access to Public events

Except for guide dogs, access of animals to public, cultural or sport events is not permitted, unless the very same nature of these events requires the presence of the animals concerned.

Article 22.- Animals at Food Establishments

It is generally forbidden to grant animals access to food establishments. Food establishments may have specific areas destined to the proper tethering of animals whilst their owners or carers are inside the premises.

In the case of the presence of guard dogs in the premises of a food establishment, the aforementioned animals may enter areas where the food supplies are stored only when led or accompanied by the security personnel and with extreme care for the maintenance of due hygienical conditions.

Article 23.- Bus Stations

Dogs are allowed to walk around bus stations premises when walked by humans and when properly leashed, muzzled and in good health conditons.

Article 24.- Animals at the seashore

24.1- Animals can not bathe in the sea, except for the cases of " animal friendly" beaches as regulated in municipal bylaws.

24.2- Town Hall will properly signal the prohibition of access to animals into local beaches.

24.3- Guide dogs will be allowed into the beaches when serving their visually impaired owner.

24.4- Those persons infringing the above regulation will immediately leave the beach together with their animals, and may confront a police report with the results of a sanctionary administrative procedure.

SECTION II

ON AGRESSIONS

Article 25.- Owner's duties

Animals causing injuries to other people, as well as biting or suspect of rabies, must be under veterinarian supervision for a period of 14 days. In-house observation may be approved under the owner's requirement, who will present, before the corresponding sanitary services, the Veterinarian Certificate of sanitary treatment.

The owner or carer of an agressor animal must report to the corresponding sanitary services, within the following 24 hours after the agression, the fact of the agression ocured, the information about the animal, about the person attacked or their legal representatives, or to the competent authorities.

Veterinarian expenses will be paid by the animal's owner or carer.

When the aggressor animal is an abandoned one, seizure and impoundment shall be promoted by the attacked person or by the corresponding municipal services, and protective care provided at the pertinent premises.

Article 26.-Municipal Impoundment

When impoundment at the municipal pound occurs as a result of a decission made by the corresponding authority, such impoundment order must specify the reasons for impoundment, estimated time of impoundment and the person or organisation responsible for the payment of expenses and fees. If after 20 working days of impoundment, and with prior notification, the animal is not being picked up from the Municipal Pound, the poundkeeper may reshelter or destroy the animal in an immediate and humane way.

Article 27.- The Municipal Authority may dispone, prior report issued by the municipal veterinarian services, the destruction of an animal diagnosed with rabies. In this case, no compensation will be possible.

CHAPTER V

ANIMAL BREEDING AND TRADING

Article 28.- Premises

Premises destined to animal breeding and/or trading must fulfill, at least, the following general requirements:

- a) be registered as a "zoological centre" by the Valencian Community Department of Agriculture, Fishing and Food; that registry number must be displayed and visible to the public on the very same premises
- b) keep a registry of animals and veterinarian treatments undertaken; this registry will be always at the authority's disposal

- c) premises must be properly located and adequately isolated in order to protect the citizens from contagious animal diseases and viceversa.
- d) must have all necessary equipments to maintain a hygienic environment, an adequate protection against infections and the easy performance of any zoosanitary activity. Premises must have either a natural or an artificial ventilation system, in order to guarantee the proper temperature and air conditions for the animals.
- e) have both cold and hot water supply
- f) have a proper and a hygienic waste removal system and a waste water disposal, which minimises the risk of contagious diseases to both people and animals.
- g) cages, kennels, rooms and spaces will be easy to clean and disinfect, specially when those areas are destined to surveillance, seizing or isolation of sick animals or of animals suspected of being sick.
- h) must have proper cleaning and disinfection means in order to keep not only the premises clean, but also the tools, materials and vehicles used for the care of animals
- i) must have adequate premises for the hygienic destruction of animals and destruction of other potentially infectious matters
- j) must carry a defined hygienic and prophylaxis plan, as approved by a certified Vet Technician
- k) must carry a defined plan for the good health conditions of animals, according to their ethological and physiological features
- l) must collaborate with the Town Hall for the purposes of the Municipal Animal Registry. Animals must be kept healthy and dewormed before they are sold, and must be provided with a veterinarian certificate declaring such information. Premises must keep a record of animals received and sold, with indication of the animal's origins, destiny and a short description, including their registry number
- m) must respect the occupancy limits of animals, as established in proportion to the total surface of premises
- n) must issue a purchase receipt for each animal traded and must hand the buyer the legal required documentation
- o) provide a proper food plan for each type of animal
- p) provide the animals with adequate veterinarian care and accomplish with the legal vaccination plans
- q) exhibition of animals in shop windows is prohibited
- r) animals may be exposed indoors, together with a brief description containing his/her date of birth, vaccines and deworming. Animals will not be exposed to direct sunlight and will be kept at all times in proper temperature and in the best conditions, according to the animal species concerned, assuring his/her adequate rest and security
- s) animals will be kept in suitable kennels, cages and receptacles according to their size, ethology and physiology
- t) under any circumstances animals of a certain age shall be kept inside such kennels, cages and receptacles for the entire day

The person concerned must show proof of legal possession of the animals, according to the EU Regulations when affecting species under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

Article 29.- Animal trading

Animal sellers will be responsible for potential incubated diseases or hidden injuries for a minimum period of a month after the purchase of the animal, even when the correspondent veterinarian certificate had been issued.

Article 30.- Opening License

The granting of the corresponding opening license for businesses for animal's breeding and trading will be subjected to the full compliance of article 28.

CHAPTER VI

PREMISES FOR ANIMAL KEEPING

Article 31.- Object

A premise for animal keeping comprehends animal boarding facilities, training schools, rehalas (groups of hunting dogs), animal hostels and animal shelters (both public and private), and in general any other premises destined to keep pet and domestica animals in.

These type of premises shall request an opening license from the municipal authorities, besides the declaration from the Valencian Community Department for Agriculture, Fishing and Food. Their license number must be at display on the premises.

All these type of premises must also be registered in a specific municipal registry of premises for animals.

Article 32.- Animals Registry

All animal centres are obliged to keep a record or registry of any animal kept at their premises together with the identity of their owners or people responsible for the animals. Businesses will provide this information at any time local authorities may request it. Businesses also shall collaborate with the Town Hall in the municipal census of domestic animals.

The Animals Registry shall gather the following information: full animal description, origin, census registration number, identification code, vaccinations, deworming and health conditions of the animal at the moment of his/her delivering into the business premises.

Article 33.- Veterinarian service

All the aforementioned premises shall have a veterinarian service which will assure the good health conditions and the application of adequate veterinarian treatments to the animals.

At the moment of entry animals shall be kept isolated until the veterinarian service cheks on the health conditions of the animals. The veterinarian services will be responsible for the adequate adaptative process of each animal, his/her proper feeding and safety conditions.

If an animal gets sick, this fact will be inmediately notified to his/her owner or to the legally responsible person, who may authorise the veterinarian services to apply sanitary treatment to the animals affected, or who may pick up themselves the sick animals. This shall not be applicable in case of contagious diseases.

In any case, the owners of premises must take all necessary measures in order to prevent the appearance of contagious diseases.

Article 34.- Zoos and other sheltering centers for animals

Zoos, aquariums, aviaries, reptilariums and other spaces destined to the keeping of animals in, must all fulfill the aforelisted conditions in order to be legally established. In order to avoid endogamy, they must be registered at the International Union of Zoos Directors.

Zoos in Torrevieja shall have the main aim of education, scientific research and conservation of the animal life in his/her natural environment, and not mainly the animals exhibition to the public.

Circuses with animals and similar activities must be granted permission from the local authority prior to the performance of their activities, subjected in any case to the presentation of the following documents for municipal perusal and approval:

- 1.- A report or account on the activity intended with the animals possessed, in the terms expressed in article 28.
- 2.- A full list of animals possessed with their CITES certificate if necessary
- 3.- Registration at the National Registry of Zoological Centres under the category of "circus zoo" and similar activities
- 4.- Sanitary Veterinarian Certificate issued within the previous 15 days, as maximum.

Article 35.- Subsidies

Town Hall may grant subsidies to authorised municipal entities destined to the care of abandoned animals, under the condition that such entities fulfill all due legal requirements as established in the present by-law.

CHAPTER VII

WILD ANIMALS

Article 36.- Wild animals possession, trading and exhibition

The possession, trading and exhibition of animals from local wildlife for the purposes of breeding and trading will be subjected to the accomplishment of all legal requirements as established in Chapter VI. CITES certificate will be also mandatory when necessary.

Article 37.- Non-native Fauna

It is forbidden to hunt, possess, dissect, trade, interchange or publicly exhibit any animal declared as a protected species by Treaties and Agreements signed by the Spanish Government. Only in the exceptional cases regulated in such Treaties and Agreements shall the possession, trade and exhibition of such species be authorised.

Article 38.- Wild animals at home

Wild animals can be kept at private houses if they do not cause any nuisance or risk to neighbours, are kept in hygienic and safe conditions for the public health, and are properly sheltered according to their physiologic features and needs. In any case, the Municipal Veterinarian Services must approve it by issuing a favourable report.

If this report dismissed the possession of wild animals in private houses, it must then indicate other possible alternatives such as: seizing of the animals, isolating them for sanitary surveillance or treatment, measures that need to be undertaken by the owners in order to improve or correct current circumstances, or even the humane destruction of the animals concerned.

Article 39.- Zoosanitary dispositions

Likewise, general zoosanitary regulations must always be accomplished, as well as any other regulations passed in case of epizootic disease as preventive legal measures.

Article 40.- Trading, selling, possessing or using massive and non-selective procedures for the capture or death of animals, and most in particular venoms, poisoned baits, any kind of animal traps, birdlimes, and in general any hunting methods not authorised by the European and Spanish regulations and by the Treaties and Agreements subscribed by the Spanish Government, will be forbidden.

CHAPTER VIII

DOMESTIC ANIMALS FOR THE PURPOSES OF HUMAN EXPLOITATION

Article 41.- Animal's maintainance and conditions

Animals classified for human exploitation, as defined in article 4, shall only be kept in non-urban soils as delimited in the Urban Planning of Torrevieja, and shall never be kept in private houses. Those animals shall be kept always separate and inside special habitacles adapted to their species needs.

Premises containing animals of this kind shall accomplish all legal regulations on the matter, as well as the Regulation on Disturbing, Unhealthy, Hazardous and Dangerous Activities, and most specially the rules concerning premises construction and location.

It is forbidden to breed poultry, rabbits, doves and similar animals within the town and in private houses within the town boundaries. Exceptions may be made according to the number of animals bred and the premises adequate conditions.

Article 42.- Animal exploitation shall be presumed when there are more than 3 animals with different genders and there is an ongoing commercial activity; in these cases the corresponding municipal license shall be mandatory.

Article 43.- All stabling activities require the issuing of the corresponding municipal license, must be registered as such, and must accomplish all sanitary requirements established by law

Article 44.- Animal transportation, both within the municipality and outside the municipality, shall be carried out in accordance with the Law and Regulation on Epizootic Diseases and in compliance with the present regulation.

Article 45.- Owners of stabled domestic animals for human exploitation must inform the corresponding Veterinarian Services about any new animals they stable and about their sanitary documentation.

Article 46.- For grave sanitary reasons or in compliance with a legal disposition, the Municipal Authority, after the corresponding technical report, may compel the owners of domestic animals to voluntarily move the animals from their current locations, or may proceed to force them to do so, without prejudice of the criminal and civil liability that may arise in any particular case.

Article 47.- Slaughter of animals

The slaughter of animals bred for human exploitation, shall be killed in an instantaneous and painless manner, prior stunning of the animal; the use of chemical products will not be permitted for such purposes.

Article 48.- Dead animals

It is forbidden to abandon the corpses of animals, or their bodily parts, whether they are pets or not.

Municipal services will collect the dead bodies of animals, with proper hygienical procedures. Prior to their burial, cremation or hygienical destruction, the municipal services will try to contact their owners or carers.

Animal's owners shall pay the corresponding municipal tax for the above mentioned services, as established in the local fiscal regulations.

CHAPTER IX

ABANDONED ANIMALS

Article 49.- Procedure for abandoned animals

Animals that appear to be abandoned will be taken to the Local Impound. Any person over 18 years old may request in person or call the local impoundment services in order to report an abandoned animal.

Local wild animals shall be rendered as soon as possible to the Environmental Regional Department. Non-native wild animals shall be previously identified if possible, and if they were not properly identified or their ownership were not a legal one, then they shall be rendered to the Valencian Community Environmental Department.

When wild animals belong to a catalogued protected species, no matter their provenance, they may also be rendered to the above mentioned services, notwithstanding their later delivery to the due Rescue Centers, as established in International Treaties.

Article 50.- Feeding animals and unidentified animals

Feeding animals shall be forbidden in general, except for public spaces where is not prohibited. If feeding animals were permitted in public areas, animal dry food should be always used and the area should be cleaned afterwards.

Unidentified animals that are found wandering around urban and interurban areas, with no collar or no tag on, and with no human person being in charge of them, or whose owners are not able to identify them through the legally established ways, may be picked up by the municipal pound services and shall be destroyed within a minimum period of 20 working days, unless they are claimed by the person who proves to be their legitimate owner.

If animals were properly identified, their legitimate owners shall be notified about the fact of the impoundment, and they may proceed to claim their animals within the following 20 working days, starting to count on the day after the last attempt for notification was made.

Article 51.- Wild Fauna

Wild native abandoned fauna shall be released into the wild if the Territorial Environmental Services approve so and the animal's conditions allow it.

Article 52.- Destruction of Animals

Impounded animals shall be destroyed by instantaneous and painless procedures, being the use of strychnine and other venoms, as well as any other painful procedures, strictly forbidden. The destruction of the animal shall be done under veterinarian supervision.

Article 53.- During the time of impoundment, animals shall be kept in proper conditions in accordance with their biological needs.

CHAPTER X

ON MUNICIPAL SERVICES

Article 54.- Abandoned animals

Town Hall shall be competent to collect, shelter, give in adoption and destroy any abandoned animal, as well as to render collected animals to their legitimate owners. For that purpose, Town Hall shall have proper trained staff and proper installations or shall carry out these services in collaboration with Associations for the protection and care of animals, or even tender the services.

Article 55.- The aforementioned services may be delegated to legally established Animal Welfare Associations.

Article 56.- Premises for the breeding, trading and sheltering of animals

Town Hall shall be responsible also for the control of premises within the municipality that are destined to the breeding, trading and sheltering of pets.

Article 57.- Veterinarian Services

Veterinarian Services shall be able to carry out the control of zoonotic and epizootic diseases, and shall collaborate with other entities for the normal development of these functions.

Article 58.- In case of a declared epizootic disease, pet owners shall accomplish with all preventive measures, as established by competent authorities.

Dogs, cats and mustelids must be vaccinated against rabies. Local authorities may establish other mandatory vaccinations when needed.

Article 59.- Animal seizing

Town Hall shall take all necessary preventive actions that may end up or include the seizing of the animal.

In seizing an animal, previous and clear aggressive behaviour towards humans may be a fundamented reason for the seizing.

Animals who are abandoned, severely neglected, sick, or animals who behave aggressively, may be seized by municipal authorities when they represent a potential hazard for the public health and security.

Article 60.- Destruction of Animals

The Municipal Authority may, after the issuing of the corresponding report by the Veterinarian Services, and without a right to compensation, decide the destruction of animals suffering from rabies or any other specially serious zoonotic disease which may be dangerous to the man or to other animals, as well as the destruction of animals that represent a danger to public safety.

Impounded animals that present clear symptoms of being suffering an acute contagious sickness, or other sickness from which animals are unlikely to recover, or that are severely wounded, may be destroyed before the minimum period of impoundment retention of 20 working days, if the Municipal Veterinarian decides so based on a prior and proper justification about this decision.

CHAPTER XI

ANIMAL PROTECTION AND ANIMAL WELFARE ASSOCIATIONS

Article 61.- Definition

For the purposes of this ordinance, an Animal Welfare Association is a non-profit association that has been legally established as such, and which has the main aim of defending and protecting animals. These associations shall be considered in any case as "public utility and charitable and educational Societies".

These associations must be registered in a specific registry and shall be labeled as "collaborating entities". As such, municipal government and animal welfare associations will collaborate together in matters of protection, shelter, hygiene, health and care of animals.

Article 62.- Duties

When animal welfare associations run an animal shelter, they must keep a record of entries and exits of animals, and must collaborate with the municipal authorities in order to elaborate the municipal animal registry.

Article 63.- Municipal Control

Municipal authorities will have the obligation of monitoring the aforementioned association's installations and personnel in order to assure the compliance with the current legislation on health and sanitary conditions and the adequate welfare of animals. When an association failed to accomplish the mandatory legal requirements, installations may be closed down and animals may be humanely destroyed.

CHAPTER XII

ANIMAL PROTECTION

Article 64.- On animal's protection

The following actions are prohibited, in regards of the animals to whom this ordinance refers:

- 1.- Causing their death, excepting for the animals classified for slaughter, or in case of incurable diseases or ineludible need. In any case, destruction of an animal shall be made in an euthanasic manner and under veterinarian supervision inside authorised premises.
- 2.- Hitting, mistreating, inflicting any unnecessary pain or being cruel to animals.
- 3.- Cause them any mutilation, except for those permitted mutilations and when carried out by a veterinarian
- 4.- Leaving them unsheltered or outdoors in adverse weather conditions.
- 5.- Keeping them inside habitacles that do not fulfill required hygienic and sanitary conditions or that are inappropriate according to the etiologic and physiologic conditions of each animal concerned.
- 6.- Failing to provide animals with proper food in accordance with their species, age and breed.
- 7.- Giving animals substances that may cause them unnecessary suffering or harm
- 8.- Selling or donating animals to laboratories or clinics for experimentation purposes, excepting for legalised cases, and with no suffering to the animal.
- 9.- Not having them vaccinated, or not applying to them the mandatory sanitary treatments, as established by the authorities.
- 10.- Having them involved in any activity that implies suffering, mistreatment or harm to animals or that is inappropriate for the ethologic and physiologic features of the animal.
- 11.- Selling them to minors or to mentally impaired people, without their parents or tutor's written consent
- 12.- Breeding them for commercial purposes or selling them in premises that have not the corresponding licenses and are not registered as a zoologic centre. Street vending and mail order purchases are forbidden.
- 13.- Donating animals as a prize, using them as an advertising ploy, as a reward or as a compensation.
- 14.- Having them tied to moving vehicles

- 15.- Abandoning them in public streets, roads, gardens, land plots or inside locked houses
- 16.- Organising animal fighting events or inciting animals to attack people, to attack other animals or vehicles.
- 17.- a) Using animals for shows, local festivities and any other activities that involve stress, unnatural circumstances, harm or mistreatment to animals
b) Bullfighting shall be the unique exception to paragraph a)
- 18.- Freeing animals of any species that may cause a strong environmental impact

Article 65.- Notwithstanding the foregoing article, and when not affecting legally protected species, actions of control of animal population in urban areas when becoming a hazard for health or security reasons, shall be legally justified. When the actions of control of animal population were meant to be carried out in hunting areas, a prior authorisation may be granted by the Valencian Community Environmental Department.

CHAPTER XIII

INFRACTIONS AND PENALTIES

Article 66.- Liability

Any action or omission, whether intentional or not, which attempts against any of the contents contained in the present ordinance, will be considered as an administrative infraction.

Any natural or legal person owning, possessing, in charge of, caring for, or responsible for an animal shall be held responsible for the actions or omissions aforementioned, as well as any person attempting against any of the ordinance's dispositions about pets.

When infractions were committed by a minor, then, their parents, tutors or legal representatives shall be held liable for the infractions committed.

Article 67.- Penalties: classification

Infractions may be minor, serious and very serious.

1.- Minor infractions:

- a) Not holding legally required veterinarian documentation, which may become necessary in order to check if mandatory vaccinations and sanitary treatments have been effectively undertaken, or having this documentation incomplete.
- b) Transporting animals in different terms other to those established in article 7
- c) Selling or donating animals to minors or to legally impaired people, without their parents, tutors or legal representative's consent.
- d) Not taking due actions in order to keep public streets and spaces clean
- e) Allowing animals to walk the public roads without wearing a tagged collar (registry id number), leashed, or without a muzzle when its use was necessary
- f) Allowing animals to be at premises or spaces where animals are not permitted, as for instance, play areas for children

- g) Having animals at premises where food is processed, manufactured, stored, transported or sold
- h) Not taking proper action when animals are causing habitual nuisances to neighbours
- i) Committing any infraction against the dispositions of the present ordinance, when it is not considered a serious or a very serious infraction

2.- Serious Infractions:

- a) Having animals inside town houses, in bad hygienical conditions or causing nuisances to neighbours
- b) Keeping dangerous animals without the proper authorisation
- c) Keeping animals without providing them with proper food, or without proper housing and sheltering conditions
- d) Not accomplishing with mandatory vaccinations or mandatory sanitary treatments
- e) Not accomplishing with the mandatory legislation and regulations on premises destined to the breeding, selling or temporary sheltering of animals
- f) Filming scenes with animals, that simulate cruelty, mistreatment or suffering, without the pertinent authorisation
- g) Not properly identifying animals in the terms regulated by municipal bylaws
- h) Feeding animals with the corpses of other animals, unless proper sanitary control has been undertaken
- i) Not allowing sanitary control measures to be applied onto an animal that has attacked another animal or a person
- j) Not taking proper actions in case of running over an animal: by either calling to the Municipal Authorities, or by taking the animal to a Veterinarian Center.
- k) Not taking proper actions in order to prevent an animal to escape or to get lost
- l) Committing again a minor infraction

3.- Very Serious Infractions:

- a) Having unregistered dogs and/or wild animals considered to be potentially dangerous
- b) Physically or psychologically destroying impaired animals without proper justification
- c) Mistreating animals or abusing them physically or mentally
- d) Abandonment of an animal that has been run over by a vehicle
- e) Abandonment of an animal, whether dead or alive
- f) Filming scenes which include animals when such scenes are violent towards them and are not simulated

- g) Neutering, mutilating or destroying animals without the proper veterinarian control
- h) Animal street vending; breeding or trading in animals without due licenses and/or permits
- i) Administering drugs, medication or foods which contain substances or ingredients that may cause them death, suffering or alteration of their natural physiological development
- j) Not keeping animals in adequate hygienic and sanitary conditions, or in adequate premises or sheltering conditions, or not carrying out the mandatory preventive treatments
- k) Using pets in shows, fights, festivities and other activities involving cruelty or mistreatment to animals, that may even cause the animal's death, or his/her suffering or that may subject them to unnatural or abusive treatments
- l) inciting animals to attack other animals or people
- m) feeding animals with the dead bodily remains of other animals when the feeding person was aware the deceased animals suffered from an infectious or contagious disease
- n) infringing article 38 of this ordinance
- ñ) committing again a serious infraction

SECTION II

PENALTIES

Article 68.- When an animal caused, by any reason, and in a frequent manner, nuisances and disturbances in the neighbourhood, fines may be imposed to the person in charge of the animal, not less than 30 euros and not more than 601,1 euros. If reoffending occurred, the animals may be seized by the municipal authorities, which shall decide the appropriate destiny for the animal concerned.

Article 69.- Infractions against any of the contents of this ordinance shall be fined with not less than 30 euros and not more than 18.030 euros. Seizing of animals may also be determined.

Article 70.- 1.a) Minor infractions shall be fined with not less than 30 euros and not more than 601,01 euros

b) Serious infractions shall be fined with not less than 601, 01 euros and not more than 6010,01 euros

c) Very serious infractions shall be fined with not less than 6010,02 euros and not more than 18 030 euros

2.- Fines will be graded according to the following criteria:

a) the social and sanitary impact of the infraction committed, and the extension of harm caused by it

b) the economic benefit obtained by infractors

c) recidivism or reoffending, as well as the infractor's recklessness or degree of

intention

d) continuous infringement of prior requirements made to the infractor for him/her to cease in the commission of the offence

Article 71.- Civil and Criminal Liability

Sanctions imposed under the terms of this ordinance do not exclude civil and criminal liability.

Article 72.- Penalty Imposition

The legal procedure for the imposition of any of the penalties regulated in the present ordinance, shall be the one established in the Law of Common Administrative Procedure and in the Royal Decree 1398/1993 of the 4th of August, which establish and regulate the legal administrative sanctioning procedure.

Article 73.- Processing powers

Municipal Authorities shall have the legal power both to carry out administrative sanctioning procedures and to impose consequent fines. Municipal Authorities may delegate those powers in the Valencian Community Government Bodies.

Article 74.- Provisional or Interim Measures

Both Municipal and Valencian Community Authorities have the power to order interim or provisional measures, without prejudice to the main course of legal actions and to the final resolution derived from the main sanctioning procedure being carried out. Prior to the disposition of such interim measures, interested parties and their allegations shall be heard.

CHAPTER XIV

OWNERSHIP OF POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS ANIMALS

Article 75.- Aim

The present Ordinance aims to regulate the ownership of potentially dangerous animals, in accordance with the national Law 50/1999 of the 23rd of December, and in order to assure the safety of both animals and people, and to secure property also.

Article 76.- Applicability

The present Ordinance shall be applicable to any natural or legal person who owns a potentially dangerous animal and who resides within Torrevieja municipality.

Article 77.- For the purposes of this Ordinance, a potentially dangerous animals may be any animal kept for guarding purposes, as a domestic animal or as a pet, notwithstanding their level of aggressiveness, their breed or species, and if included under some of the following cases:

- a) animals that have the potentiality of causing death to people or to other animals, and to damage property
- b) animals with previous records of aggressions or violence displayed against people or against other animals
- c) animals trained for attack or defence
- d) animals belonging to breeds that are aggressive, or whose jaw's size or jaw's strenght may cause death or injuries to people and to animals, or damage to property.

In particular, the following breeds (whether pure breeds or crossed ones - whether the crossing was in between any of these breeds, or partially contained some of them-) shall be considered as "potentially dangerous":

Wild Animals

- Reptiles: crocodiles, alligators and poisonous ophidians (snakes); other reptiles: when weighting more than 2 kilograms.
- Arthropodes and fishes: when their poison shall result in hospitalization (except for specific allergies to these animals)
- Mammals: when their weight is over 10 kilograms

Dogs older than 3 months old:**a) Dog breeds:**

American Staffordshire Terrier
Staffordshire Bull Terrier
Mallorcan Hunting Dog
Brazilian Fila
Canary Island Hunting Dog
Bullmastiff
American Pittbull Terrier
Rottweiler
Bull Terrier
Dogue de Burdeaux
Tosa Inu (japanese)
Argentinian Mastiff
Doberman
Neapolitan Mastiff

Any cross of these breeds, whether in between themselves, or with a different one but still resulting in a similar tipology to any of the breeds listed above.

b) *Agressive animals* that have previously bitten or attacked people or animals, when the agressions were reported or duly proved.

c) *Dogs trained for attacking*

Dogs falling under paragraphs b) and c), when not belonging to any of the dangerous breeds listed above in paragraph a), may not be considered dangerous any more after a proper training period certified by a registered veterinarian

Article 78.- Municipal License

1. Any person who owns or takes care of a potentially dangerous animal within the municipality of Torrevieja must obtain a specific municipal license
2. The application form for the granting of this specific license must be presented before the General Registry prior to the acquisition of the dangerous animal, except in the cases of change of residency by his/her owner into the municipality, or in the case that the animal was owned before this ordinance was passed.

Required documentation:

- a) ID card, Passport or NIE of the natural person, or of the legal representative of the legal person
- b) When representing another person, power of attorney's documentation
- c) Tax number and deed of incorporation
- d) Responsible Declaration before a Notary, a Court or an administrative authority, where the owner of the dangerous animal declares he/she is fully capable of taking proper care of the animal and that no previous sanctions have been imposed regarding the animal's behaviour.

- e) Training Certificate (for animal trainers)
- f) Zoologic Centre Certificate issued by the Valencian Community Government, when necessary
- g) Municipal License in cases of establishments, persons or associations that breed, trade in, train, shelter or care for animals
- h) Location of premises where animals shall be kept, with indication of the security measures adopted in each case
- i) Criminal Record's Certificate
- j) Psychologist's Certificate issued by a registered psychologist declaring the animal owner or carer meet the proper psychological conditions to own such an animal
- k) Civil Liability Insurance for a minimum coverage of 120.482 euros
- l) If the petitioner is already the owner of a dangerous animal: legal documentation of identification of the animal, sanitary records, veterinarian neutering certificate if necessary, and responsible declaration about previous episodes of aggressions or violent behaviours towards animals or people

3. The municipal authority, prior to the issuing of the license, and once the application form and all required documentation have been presented, may investigate any necessary aspects in order to ensure the correct applicability of the contents of this Ordinance, and to assure the accomplishment of all legal security requirements as established in this Ordinance.

4. Premises where dangerous animals are to be kept shall be examined by the municipal technical services. The municipal technician shall elaborate a report which will contain a description of the premises, security measures that need to be adopted on them, and terms for these adaptations. License shall be suspended until the works on the premises are properly performed and credited.

5. The Mayor Department shall decide about the granting of the license within a month, counting from the date of entry of application form on the General Registry Office. Each granted license shall be registered and shall have an identificative license number.

6. If license was denied, the animal shall be taken to the municipal pound by his/her responsible person, who shall expressly indicate, within the next 15 days, the identity of the real or legal owners of the animal, who should allegedly hold the corresponding license in any case. Animals shall be picked up by their legitimate owners, and impoundment expenses shall be paid by them. After those 15 days, the animals shall be considered, and therefore shall receive the treatment of, an abandoned animal.

Article 79.- Municipal Registry

1. Notwithstanding the existence of other municipal registries of pets and animals, there shall be a special registry destined to the registration of potentially dangerous animals residing within the municipality

2. "Potentially dangerous animal" license holders, in the terms established above, are the ones obliged to register their animals before the Municipal Registry, within the next 15 following days after the granting of such a license; owners of other type of animals whose registration is mandatory by law, also shall proceed in identical terms.

Change of residence, neutering, death or illness and any other relevant aspects affecting the situation or location of the animal shall also be communicated to the Registry within the next 15 days, starting to count after the day such facts occurred. Local authorities may also register other information they may gather by their own means, in relation to registered animals, or by means of other administrations or police reports.

3. The following information must be registered in regards with potentially dangerous animals:

A) Personal information about the owner or person in charge of animals:

- Name, last name and identification

1) ID or Tax ID number

2) Address

3) Personal reason/s for keeping such animals: owner, breeder, keeper, trainer, exporter, importer....

4) License number and license issuing date

B) Information about the animal:

1) Identification data

- Species and breed

- Name

- DOB

- Gender

- Colour

- Other identification features: spots, scars, body marks, etc

- ID Code and valid applicability area

2) Habitual place of residency

3) Animal's use: companionship, for guarding or watching purposes, protection, defence, hunting, cattle herding, etc

C) Incidences:

a) Any incident occurred during the animal's life, whether reported by the applicant at the Registry or known by the Local Government through administrative or court authorities or through a claim made before the police

b) Communications made by dog contests organizations declaring the animal concerned was not admitted to the contest due to his/her aggressiveness

c) Any information reporting the selling, donation, stealing, death, moving or loss of the animal, with indication of the new owner when necessary

d) The animal has been moved to a different region, whether permanently or for a period of at least more than 3 months.

e) Sanitary Authority's yearly certificate about the health of the animal, declaring the inexistence of illnesses or other conditions that may turn the animal into a potentially dangerous one

f) Type of training received and name of the trainer

g) Neutering of the animal, indicating if the neutering was voluntary or imposed by a court or an administrative authority, and the name of the veterinarian who carried out the neutering

h) Decease of the animal, indicating if it was a natural or a planned one, and full name of the veterinarian who performed and/or determined the need of the destruction of the animal and the reasons for it. In the case of an animal decease, the animal file at the Registry shall be cancelled.

4. Any incidencies brought before the Municipal Registry will be as well communicated to the Valencian Community Authorities and will be entered into the Valencian Community Central Registry, and when necessary, will be also communicated to the corresponding court or administrative authorities

OBLIGATIONS ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND HYGIENE AND SANITARY MATTERS

Article 80.- Owners' and breeders' duties

Owners, breeders or those in charge of an animal, have the following legal duties in regards to the animals they are in charge of:

1. Keeping them in adequate hygiene and sanitary conditions, providing them with necessary care and attentions according to their physiology and their breed and species

2. When transporting animals, accomplishing with all legal dispositions on safety and well-being of animals during the transportation, in order to protect animals, people and properties

3. Accomplishing with legal dispositions on public safety and on coexistence of animals with other people and other animals, in particular:

a) Houses and premises which are shelter to potentially dangerous animals must be built and kept in a way that ensures that animals won't be able to escape from such premises or that other people may not enter such premises without the presence and control of trained personnel. The presence of potentially dangerous animals, with indication of the animal's species and breed, shall be always signalled

b) Owners of such premises are obliged to make any required modifications and necessary works in order to fulfill the applicable legislation on safety conditions; when these aforementioned installations were not properly built, corresponding municipal opening licenses for such premises shall be denied.

c) Only potentially dangerous dogs may be walked in public spaces, and in these cases, the license holder shall control and supervise such activity, and the following measures must always be taken in any case:

- Animals shall always be wearing their ID tags
- Animals shall wear a certified muzzle and be walked with a leash not longer than 2 metres
- In any case shall the animals be walked by minors
- Animals shall not approach other people, or shall keep a minimum distance of 1 meter, unless the person voluntarily approaches the dog (except for minors, who must only approach a potentially dangerous dog with the consent and company of an adult)
- Animals shall never be incited to attack other animals or people
- These dogs must never be walked in parks and public gardens, or near schools, nursery schools, markets, sport and recreational areas and, in general, in any public area with intense pedestrians presence in between 7 am and 22 pm hours.

Article 81. Infractions and penalties

1. According to the Law 50/1999 on Potentially Dangerous Animals, and the infractions established in article 13 of the Law 50/1999, Local Authorities may initiate a sanctionary file when finding out about the possibility of any of those abovementioned infractions being committed within their municipalities. The legal procedures for the application of such a sanctionary power shall be the ones regulated in the Law 30/1992 of 26th of November.

Infractions to any of the dispositions of this municipal ordinance, not regulated in article 13 of the aforementioned Law on Potentially Dangerous Animals, shall also be punishable and shall be considered as minor infractions and fined according to paragraph 5 of such article.

2. When the infraction known to the Local Authorities nonetheless, affected matters concerning regional competence, then Local Authorities must send the Valencian Community Authorities the police report or the documents from where the infraction was known or revealed.

3. When infractions may have criminal relevance and therefore may be a criminal offence, administrative files must be sent to the corresponding Court House.

4. The following actions and/or omissions shall be considered as very serious infractions:

- Abandonment of a potentially dangerous animal, no matter the species, whether the animal is wearing an identification tag or not, when such animals are found alone with no other person around or in charge of them.

- Having potentially dangerous animals without the corresponding municipal license
- Selling, or otherwise delivering, a potentially dangerous animal to someone who does not hold the mandatory license for it
- Training animals to increase their aggressiveness or for illegal purposes
- Training potentially dangerous animals without the required certified training skills
- Organizing and celebrating potentially dangerous animal's contests, exercises, exhibitions or shows, focused or aimed to display or exhibit their aggressiveness

5. The following actions and/or omissions shall be considered as serious infractions:

- Letting potentially dangerous animals run at large or not taking adequate measures in order to avoid the animals to escape or to get lost.
- Not having the animal properly identified
- Walking a potentially dangerous dog in public spaces without the certified muzzle or lash.
- Transporting potentially dangerous animals with disrespect to what current legislation establishes for such specific cases
- Refusing to share information about the potentially dangerous animal in the terms established by current legislation, or handing false documentation or sharing inaccurate information about the animal

In any case, infractions regulated in the paragraphs above, may also lead to dispose the seizure, confiscation, neutering or destruction of potentially dangerous animals, or even closing down of premises and the temporary or definitive denial of the license required for having a potentially dangerous animal, or the withdrawal of the training certificate.

6. The rest of infringements against the dispositions of this ordinance, shall be regarded as minor infractions

Infractions established in paragraphs 4, 5 and 6 above, shall be fined in the following terms:

Minor infractions- fines from 150, 25 euros to 300,50 euros
 Serious Infractions- from 300,51 euros to 2404,04 euros
 Very Serious Infractions- from 2404,05 euros to 15 025'30 euros

7. Fines shall be periodically revised and updated

8. Fines shall be imposed by municipal and regional authorities as the result of their legal sanctionary powers

9. Infractors shall be considered those who perpetrate the actions or the omissions as established in this ordinance, or participate in them; as well as the owner of the animal or the person in charge of the animal; also the owner of premises or vehicles transporting animals shall be held responsible when infractions were committed within their premises or vehicles, and, in this latest case, the person responsible for the transportation shall also be held liable.

ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS

First.- Town Hall will organize public campaigns in order to disseminate the contents of this municipal ordinance, and in order to promote respect and care for animals in the society, in collaboration with Animal Protection Associations

Second.- According to current applicable legislation on the subject of animal's protection, the same municipal authorities shall assume the functions of implementing and supervising the contents of this ordinance

Third.- The Official Provincial Veterinarian Association of Alicante shall be considered as a consulting body for the purposes of this ordinance

Fourth.- Protective or precautionary measures may be established by the administrative authorities during the corresponding sanctionary procedures, or when an urgent or a dangerous situation may require it. Precautionary measures shall not consist of a fine, and shall cease when the danger disappears, or when the protected legal interest has been duly repaired by other means

Fifth.- Any service undertaken by the Town Hall or by its collaborating bodies, whether officially, or whether under the animal's owner request, shall be duly charged according to the applicable municipal fiscal regulations.

Sixth.- *Specific legal obligations when in charge of potentially dangerous dogs*

Potentially dangerous dogs may only be walked in public areas when wearing a certified and adequate muzzle, and a leash no longer than 2 metres

Seventh.- Sanctionary Power

The exercise of the administrative power to impose sanctions, shall be carried out according to the dispositions of the Law 30/1992 of the 26th of November regulatory of the Legal Regime for Public Administrations and the Common Administrative Procedure, as well as the Royal Decree 1398/1993 of the 4th of August

DEROGATORY PROVISION

First.- The present Ordinance substitutes and derogates the prior Municipal Ordinance about Potentially Dangerous Animals of the 26th of March, 2004; and the Municipal Ordinance about Ownership and Care of Animals of the 25th of July, 2008

FINAL PROVISIONS

First.- The contents of the present Ordinance shall be complementary, within the municipality, of the dispositions contained in the Law 50/1999 of the 23rd of December on Potentially Dangerous Animals and the Valencian Community Law 4/1994 of the 8th of July on Pet's Protection, and shall be deemed invalid when in contradiction to their contents

Second.- The Mayor/ess Department shall have the power to dictate instructions and directions in matters of interpretation, development and applicability of this ordinance, as well as in the cases when there is a void or an absence of legislation and there is an urgent need to take a decision on the matters concerned.

Third.- This Ordinance shall enter into force the day after the publication of its definitive version in the Provincial Official Bulletin

