



You should know...

Pinellas County Animal Ordinances

Sec. 14-38 Irresponsible Pet Owner

The purpose of this section is to protect the citizens and animals of Pinellas County from the risks and expenses resulting from individuals who repeatedly fail to care responsibly for their domestic animals.

I. Definitions

- a. ***Conviction*** shall include a finding of guilt in an adversarial proceeding or a plea of "guilty" or "no contest";
- b. ***Animal Safety and Welfare Violation*** shall mean a violation of any of the following provisions of this code:
 - i. 14-30 (except for violations based on excessive noise); Public Nuisance
 - ii. 14-31; Tethering
 - iii. 14-32; Cruelty
 - iv. 14-33; Abandonment
 - v. 14-34; Animals in Cars
 - vi. 14-35; Neglect
 - vii. 14-61; License
 - viii. 14-63; At Large
 - ix. 14-64; Dangerous Animals

II. Irresponsible Pet Owner Class I:

Two previous convictions for Animal Safety and Welfare Violations occurring on separate dates, who commits a third Animal Safety and Welfare Violation within 24 months of the date of offense of the earliest of the three violations, may be charged with a violation of this section, punishable by a minimum fine of \$300.

Continued on other side...

III. Irresponsible Pet Owner Class II:

Meets the conditions for an Irresponsible Pet Owner Class I violation, and the circumstances of the most recent violation evidence a knowing refusal to comply with this code or to take corrective actions, he or she may be charged as an Irresponsible Pet Owner Class II under this paragraph, punishable by a minimum fine of \$400.

IV. Upon conclusion of any appeal, or the expiration of any right to an appeal, a person who has a conviction for an **Irresponsible Pet Owner Class II** violation shall, for a period of three years after the date of the most recent conviction, be subject to the following regulations:

- a. Any owned dogs or cats shall be spayed/neutered and micro-chipped within 30 days.
- b. Any owned dogs or cats shall be subject to an Irresponsible Pet Owner license fee established in accordance with this code and applicable law.
- c. The owner shall not become the owner of any new dogs or cats, and no licenses will be issued for newly acquired dogs or cats.

Sec. 14-39 Bite Incidents

- I.** Domestic animal ("owner's animal") severely injures or kills another domestic animal ("victim animal").
- II.** Attacking animal is at large and the victim animal did not instigate the incident and was not in violation of any provision of this code at the time of the incident.
- III.** Punishable by a minimum fine of \$300.



12450 Ulmerton Rd
Largo, FL 33774
Phone: (727) 582-2600

www.pinellascounty.org/animalservices