


# MEMO

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**To:** Board of Commissioners  
**From:** Suzanne H. Smith   
**Date:** December 13, 2012  
**Subject:** Gordon County Animal Control Ordinance - proposed amendments

I have discussed with Gordon County Animal Control Director Sue Henson several requested changes to the Gordon County Animal Control Ordinance. She has met with concerned citizens about their questions and problems with the current Animal Control Ordinance. In addition, Sherrie Ford has presented to Ms. Henson her list of requested changes to the ordinance. After reviewing these oral and written requested changes, Ms. Henson and I present to the Board the following recommendations for amendments to the current animal control ordinance:

1. Amend the current ordinance to require that any dog which is tethered must be so tethered on not less than 10 feet of tether;
2. Amend the current ordinance to change the number of days of impoundment for a dog or cat prior to disposal from seven (7) days to three (3) days; and
3. Amend the current ordinance to allow that a dog or cat may be disposed of by release to a licensed Georgia rescue group.

Many of the amendments and language additions/deletions which have been requested by the citizens are currently found in state law. For example, the State currently regulates the issue of rabies inoculation, breeding, and sterilization of dogs and cats. The Georgia Department of Agriculture is responsible for these areas and works with local governments, vets, and other agencies to monitor compliance.

Please let me know if there are any other areas which the Board would like for us to address in preparing this ordinance amendment so that we can accomplish all of them at the same time.