

The following definitions apply to this Part:

*Aggressive dog:* Any dog that causes injury to a human or another domestic animal while unprovoked or has killed a domestic animal while unprovoked.

*Animal:* Unless otherwise clearly required by the context, every living, nonhuman creature.

*Animal at-large:* Any animal off its owner's property and not under restraint.

*Animal in distress:* Any animal found abandoned, neglected, cruelly treated, injured, starving, or wounded.

*Animal Control Official:* The person appointed, designated, or employed by the County to enforce this Part.

*Animal Rescue Organization:* A duly incorporated nonprofit organization, having tax-exempt status under the applicable provisions of the Internal Revenue Code, devoted to the rescue, care, humane treatment, and adoption of stray, abandoned, or surrendered animals that does not breed animals.

*Animal services:* direct service provided to a dog or cat, including but not limited to, grooming, bathing, or boarding.

*Animal Services Division:* The division of Seminole County Government responsible for the following: the care of animals inside the County's shelter; adoption of domestic animals or pets; collection of lost domestic animals; organization of animal related issues with allied agencies and rescue groups; and enforcement of animal control ordinances in coordination with law enforcement agencies having jurisdiction.

*Backyard Breeders:* An individual or organization that utilizes a dwelling or homestead for the continuous breeding (more than one litter per year) of animals to be sold for a profit. The sales of the animals may or may not be on the property of the dwelling or homestead, but could be advertised online or through other means.

*Bear Resistant Residential Refuse Container:* A fully enclosed Residential Refuse Container, of sturdy construction, with a reinforced lid. The lid must have a latching mechanism that prevents access to the contents by bears.

*Bird:* Any animal belonging to the scientific class known as *Aves*.

*Boarding:* Housing dogs or cats for one or more overnight periods when provided as a service for payment by any business or sole proprietorship, including overnight housing services connected to exercising and training dogs and cats. This does not include animal hospitals or veterinary clinics providing overnight housing for dogs and cats to recover from medical procedures or any other temporary day time housing service that does not include one or more overnight periods.

*Breeder:* Any person or entity that causes dogs or cats to reproduce, either willfully or through failure to exercise due care and control, regardless of the size or number of litters produced. Any person or entity offering male dogs or cats for stud purposes will be classified as a breeder. This classification does not apply to a hobby breeder, as defined in this Section, or to a pet owner who breeds his or her own pets and keeps all of the offspring.

*Cat:* An animal of any age that is a member of the species scientifically known as *Felis Catus*, or any genetic hybridization of this species, not under the jurisdiction of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

*Certificate of Source:* A document from the source or Seminole County Animal Services Shelter, animal control agency, animal rescue organization, or hobby breeder declaring the source of origin of a dog or cat on the premises offered for retail sale, as defined in this Section. The Certificate of Source must include the following at a minimum: (1) a brief description of the dog or cat; (2) the name, address, telephone number and email address of the source of the dog or cat; (3) the signature of the Pet Store certifying the accuracy of the certificate; and (4) the signature of the purchaser or transferee of the dog or cat acknowledging receipt of the certificate of source.

*Citation:* A written notice, in form required by Section 828.27, Florida Statutes (2021), as this statute may be amended from time to time, and issued by an Animal Control Officer.

*Community Cat:* Any free roaming cat that is cared for by one or more community cat caregivers in the area, and are ear-tipped to indicate the cat is sterilized and vaccinated against rabies at least one (1) time.

*Community Cat Caregiver:* A person who provides care to a community cat in the form of food, water, shelter, and veterinary care, while not being considered the owner, custodian, harbinger, possessor, or keeper of a community cat.

*County:* The unincorporated areas of Seminole County, Florida, and those incorporated areas that become governed by this Part in accordance with Section 20.02 of this Code.

*Dangerous animal:* All non-domesticated animals, which by reason of their wild nature, training, venomous characteristics, size, or other attributes, pose a special hazard to humans or other animals. This term includes, by way of illustration and not limitation, bears, lions, leopards, cheetahs, venomous reptiles, constricting reptiles, piranha, sharks, venomous insects and spiders, alligators and crocodiles, tigers, eagles, hawks, simians, large primates, and elephants.

*Dangerous dog:* A dog defined as dangerous in Section 767.11, Florida Statutes (2021), as this statute may be amended from time to time, or that has been declared dangerous by the Animal Control Official or the Special Magistrate. Dogs that have been declared dangerous by another jurisdiction are also considered to be dangerous dogs in Seminole County.

*Display:* Any exhibit, public showing, presentation, exposition, fair, act, circus, ride, trade show, petting zoo, carnival, or similar undertaking in which animals are required to perform tricks, give rides, or participate as accompaniments for the entertainment, amusement, or benefit of a live audience, whether or not a fee is charged.

*Dog:* An animal of any age that is a member of the species scientifically known as *Canis Lupus Familiaris*, or any genetic hybridization of this species, not under the jurisdiction of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

*Dog Park:* An enclosed area designed for dogs to socialize with other dogs, or run without a leash, under the dog owner's supervision.

*Domestic animal:* Any owned equine or bovine animal, goat, sheep, swine, dog, cat, bird, poultry, or other domestic animal or livestock.

*Hobby Breeder:* Any person or entity, that intentionally causes or allows willfully or through failure to exercise due care and control, the breeding or studding of a dog or cat resulting in no more than a total of one (1) litter per calendar year per legal residence whether or not the animals in such litter are offered for sale or other transfer.

*Injury:* Any physical damage to a human or domestic animal that does not rise to the level of a severe injury, but still results from a single bite or scratch that causes bleeding, bruising, or other circumstances that require professional medical treatment.

*Licensed veterinarians:* A veterinarian licensed to practice medicine by any state in the United States.

*Non-Community Cat:* An un-owned and un-cared for cat that lives outdoors and avoids human contact, does not allow itself to be handled or touched, usually remains hidden from humans, or has no indicia of being vaccinated against rabies or sterilized. Impounded cats that are not claimed by a non-profit or Community Cat Caregiver within five (5) days of impoundment are also considered Non-Community Cats.

*Owner:* Any person controlling, harboring, keeping, possessing, boarding, or owning an animal.

*Pet shop:* A business entity that has obtained a tax receipt or occupational license, open to the public, that sells or transfers, or offers for sale or transfer, dogs or cats, regardless of the age of the dog or cat or the physical location of the animal. Such an entity may be a permanent, temporary, or virtual entity. Seminole County Animal Services Shelter and animal rescue organizations are not considered a pet shop under this Ordinance.

*Rabies-susceptible animals:* All warm-blooded animals that are capable of contracting rabies, and which are domestic by nature, or domesticated or tamed.

*Retail sale:* A sale, regardless of any exchange of consideration for the animal, or animal services, that takes place at the same time or same location. This term also includes any combination of the following: offer for sale; auction; barter; display for sale; adoption; re-home; exchange for compensation; or otherwise, give away; trade; deliver; lease; rent; include as part of a package deal; advertise for sale; or otherwise dispose of dogs or cats to a person in a pet shop or in association with a pet shop.

*Secured Structure:* Designated structure in which refuse is stored in such a manner as to minimize the attraction of bears and which serves as a bear resistant barrier during the interim between refuse discard, collection, and disposal.

*Seminole County Animal Services Shelter:* The premises designated by the Board of County Commissioners for the purpose of impounding and caring for animals taken into custody for violation of, or pursuant to, this Part.

*Severe injury:* Any physical injury to a human or domestic animal that results in broken bones, multiple bites, or disfiguring lacerations requiring sutures or reconstructive surgery.

*Special Magistrate:* Has the same meaning as provided in [Section 53.9](#) of this Code.

*Standards of Care Certificate:* A certificate issued annually by the Animal Services Division to persons or entities engaged in activities defined in [Section 20.71](#) of this Code for the purpose of requiring annual inspections by Animal Services staff of specified premises to ensure quality standards of care for animals under [Section 20.83](#).

*Under restraint:* Controlled by tether or leash, confined within a vehicle being driven or parked on the street, confined by a physical or electronic fence within the property limits of any parcel of land with the property owners' consent, or confined within a crate or cage.

*Unprovoked:* A type of attack where the victim, while acting peacefully and lawfully, has been bitten or chased in a menacing fashion or attacked by a dog.

*Wild or exotic animal:* Any live animal from any of the following scientific classifications:

- Artiodactyla (including hippopotamuses, giraffes, camels, and llamas, but excepting cattle, swine, sheep, and goats).
- Crocodilia (including alligators and crocodiles).
- Elephantidae (elephants).
- Felidae (including tigers, lions, jaguars, leopards, cheetahs, and cougars, or any hybrid thereof, but excluding domestic cats).
- Marsupialia (including kangaroos).
- Non-human primates (including apes, monkeys, and lemurs).
- Perissodactyla (including rhinoceroses, tapirs, and zebras).
- Pinnipedia (including seals, sea lions, and walruses).
- Ursidae (bears).
- Elasmobranchii (including nurse sharks and lemon sharks).

(Ord. No. 72-10, § 3, 12-19-72; Ord. No. 74-8, § 4, 10-29-74; Ord. No. 76-13, § 3, 6-15-76; SCC, § 4-1, 9-27-77; Ord. No. 84-19, § 1, 3-13-84; Ord. No. 93-12, § 1, 7-13-93; Ord. No. 2016-26, § 1, 8-9-2016, eff. 3-1-2017; Ord. No. 2018-8, § 1, 2-27-2018; Ord. No. 2018-30, § 3, 9-25-2018; Ord. No. 2021-39, § 2, 10-26-2021; Ord. No. 2022-13, § 2, 4-26-2022; Ord. No. 2023-15, § 2, 5-23-2023)

Sec. 20.185. - Backyard Breeders prohibited.

- (a) The practice of Backyard Breeding, by an individual or organization, is prohibited in unincorporated Seminole County.
- (b) This Section shall not apply to individuals who are engaged in Hobby Breeding as defined in this Code.

(Ord. No. 2022-13, § 2, 4-26-2022)

Sec. 20.186. - Violation of Backyard Breeding prohibition—Enforcement and penalties.

- (a) Any activity deemed to be in violation of this Section may be subject to any applicable enforcement mechanism available to the County including, but not limited to: prosecution in the same manner as a misdemeanor, as provided in Section 125.69, Florida Statutes (2021), as this statute may be amended from time to time, and Section 20, Part 2, of this Code.
- (b) Each animal produced, reared, bred, sold, released. or transferred in violation of this Section will be deemed a separate offense, and a separate offense will be deemed committed on each day during on or which a violation occurs or continues.
- (c)

Violations of this Section are classified as a civil infraction in accordance with Section 828.27(2), Florida Statutes (2021), as this statute may be amended from time to time. Penalties will accrue in accordance with Section 20.137(a) of the Seminole County Code.

(d) The County may initiate a civil action in any court of competent jurisdiction to enjoin any violation of this Section.

(e) Imposition of a penalty for a violation does not excuse the violation nor does it imply permission for the violation to continue. All Backyard Breeding activities found to be in violation of this Section will be required to cease such activities immediately.

(Ord. No. 2022-13, § 2, 4-26-2022)

Sec. 20.187. - Applicability.

This Ordinance shall apply to the unincorporated areas of Seminole County.

(Ord. No. 2018-8, § 1, 2-27-2018; Ord. No. 2022-13, § 2, 4-26-2022)