SANTO DOMINGO PUEBLO
ANIMAL CONTROL AND PUBLIC SAFETY ORDINANCE
Ordinance No. SDP– ____ –2026

SECTION 1. PURPOSE AND AUTHORITY

The Santo Domingo Pueblo, exercising its inherent sovereign authority to protect the health, safety, and welfare of its citizens and community members, hereby enacts this Animal Control and Public Safety Ordinance.

This Ordinance is adopted pursuant to the Pueblo's inherent powers of self-government and its authority under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (P.L. 93-638), Indian Health Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. §1601 et seq.), and Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. §247d) to maintain and enforce community public health standards.

This Ordinance replaces and supersedes all previous dog control or animal management regulations within the jurisdiction of Santo Domingo Pueblo.

SECTION 2. PURPOSE AND INTENT

The purpose of this Ordinance is to:

A. Protect the public from health and safety hazards related to unrestrained and/or diseased animals.
B. Prevent the spread of rabies and other zoonotic diseases.
C. Promote humane treatment, care, and management of domestic animals.
D. Support safe coexistence between people, animals, and the environment consistent with Santo Domingo Pueblo values and cultural teachings.
E. Establish clear authority and procedures for animal registration, vaccination, impoundment, and enforcement.

SECTION 3. DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this Ordinance:

Abandon: To desert, deliberately and/or to relinquish the supervision or care of an animal.

Agricultural Areas: Santo Domingo Pueblo lands designated, used, or managed primarily for the production of food, non-food crops, livestock, or other agricultural commodities, whether for subsistence, cultural, commercial, or community purposes.

Animal: Any live, domesticated creature including dogs, cats, poultry, and other small animals kept by humans.

Animal Control Officer: Any employee or agent designated by the Governor to enforce this Ordinance.

Assault: An act that intentionally places another person in reasonable fear of imminent harmful or offensive contact.
Battery: Intentional, unlawful physical contact or use of force against another person without consent.
Cruelty: Intentional abuse, torment, or inhumane treatment of an animal.
Fees: A fee is a non-punitive monetary charge assessed to recover costs associated with services, licensing, impoundment, or other services under this Ordinance. Fees are distinct from fines and may be assessed independently of any violation.
Fines: Civil monetary penalties imposed for violations of this Ordinance, assessed against the owner, keeper, harborer, or responsible party of a animal found to be in noncompliance.
Impoundment: Lawful capture and holding of an animal by the Pueblo for violation of this Ordinance.
Livestock: Horses, cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, or other animals raised for agricultural purposes.
Livestock Dogs: Registered Dogs primarily used for the protection and herding of Livestock.
Neglect: Failure to provide adequate food, water, shelter, sanitation, or veterinary care.
Nuisance: Means, but is not limited to activities disturbing the peace, loud noises, emitting noxious or offensive odors, or otherwise endangering or offending the environment of the Pueblo.
Owner: Any person who owns, keeps, harbors, or is responsible for an animal.
Running at large: An animal off the premises of the keeper and not under control of a competent person. Direct control means connected by a secure leash not over ten (10) feet in length or some other equivalent means of direct control.
Stray Animal: Any domestic animal running at large or without visible identification of ownership.
Verbal Harassment: Unwelcome, repeated, or severe verbal conduct directed at an individual that is intended to demean, intimidate, threaten, humiliate, or create a hostile environment.
Vicious or Dangerous Animal: Any animal that bites, attacks, or behaves in a manner that poses a threat to public safety, as determined by the Animal Control Officer, Tribal Official, or other law enforcement.
Vaccination: Rabies or other disease immunization administered by a licensed veterinarian, Indian Health Service (IHS) Environmental Health, or authorized tribal program employee.

SECTION 4. LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

A. License Required: Any person keeping, harboring or maintaining any dog or cat over three (3) months of age, within the Pueblo shall obtain a license from the Animal Control Division for each such dog or cat. The Animal Control Officer shall keep a record of all licenses issued and shall issue a tag for each license granted. Licenses

shall be issued annually and shall be renewable during the anniversary month of the originally issued license and shall expire on the last day of the anniversary month.

B. Vaccination: A current rabies vaccination certificate shall be presented at the time of the application for the license as a prerequisite to licensure.
C. Alteration of Animals: Prior to issuing a license a verification of alteration (i.e. spay and neuter) shall be presented at the time of the application as a prerequisite to licensure.
D. Affixing License Tag: A current license tag shall be always affixed to the licensed dog or cat using a suitable and durable collar.
E. License Fee: See Appendix A
F. Duplicate (Replacement) Tag Fee: See Appendix A
G. Penalty: Any person violating any of the provisions of this article and upon issuance of citation, shall be assessed fines and fees as set forth in Appendix A. Unlicensed Animals may be impounded by the Animal Control Officer

SECTION 4. ENFORCEMENT

A. It shall be the duty of the appointed Animal Control Officer, Range Enforcement, Tribal Officials, or other Law Enforcement are authorized to enforce this ordinance.
B. It is unlawful for any person to interfere with, hinder or obstruct the Animal Control Officer, Tribal Officials, Range Enforcement, or other Law Enforcement in the discharges of their official duties.
C. A Citation issued shall notify violators to pay the fines assesses based on the specific violations of any provisions of this ordinance.
D. Failure to Pay: Any person who fails to pay the assessed fines or fees may be ordered to appear before the Tribal Court for collection of fines.

SECTION 5. ANIMALS RUNNING AT LARGE

A. No owner shall allow any animal to run at large on Pueblo lands.
B. Animals found running at large may be impounded by the Animal Control Officer.
C. Owners may redeem impounded animals within three (3) business days upon payment of fees and proof of vaccination, licensing, and ownership.
D. Unclaimed animals may be adopted, transferred, or humanely euthanized after the three (3) business day holding period.
E. Approved registered Livestock Dogs in Agricultural Areas are exempt.

SECTION 6. LIMIT ON NUMBER OF ANIMALS

A. No household may own, keep or harbor more than one (1) dog and one (1) cat, which are three (3) months of age or older, without obtaining a exception from the requirements of this Ordinance from the Office of the Governor.
B. Anyone may apply for an exception by filing an application with the Animal Control Officer, paying the filing fee, and scheduling a hearing with the Governor's Office.
C. Breeding cats or dogs for hobby or business purposes is strictly prohibited within Santo Domingo Pueblo.

SECTION 7. EXCEPTION REQUESTS

A. Exception Requests shall be filed directly with the Animal Control Officer by completing Exception Request Form (Appendix B), paying the Filing Fee (see Appendix A), and providing the necessary supporting documentation.
B. Allowable exceptions are limited to Livestock Dogs and Service Animals.
C. Exception Requests will be reviewed and determined by the Animal Control Officer within three (3) business days of submission.
D. Approved exceptions will be issued with a special use permit and license and kept on file with the Animal Control Officer.
E. Appeals to the decision of the Animal Control Officer shall be heard by an Appeals Committee made up of two Tribal Officials and a designated Community Member of Santo Domingo Pueblo who will hold final decision-making authority in Exception determinations.

SECTION 8. DANGEROUS OR VICIOUS ANIMALS

A. Any animal that bites, attacks, or poses a threat to public safety shall be classified as dangerous.
B. The Animal Control Officer may impound such animals pending investigation for a minimum of seven (7) days.
C. Owners of dangerous animals must comply with all containment, muzzling, or removal orders issued by the Animal Control Officer.
D. The following breeds are prohibited: Pit Bull, Rottweiler, Boxers, Dobermans, German Shepherds, and Wolf Hybrids (breed determination is at the discretion of the Animal Control Officer).
E. Restricted breeds are classified as Dangerous under this Ordinance and are subject to impoundment, and may be adopted, transferred, or humanely euthanized after a three (3) business day holding period.

SECTION 9. ANIMAL CRUELTY, NEGLECT, AND NUISANCE

A. It is unlawful for any person to abuse, neglect, abandon, or kill an animal by inhumane means.
B. Owners must provide adequate food, water, shelter, and medical care.
C. Continuous or excessive barking, odor, or unsanitary conditions may constitute a public nuisance and be subject to enforcement.
D. Violations will result in fines, impoundment, and associated fees.

SECTION 10. PUBLIC HEALTH AND DISEASE CONTROL

A. The Animal Control Officer shall maintain a registry of rabies vaccinations and reported animal bites.
B. Suspected rabid or diseased animals shall be quarantined for a minimum of seven (7) days or euthanized under supervision of a licensed veterinarian or other designated means.
C. Biting incidents involving humans shall be reported within 24 hours to the Animal Control Officer and Tribal Officials.

D. Animal Control Officer will file a report with Indian Health Service (IHS) Environmental Health.

SECTION 11. IMPOUNDMENT.

A. Establishment of Animal Holding Facility

Santo Domingo Pueblo may establish and maintain an animal holding facility or pound for the temporary care and impoundment of animals pursuant to this Ordinance. The facility may be operated:

i. Directly by Santo Domingo Pueblo personnel; or
ii. Through contract with a public or private entity for the operation of an animal shelter or impoundment facility on behalf of Santo Domingo Pueblo.

B. Right of Entry

i. The Animal Control Officer, in the performance of official duties, may enter upon any unfenced lot, tract, or parcel of land within Santo Domingo Pueblo for the purpose of apprehending animals running at large or stray animals.
ii. Entry onto fenced or enclosed private property shall be conducted only when the Animal Control Officer is accompanied by Tribal Officials and/or other Law Enforcement in accordance with applicable Pueblo law and Pueblo Administration authorization when required.

C. Impoundment Authority

i. It is lawful for the Animal Control Officer to impound any animal when there is probable cause to believe that the owner or keeper is in violation of this Ordinance.
ii. The Animal Control Officer may enter private property only with the owner's permission or when accompanied by Tribal Officials and/or other Law Enforcement, consistent with applicable Pueblo law, for the purpose of capturing an animal subject to lawful impoundment.

D. Registration of Impounded Animals

Upon impoundment, the Animal Control Officer shall register the animal in an official registry maintained for this purpose. The registry shall include:

- Breed (if known)
- Color and identifying markings
- Sex
- Estimated age
- Date and time of impoundment
- Location where the animal was apprehended

Records shall be maintained for five (5) years.

E. Notice of Impoundment

If the owner or keeper of an impounded animal is known, the Animal Control Officer shall provide notice by telephone, written notice, or mail.

The notice shall:

- Describe the animal;
- State the date of impoundment;

- Identify the location where the animal is being held;
- State the deadline for redemption.

If the owner is unknown, notice shall be posted on the public bulletin board at the Library and the Community Center or other approved public location for three (3) business days.

F. Filing of Complaint in Tribal Court

Only in cases of severe and/or repeated violations of this Ordinance, the Animal Control Officer may initiate proceedings in Santo Domingo Pueblo Tribal Court against the owner or keeper, if known.

G. Redemption – General Right

The owner or keeper of an impounded animal may redeem the animal upon:

i. Payment of applicable impoundment fees;
ii. Payment of boarding and care costs;
iii. Payment of veterinary costs, if incurred;
iv. Compliance with vaccination and registration requirements;
v. Compliance with any court-ordered conditions, if applicable.

H. Redemption – Fees

i. Impoundment, boarding, and veterinary fees shall be assessed in accordance with Appendix A of this Ordinance.
ii. Boarding fees shall accrue daily.
iii. All veterinary costs necessary to protect public health or animal welfare shall be the responsibility of the owner or keeper.

I. Redemption Period

All impounded animals must be redeemed within three (3) business days following impoundment. Any animal not redeemed within the prescribed period may:

i. Become property of Santo Domingo Pueblo;
ii. Be placed for adoption; or
iii. Be humanely euthanized in accordance with accepted veterinary standards or other means.

J. Animals Held Pending Court Proceedings

If a complaint has been filed in Tribal Court against the owner of impounded animal:

i. The animal shall not be released except by order of the Tribal Court; and
ii. The Court may require payment of fines, restitution, impoundment costs, boarding fees, veterinary fees, and compliance measures as conditions of release.

L. Obstruction of Animal Control Officer

It is unlawful to:

i. Break into or interfere with an animal holding facility;
ii. Release or attempt to release an impounded animal;
iii. Hinder or obstruct the Animal Control Officer in the performance of official duties, this may include battery, assault, or verbal harassment.
iv. Violations may result in citation and Tribal Court referral.

SECTION 12. RABIES CONTROL

A. Reporting Human Exposure to Rabies:
   i. Any person who has knowledge that an animal has bitten a human shall immediately report the incident to the Animal Control Officer.
   ii. Any healthcare provider treating a bite victim shall report the treatment to appropriate public health authorities in accordance with applicable law.

B. Quarantine – Rabies Exposure: Any dog or cat that has bitten a person shall be quarantined for a period of seven (7) days.
   Quarantine may occur:
   i. At the Pueblo animal holding facility;
   ii. At a licensed veterinary facility; or
   iii. At the owner's residence if approved by the Animal Control Officer and if the animal has current rabies vaccination.
   iv. The Animal Control Officer must inspect and approve any home confinement arrangement.

C. Unlawful Removal from Quarantine:
   i. It is unlawful to remove an animal from quarantine without authorization from the Animal Control Officer.
   ii. Violations may result in citation and Tribal Court enforcement.

D. Animals Exposed to Confirmed Rabies shall:
   i. Be euthanized; or
   ii. If currently vaccinated, be confined for seven to ten (7 to 10) days under veterinary supervision.
   iii. All costs of confinement, destruction, and disposal shall be borne by the owner.

Section 13. Disposition of Euthanized Animals

A. Authorized Disposition Methods
   All euthanized animals shall be disposed of in a manner consistent with public health, environmental protection, and applicable Tribal regulations.
   Authorized methods of disposition include:
   i. Licensed Cremation (individual or communal) through a veterinary clinic or approved crematory;
   ii. Licensed Rendering or Disposal Facility;
   iii. Approved Burial, when conducted in compliance with environmental and public health standards.

B. Burial Standards
   If burial is authorized, the following minimum standards shall apply:
   i. Burial depth sufficient to prevent scavenging (minimum 3–4 feet).
   ii. Located a safe distance from water sources, wells, and flood zones.
   iii. Not in areas of high groundwater.
   iv. Soil properly compacted to prevent disturbance.
   v. Additional environmental safeguards may be required by Tribal environmental authorities.

C. Rabies or Public Health Considerations
If an animal is euthanized due to suspected rabies or other reportable disease,
i. Disposition shall comply with public health directives.
ii. Required laboratory testing must occur prior to cremation or burial.

D. Prohibited Disposal
The following are prohibited:
i. Abandonment or dumping of animal remains;
ii. Disposal in waterways, arroyos, or public lands;
iii. Improper placement in solid waste streams without authorization.
iv. Violation of this section may result in fines and additional penalties.

E. Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) Reference
The Animal Control Officer shall maintain and follow written Standard Operating Procedures governing:
i. Documentation of euthanasia
ii. Chain of custody and final disposition
iii. Coordination with veterinary services
iv. Environmental compliance standards
v. Record retention requirements

SECTION 13. EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Animal Control Officer, in collaboration with Tribal Programs and Schools, shall conduct periodic community education on responsible pet ownership, rabies prevention, and animal care consistent with Pueblo cultural values.

SECTION 14. APPEALS

A. Any owner aggrieved by an enforcement action may file an appeal within three (3) business days by completing the Appeal of Enforcement Action form (Appendix C), paying the Filing Fee (see Appendix A), and providing any necessary supporting documentation.
B. The Appeal will be heard by the Appeals Committee consisting of two (2) Tribal Officials and a designated community member of Santo Domingo Pueblo within three (3) business days of filing.
C. The Appeals Committee may affirm, modify, or overturn the Enforcement Action, and their decision will be final.

SECTION 15. LIABILITY AND INDEMNIFICATION

A. Governmental Immunity
Nothing in this Ordinance shall be construed as a waiver of the sovereign immunity of Santo Domingo Pueblo, its agencies, departments, officers, employees, contractors, or agents. All actions taken pursuant to this Ordinance are governmental functions and within the scope of their duties carried out in the interest of public health, safety, and welfare.
B. Good Faith Enforcement

The Animal Control Officer, Range Enforcement, Tribal Officials, other law enforcement, veterinary contractors, and any authorized personnel shall not be held civilly or criminally liable for actions taken in good faith and within the scope of their official duties under this Ordinance.

C. Owner Responsibility
   For purposes of enforcement, it shall not be necessary to prove that the owner had knowledge of the violation.
   Owners, possessors, or keepers are strictly liable for the actions, conduct, and condition of their animals including:
   i. Injury to persons or other animals;
   ii. Property damage;
   iii. Public health risk;
   iv. Costs associated with impoundment, medical treatment, quarantine, euthanasia, and disposition.
   v. Payment of fees or fines does not absolve the owner of liability for damages.
D. No Guarantee of Outcome
   The Pueblo does not guarantee the health, behavior, or disposition outcome of any animal subject to impoundment, adoption, or euthanasia under this Ordinance.
E. Indemnification
   To the fullest extent permitted under Tribal law, any person who submits an animal for surrender or requests euthanasia shall release and hold harmless Santo Domingo Pueblo and its employees and/or contractors from any future claims arising from such disposition.

SECTION 16. SEVERABILITY

If any part of this Ordinance is held invalid, the remaining sections shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 17. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon adoption by the Santo Domingo Pueblo Tribal Council.