

PART V. MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR ANIMAL SHELTERS

RS 3:2461 Authority of parish governing authorities to adopt Part

In addition to and supplemental with any other authority granted to parish governing authorities by law, a parish governing authority may adopt an ordinance establishing minimum standards for animal shelters within the parish consistent with the provisions of this Part.

Acts 1985, No. 806, §1, eff. July 22, 1985.

§2462. Definitions

As used in this Part, the following words shall have the following meanings ascribed to them:

- (1) "Animal shelter" means any building, structure, site, enclosure or other facility used or operated for the housing or keeping of any stray, homeless, abandoned or unwanted animals including any facility designated by the parish governing authority, for the keeping or housing of any impounded animals.
- (2) "Cruelty" means every act or failure to act whereby unjustifiable physical pain or suffering is caused or permitted.
- (3) "Euthanasia" means the act of inducing a painless death upon an animal in a humane manner.
- (4) "Person" means an individual, corporation, or association.
- (5) "Primary enclosure" means any structure used to immediately restrict an animal or animals to a limited amount of space, such as a room, pen, run, cage, compartment, or hutch.

Acts 1985, No. 806, §1, eff. July 22, 1985.

§2463. General shelter standards

- A. Shelters shall be open for redemption and adoption of animals during posted or normal business hours. Hours of operation and emergency telephone number shall be prominently displayed.
- B. Sewage disposal of waste matter shall comply with existing parish and state codes for sanitation.
- C. Shelters shall be inspected at least once every six months by an authorized representative of the parish to determine compliance with the requirements of this Part. Additional inspections shall be made promptly upon receipt of a bonafide complaint.
- D. Fees must be visibly posted and registered with the parish governing authority.
- E. Shelter personnel should be trained as to animal health, disease control, humane care and treatment, animal control and transportation of animals. Shelter workers shall be fundamentally humane, shall be able to identify and understand the principal animal diseases and injuries, and should have good judgment and even temperament.

Acts 1985, No. 806, §1, eff. July 22, 1985.

§2464. Shelter construction

- A. Floors and walls of animal holding areas shall be constructed of smooth, moisture impervious material and shall be accessible for cleaning.
- B. All animal holding areas shall be sloped to a drain connected to a sanitary sewer or an approved individual sewerage system.
- C. Rabies quarantine kennels shall be constructed such that they are isolated from all other kennels.
- D. All animal rooms must have operable floor drains.
- E. Facilities, general.

- (1) Structural strength. Housing facilities for dogs or cats shall be structurally sound and shall be maintained in good repair, to protect the animal from injury, to contain the animals, and to restrict the entrance of other animals.
- (2) Water and electric power. Reliable and adequate electric power, if required to comply with other provisions of this Part, and adequate potable water shall be available.
- (3) Storage. Supplies of food and bedding shall be stored in facilities which adequately protect such supplies against infestation or contamination by vermin. Refrigeration shall be provided for supplies of perishable food.
- (4) Waste disposal. Provisions shall be made for the removal and disposal of animal and food wastes, bedding, dead animals, and debris. Disposal facilities shall be so provided and operated as to minimize vermin infestations, odors, and disease hazards.
- (5) Washrooms and sinks. Facilities, such as washrooms, basins, or sinks, shall be provided to maintain cleanliness among animal caretakers.

F. Facilities, indoor.

- (1) Heating. Indoor housing facilities for dogs or cats shall be sufficiently heated when necessary to protect the dogs or cats from cold, and to provide for their health and comfort. The ambient temperature shall not be allowed to fall below fifty degrees Fahrenheit for dogs and cats not acclimated to lower temperatures.
- (2) Ventilation. Indoor housing facilities for dogs or cats shall be adequately ventilated to provide for the health and comfort of the animals at all times. Such facilities shall be provided with fresh air either by means of windows, doors, vents, or air conditioning and shall be ventilated so as to minimize drafts, odors, and moisture condensation. Auxiliary ventilation, such as exhaust fans and vents of air conditioning, shall be provided when the ambient temperature is eighty-five degrees Fahrenheit or higher.
- (3) Lighting. Indoor housing facilities for dogs or cats shall have ample light, by natural or artificial means, or both, of good quality and well distributed. Such lighting shall provide uniformly distributed illumination of sufficient light intensity to permit routine inspection and cleaning during the entire working period. Primary enclosures shall be so placed as to protect the dogs and cats from excessive illumination.
- (4) Interior surfaces. The interior building surfaces of indoor housing facilities shall be constructed and maintained so that they are substantially impervious to moisture and may be readily sanitized.
- (5) Drainage. A suitable method shall be provided to rapidly eliminate excess water from indoor housing facilities. If drains are used, they shall be properly constructed and kept in good repair to avoid foul odors therefrom. If closed drainage systems are used, they shall be equipped with traps and so installed as to prevent any backup of sewage onto the floor of the room.

G. Facilities, outdoor.

- (1) Shelter from sunlight. When sunlight is likely to cause overheating or discomfort, sufficient shade shall be provided to allow all dogs and cats kept outdoors to protect themselves from the direct rays of the sun.
- (2) Shelter from rain or snow. Dogs and cats kept outdoors shall be provided with access to shelter to allow them to remain dry during rain or snow.
- (3) Shelter from cold weather. Shelter shall be provided for all dogs and cats kept outdoors when the atmospheric temperature falls below fifty degrees Fahrenheit. Sufficient clean bedding material or other means of protection from the weather elements shall be provided when the ambient temperature falls below that temperature to which a dog or cat is acclimated.
- (4) Drainage. A suitable method shall be provided to rapidly eliminate excess water.

H. Primary enclosures for dogs and cats shall meet the following requirements:

- (1) Primary enclosures shall be structurally sound and maintained in good repair to protect the dogs and cats from injury, to contain them, and to keep predators out.
- (2) Primary enclosures shall be constructed and maintained so as to enable the dogs and cats to remain dry and clean.
- (3) Primary enclosures shall be constructed and maintained so that the dogs and cats will have convenient access to clean food and water as required in this Part.

- (4) The floors of primary enclosures shall be constructed so as to protect the dogs' and cats' feet and legs from injury.
 - (5) Primary enclosures shall be constructed and maintained so as to provide sufficient space to allow each dog and cat to turn about freely and to easily stand, sit, and lie in a comfortable, normal position.
 - (6) Primary enclosures for housing cats which have a solid floor shall contain a receptacle with sufficient clean litter to contain excreta.
 - (7) Primary enclosures for housing cats shall be provided with a solid resting surface or surfaces which, in the aggregate, shall be of adequate size to comfortably hold all of the occupants of the primary enclosure at the same time. The resting surface or surfaces shall be elevated in primary enclosures housing two or more cats.
 - (8) Primary enclosures for housing cats shall provide a minimum of two and one-half square feet of floor space per cat.
 - (9) Primary enclosures for housing dogs shall provide a minimum floor space for each dog equal to the mathematical square of the sum of the length of the dog in inches, as measured from the tip of its nose to the base of its tail, plus six inches expressed in square feet. This requirement shall be computed as follows: (length of dog in inches plus six inches) times (length of dog in inches plus six inches) divided by one hundred forty-four inches equals minimum square footage per dog.
 - (10) No more than twelve adult dogs shall be housed in the same primary enclosure.
 - (11) Dog houses with chains. If dog houses with chains are used as primary enclosures for dogs kept outdoors, the chains used shall be so placed or attached that they cannot become entangled with the chains of other dogs or any other objects. Such chains shall be of a type commonly used for the size dog involved and shall be attached to the dog by means of a well-fitted collar. Such chains shall be at least three times the length of the dog as measured from the tip of its nose to the base of its tail and shall allow the dog convenient access to the dog house.
- I. All animal cages or holding pens shall allow sufficient room for all animals to lie down, turn around, stand, or sit in a normal position.
 - J. Adequate office space for record keeping shall be provided and maintained.
 - K. A receiving area shall be provided for the public to bring in, reclaim, or adopt animals.
 - L. A room and table shall be provided for euthanasia and for holding carcasses.
 - M. Each shelter shall have running hot water (at least one hundred eighty degrees Fahrenheit) and cold water available for cleaning at all times.
 - N. Self-feeders, if used, shall be mounted so animals cannot urinate or defecate in them.
 - O. Animals housed in primary enclosures with wire floors shall be provided a solid resting platform constructed of a smooth surface and moisture impervious material.

Acts 1985, No. 806, §1, eff. July 22, 1985.

§2465. Operating procedures

A. Separation of animals:

- (1) Dogs shall be separated from cats.
- (2) Sick animals shall be separated from healthy animals.
- (3) Puppies and kittens must be separated from adult animals unless nursing.
- (4) Unneutered males shall be separated from females.
- (5) Injured animals shall be separated from uninjured animals.

(6) Animals involved in bite or scratch cases shall be separated from all other animals with a maximum of one such animal per cage.

(7) Nursing mothers with litter shall be separated from all other animals.

B. Animal care:

(1) All dogs over three months of age shall be fed at least once daily; providing at least one-half pound of food per twenty-five pounds of bodyweight per dog. All dogs under three months shall have appropriate dry food available at all times or be fed a minimum of three times per day.

(2) All kittens and adult cats shall have appropriate dry or semi-moist food available at all times.

(3) Clean, fresh water shall be available at all times for all animals.

(4) Animals other than dogs and cats shall be fed and watered as required by the species.

(5) Each animal shall be observed daily for sickness, disease, injury, abnormal behavior, external parasites, or lameness by the animal caretaker in charge, or by someone under his direct supervision.

(6) Any ill or injured animal shall be isolated and made as comfortable as possible until veterinary care is obtained or the animal is euthanized if in legal compliance.

(7) Any dead animals shall be removed from kennel area and immediately and properly disposed of.

(8) The following procedures shall be performed daily:

(a) Isolate animals prior to cleaning so that no animal is exposed to water and/or disinfectant while cleaning.

(b) Pick up droppings and dispose of properly.

(c) Disinfect floor and wash down animal holding areas with water under pressure.

(d) All standing water shall be removed before returning animals.

(e) Provide fresh food and water.

(f) Clean cat litter boxes (replace cat litter at least weekly).

(g) Clean gutters and check drains.

(h) Clean aisles, floors, sinks, and kitchen.

(i) Clean inside area of debris, trash, and dirt.

(j) Shelter grounds shall be kept mowed and free of standing water, trash, and debris.

(k) Clean beds and resting boards.

(l) Wash food and water dishes with hot soapy water and cleanse with water to remove disinfectant or soap.

C. Euthanasia:

(1) Euthanasia methods and procedures must conform with recommendations outlined in the report of the American Veterinary Medical Association on Euthanasia, dated July 1, 1978, or as revised except as provided in Paragraphs (2) and (3) of this Subsection.

(2) Euthanasia by carbon monoxide gas chambers on cats and dogs shall be prohibited beginning on January 1, 2013 and thereafter.

(3) Euthanasia by intracardiac injection on cats and dogs shall be prohibited unless the animal is unconscious or rendered completely unconscious and insensitive to pain through the injection of an anesthetic.

(4) Euthanasia personnel shall attend the Humane Society of the United States Academy on Euthanasia or an equivalent program within one year of date of employment.

D. Records:

(1) A record shall be prepared for every animal that enters the shelter and shall include description of animal; veterinary treatment; length of time held; fees collected; and date euthanized, died, reclaimed, or adopted.

(2) Daily receipts for donations, animal impoundment fees, and adoptions shall be permanently recorded and filed.

(3) Records shall be available for inspection at all times.

Acts 1985, No. 806, §1, eff. July 22, 1985; Acts 2010, No. 764, §1, eff. June 30, 2010.