

**AN ORDINANCE  
AMENDING CHARLESTON COUNTY CODE SECTION 3-6  
TO ADD A PROVISION REQUIRING STERILIZATION OF AT-LARGE PETS PRIOR  
TO REDEMPTION FROM THE ANIMAL SHELTER, AND TO PROVIDE  
EXCEPTIONS.**

**Section 1.0 Purpose of Amendment, Findings**

1. County Council finds that pets running at large are in violation of law, and can constitute a public safety and health threat to motorists, pedestrians and other persons. At-large animals also contribute to the problem of strays and animal overpopulation. Therefore, Council finds that it is in the best interests of the county to amend Section 3-6 of its Code of Ordinances to provide that before an at-large pet may be redeemed from the animal shelter, it must be sterilized, with certain exceptions.

**Section 2.0 Text Change**

1. Section 3-6 is amended by adding a new subsection 3-6(f) to read as follows:

*(f) [Sterilization; exceptions.] No impounded pet may be redeemed without first having been surgically sterilized and a fee paid therefor, which fee shall not exceed the fee charged by the shelter for the sterilization of animals prior to adoption. This provision shall only apply to pets whose owners' residence is within the unincorporated area of Charleston County. A pet shall be exempt from this requirement if any of the following criteria are met:*

- 1. If the owner or person entitled to custody furnishes a bona fide statement from a licensed veterinarian that surgical sterilization is not advisable for the pet in question due to potential adverse impact upon the pet's health.*
- 2. If the owner or person entitled to custody of a purebred pet furnishes bona fide proof of participation in at least one nationally recognized conformation or obedience show within the past twelve (12) months.*
- 3. If the pet is a leader animal, or otherwise is an animal which assists a person with a disability or disabilities.*

**Section 3.0 - Effective Date**

This Ordinance becomes effective upon approval following Third Reading.