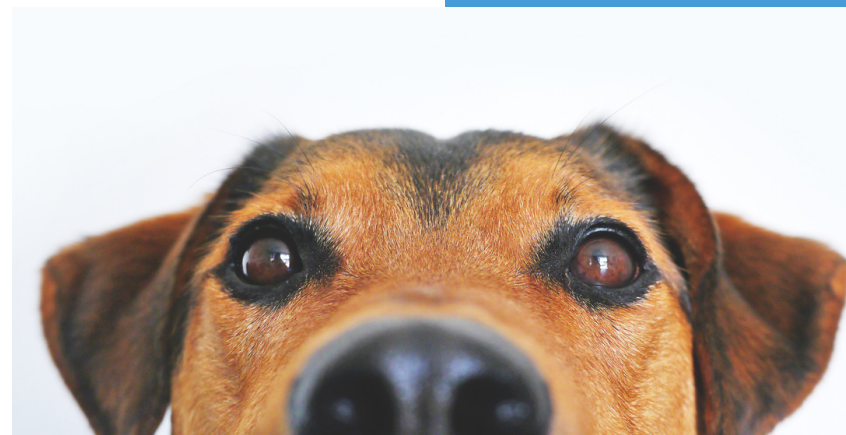




Chatham County Animal Services 2020



Overview of Staff and Services

16 Staff members:

Director/Veterinarian

Assistant Director

Shelter Staff

- **6 Animal Care Assistants, 2 support staff**

Field Services Staff

- **6 Animal Services Officers, 1 support/dispatch**



Shelter Services

7211 Sallie Mood Drive

Facility Capacity:

Dogs:

- 12 inside/outside runs for quarantining potential rabies cases
- 6 isolation runs to house potentially contagious dogs
- 94 inside/outside runs for dog in various stages of holds

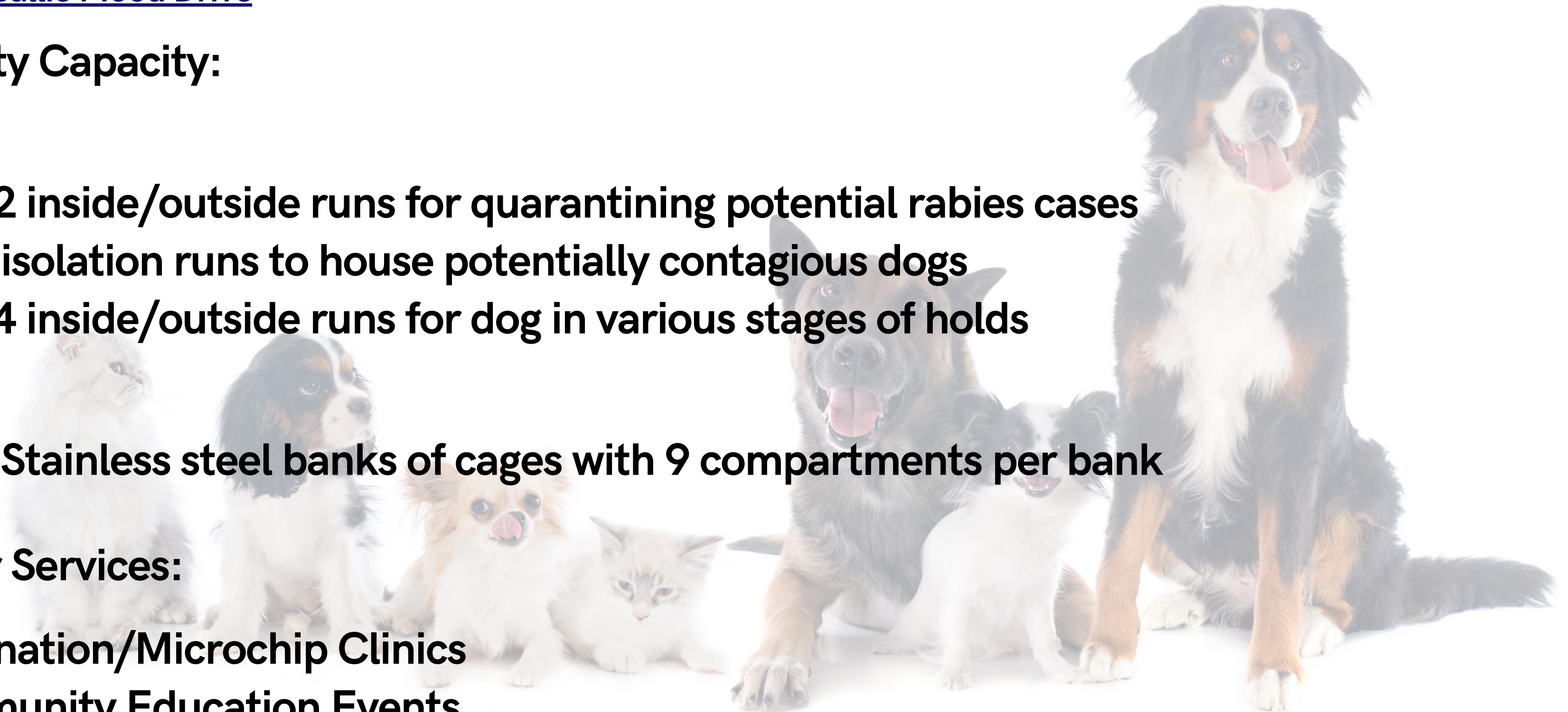
Cats:

- 8 Stainless steel banks of cages with 9 compartments per bank

Other Services:

Vaccination/Microchip Clinics

Community Education Events



2019 Intakes

Cats -2494

- 95% stray
- 5 % owner surrender

Dogs - 2249

- 77% stray
- 20% owner surrender
- 3% other

In 2019, **2,336** of lost animals were returned to their owners or animals found homes through adoptions or being placed with rescue groups.

Field Services Officers



- **Enforce current county ordinances in unincorporated Chatham County and those municipalities that have adopted current ordinance**
- **Assist authorities on Hunter Army Air Force Base through an agreement with US Government**
- **Respond to animal calls in other municipalities to educate animal owners but without any enforcement capability**

Field Services

Mon-Fri 8a-5p

- Typically 3 officers available
- Calls dispatched by shelter
- Respond to all domestic animal related complaints

5p-8a overnight, County Holidays

- 1 officer on-call to respond to emergency calls
- Injured animals, bite cases, dangerous animals
- Calls dispatched through 911
- Police officer must confirm prior to ASO called out, police must remain to assist

Sat-Sun 8a-5p

- Typically 2 officers available (when fully staffed)
- Calls dispatched by shelter staff or 911 center
- Respond to all domestic animal related complaints



Animal Services Calls 2019

6380 total calls

- **3670 --- Savannah**
- **1889 --- Unincorporated Chatham**
- **294 ----- Pooler**
- **223 ----- Garden City**
- **124 ----- Port Wentworth**
- **87 ----- Bloomingdale**
- **93 ----- Thunderbolt**

Animal Services Intakes 2019

2602 cats, 2358 dogs

1917/1702 from Savannah

141/105 --- Unincorporated Chatham

146/117 ----- Pooler

105/51---- Garden City

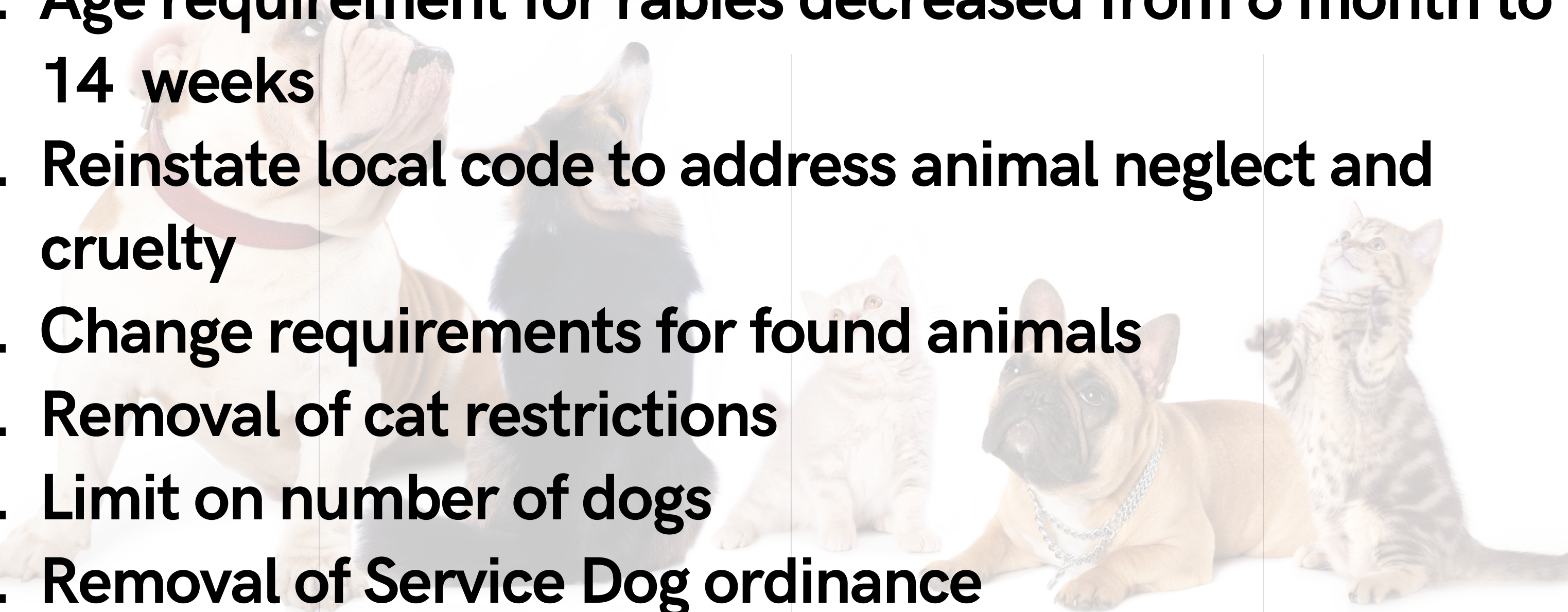
64/42---- Port Wentworth

36/17----- Bloomingdale

18/17----- Thunderbolt

Changes to the Animal Services Ordinance

(February 2020)

- 1. Age requirement for rabies decreased from 6 month to 14 weeks**
 - 2. Reinstate local code to address animal neglect and cruelty**
 - 3. Change requirements for found animals**
 - 4. Removal of cat restrictions**
 - 5. Limit on number of dogs**
 - 6. Removal of Service Dog ordinance**
- 
- A background image featuring a collage of animals. On the left, a large, light-colored dog (possibly a Weimaraner) is shown in profile. In the center, a black dog is visible. To the right, there are two cats: a light-colored one and a darker, striped one. A small, light-colored dog is also visible in the lower right area. The animals are set against a white background with faint vertical lines.

Animal Ordinance Overview

- Tethering of dogs is prohibited
- Dogs are not allowed off their owners property unless on a leash
- Stray hold for dogs is 5 days, cats 3 days
 - After that time, they become the property of Animal Services and may be adopted
- Animals impounded for the third time must be spayed or neutered upon return



Change age requirement for Rabies Vaccination from 6 months to 14 weeks

The previous ordinance required vaccination by 6 months of age. The new ordinance lowers the age to 14 weeks.



Why the change was made:

- Vaccine approved for use in dogs and cats at 12 weeks of age
- Protects younger animals
- Unvaccinated animals exposed to rabies risk euthanasia or 4 month quarantine
- Allows for splitting vaccines in cases where veterinarian worried about reactions

Animal neglect and cruelty as local code violation reinstated

Previously:

- Neglect/Cruelty is a state charge and had to be enforced by police officers
- Cases heard in state court
- Process can be lengthy resulting in long stays for the animals in the shelter



Why the local code for neglect and cruelty was added:

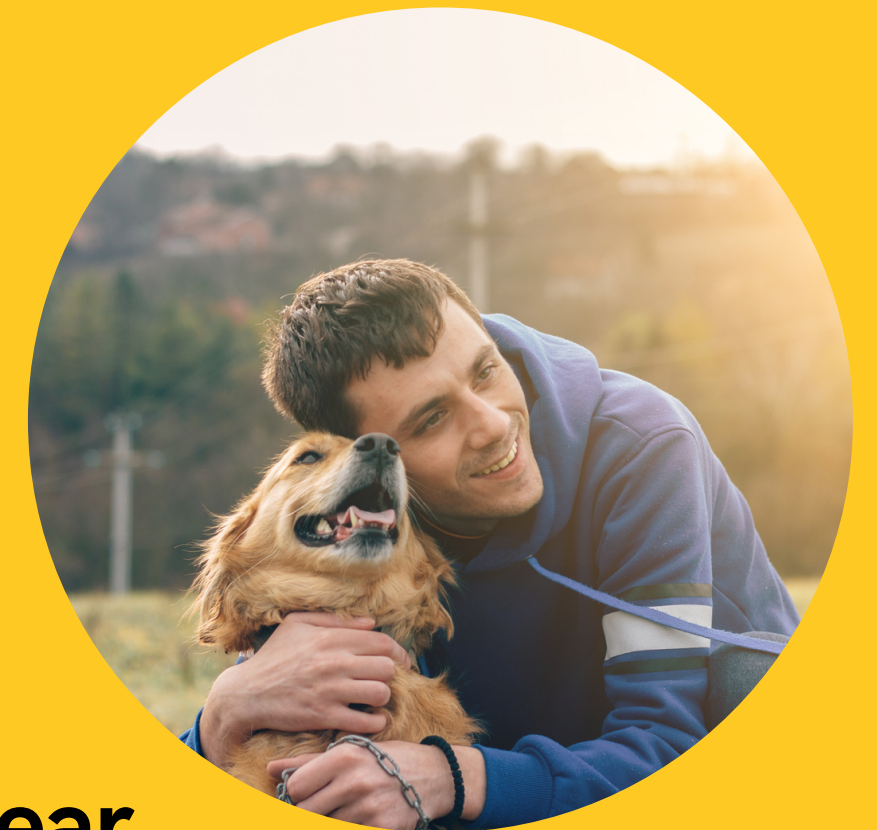
- Allows Animal Service Officers to cite without police involvement
- Can eliminate the need for more specific ordinances
- Judicial process quicker in most case
- Still allows for citing using state charges if necessary

Requirements for found animals

Citizens that find animal now file a lost pet report but do not necessarily bring the animal to shelter

Why the changes were made:

- **This can help decrease shelter overcrowding.**
- **Animal Services serves a clearinghouse for lost animals**
- **On average, 4500 animals are taken in by shelter each year**
- **Dogs are required to stay 5 days (cats, 3) before they become property of county**
- **This creates situation where animals may be euthanized if not able to be adopted or transferred**



Changes for cats

Cat Intake by year

2018—1559 with 1098 being euthanized

2019---2496 with 1661 being euthanized

Past ordinances with relation to cats have done little to change feral cat population. Feeding bans increase complaints because the cats roam more looking for food. These types of ordinances are difficult and expensive to enforce.



Changes for cats

By “decriminalizing” cats, it allowed the opportunity for different groups to help manage this population. This allowed for a shift resources to other programs including education.

TNVR program
is currently
being piloted.



Nuisance ordinance
still in place to
manage problems
and cite for issues
that affect human
health.



Limitation on dogs

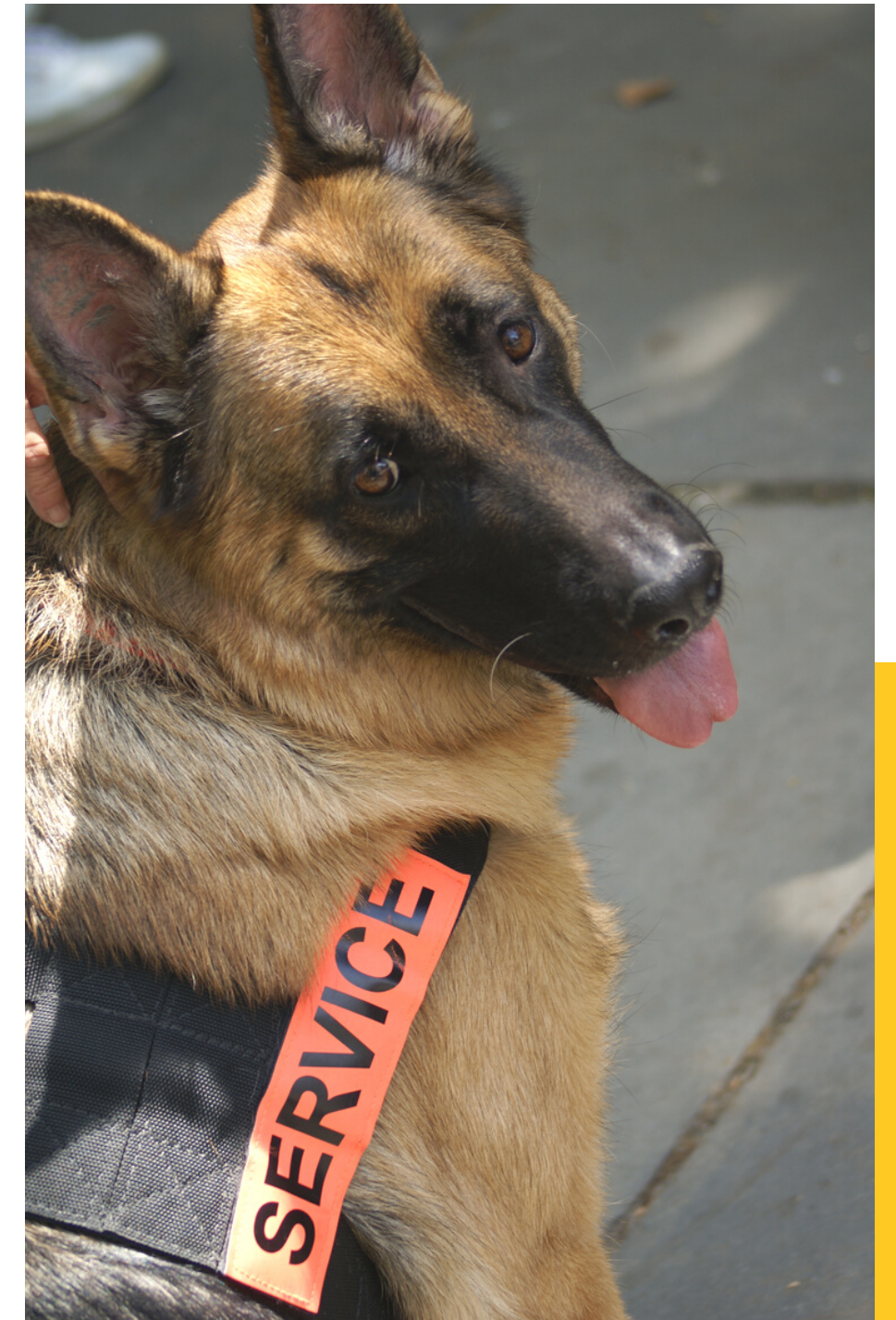
Citizens are limited to no more than 10 dogs if they live on less than one (1) acre of land.

This provides a guideline and the neglect and cruelty ordinance gives officers capability to assess each situation; making judgements based on an individuals ability to care for their animals properly regardless of the number.



Removal of Service Animal Ordinance

This is addressed by Federal government and the county can not regulate these animals. Based on this, it was removed from the County ordinance.



Dr. Jake Harper

Chatham County Animal Services
Director & Veterinarian

