



ANIMAL SERVICES
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January 22, 2026

TO: Mayor Jerry L. Demings
– AND –
County Commissioners

THRU: Raul Pino, MD, MPH, Director
Health Services Department

FROM: Diane Summers, Manager
Animal Services Division

SUBJECT: February 10, 2026 – Public Hearing Item
Proposed Amendments to Chapter 5 (Animals)

On Tuesday, November 18, 2025, staff provided a work session to the Board regarding proposed revisions to Chapter 5 of the Orange County Code of Ordinances related to Animal Services. The briefing focused on modernizing ordinance language, addressing longstanding animal welfare concerns and aligning local requirements with current best practices and applicable state law.

During the work session, Orange County Animal Services outlined proposed updates including mandatory spay and neuter upon first impound with limited exemptions, incorporation of state pet sale requirements to improve enforceability, revisions to stray hold definitions and timeframes to reflect seven-day shelter operations, formal codification of trap-neuter-return as the standard for community cat management, mandatory microchipping of reclaimed pets and updates to dangerous dog provisions to align with recent changes in Florida law effective July 1, 2025.

Staff will be requesting Board approval for updates to Chapter 5 of the Orange County Code of Ordinances to standardize language, streamline processes and improve consistency in outcomes for the benefit of Orange County residents and their pets.

ACTION REQUESTED	Adoption and execution of an Ordinance amending Chapter 5, Article II of the Orange County Code; modifying sections pertaining to definitions, owner requirements and penalties for dogs classified as dangerous and not dangerous, compulsory sterilization upon first impoundment of animals, hold times for impounded animals, requirements for release of impounded animals, removing nuisance trapping language, and establishing a new violation of said chapter; creating two new sections related to minimum requirements and warranty requirements for sale of dog and cats, and the establishment of a trap-neuter-return program; and providing an effective date.
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Authorize staff to correct any non-substantial grammatical or scrivener's errors within the ordinance.