



Santo Domingo Pueblo

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SANTO DOMINGO PUEBLO TRIBAL COUNCIL
RESOLUTION NO. S.D. #03-2026-12
APPROVING THE SANTO DOMINGO PUEBLO ANIMAL CONTROL AND
PUBLIC SAFETY ORDINANCE

WHEREAS, the Santo Domingo Pueblo is a, federally recognized sovereign Nation with inherent authority to enact and enforce laws to protect the health, safety, and welfare of its members and lands; and

WHEREAS, the Santo Domingo Tribal Council is the legislative authority for the Pueblo of Santo Domingo and has ultimate governing authority over all matters within Santo Domingo Pueblo lands; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council recognizes the importance of establishing clear regulations governing the ownership, care, control, and management of domestic animals within Pueblo lands to protect public health, ensure humane treatment of animals, and promote community safety; and

WHEREAS, uncontrolled, dangerous, or neglected animals may pose risks to community members, livestock, wildlife, and property, and may negatively impact the health and well-being of the Pueblo;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Santo Domingo Tribal Council hereby approves and adopts the Animal Control and Public Safety Ordinance to:

1. Establish standards for responsible animal ownership and humane care;
2. Provide procedures for impoundment, citation, and enforcement;
3. Protect community members from dangerous animals and public safety risks;
4. Safeguard the health, welfare, and cultural integrity of the Pueblo.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Tribal Council authorizes the Governor, Tribal Officials, Animal Control Officer, Tribal Courts, and relevant Tribal Programs to carry out their respective roles and responsibilities as outlined within the Ordinance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Animal Control and Public Safety Ordinance may be amended as necessary, provided that any revisions are presented to and approved by the Santo Domingo Tribal Council prior to enactment.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Santo Domingo Tribal Council authorizes and directs the Governor to take all actions necessary to implement and enforce the provisions of this Resolution and the accompanying Ordinance.

CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned, as Governor of the Santo Domingo Pueblo, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted at a duly called meeting of the Santo Domingo Tribal Council, convened with proper notice and held on the 18 day of March, 2026, with a quorum of 18 present and by a vote of 18 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstaining.

Gov. Raymond Aguilar, Jr.
Governor Raymond Aguilar, Jr.

Lt. Governor Ivan Garcia
Lt. Governor Ivan Garcia

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Tribal Council Member

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Tribal Council Member





SANTO DOMINGO PUEBLO
ANIMAL CONTROL AND PUBLIC SAFETY ORDINANCE
Executive Summary for Tribal Council

Purpose

The Animal Control and Public Safety Ordinance establishes a clear legal framework for managing animals within the Pueblo of Santo Domingo in order to protect community safety, public health, and animal welfare. The ordinance affirms the Pueblo's sovereign authority to regulate animals on tribal lands and replaces outdated or inconsistent animal control policies with a comprehensive and enforceable system.

This ordinance was developed in response to ongoing community concerns regarding animals running at large, animal bites, potential rabies exposure, and public nuisance conditions. By establishing clear responsibilities for animal owners and enforcement authority for Tribal officials, the ordinance strengthens the Pueblo's ability to prevent safety risks while promoting humane treatment of animals.

Key Objectives

The ordinance is designed to:

- Protect children, elders, and community members from animal bites and aggressive animals
- Reduce the risk of rabies and other zoonotic diseases
- Promote responsible pet ownership
- Prevent stray and uncontrolled animals
- Establish clear procedures for animal licensing, vaccination, and enforcement

Major Policy Components

Animal Licensing and Vaccination

All dogs and cats over three months of age must be licensed annually. Licensing requires proof of rabies vaccination and verification that animals are spayed or neutered. Licensed animals must wear identification tags.

Limit on Household Animals

Households are limited to one dog and one cat unless an approved exception is



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.

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.

- 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;

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.

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.

APPENDIX A: PENALTIES AND FEE SCHEDULE

PURPOSE

This appendix establishes the standard fees and fines associated with enforcement of the Animal Control and Public Safety Ordinance. Fines and Fees are to encourage compliance, offset cost of services, and support community education and animal welfare activities.

A. PENALTIES

OFFENSE	MINIMUM FINE	ADDITIONAL OFFENSES
Unregistered Animal	\$25.00	\$50.00*
Abandonment	\$25.00	\$50.00*
Dog or cat at Large	\$15.00	\$35.00*
Cruelty to Animals	\$100.00	\$150.00*
Harboring a Vicious Animal	\$25.00	\$50.00*
Interference with Animal Control	\$50.00	\$100.00*

*The Animal Control Officer May Refer the Violation to Tribal Court for repeated offenses and/or extreme circumstances

B. REGISTRATION AND LICENSING

SERVICE TYPE	FEE	NOTES
Dog or Cat Registration	\$10.00 per animal	Annual renewal required
Replacement Tag	\$5.00	If lost or damaged
Special Use Tag	\$15.00 per animal	Livestock, Service, Companion

C. IMPOUNDMENT, BOARDING, AND ADMINISTRATIVE FEES

SERVICE TYPE	FEE	NOTES
Initial Impound Fee	\$25.00	Payable before animal release.
Boarding Fee	\$10.00 per day	
Quarantine (Rabies)	\$15.00 per day	Applies to biting or exposed animals.
Veterinary Care Costs	Actual Cost	Owner is responsible for veterinary care, euthanasia, disposition costs.
Exception Filing Fee	\$50.00	Due at time of application
Appeals Filing Fee	\$50.00	Due at time of application

ALLOCATION OF REVENUES

- All fees and fines collected under this Ordinance shall be designated as income for Santo Domingo Pueblo Tribal Programs and used for animal control operations, rabies prevention, and community education.
- Annual reporting on fee collections and expenditures shall be included in program review to Santo Domingo Pueblo Tribal Council.

APPENDIX B: EXCEPTION REQUEST FORM

**Santo Domingo Pueblo
Animal Control
Exception Request Form**

Applicant Information Full Name: _____ Mailing Address: _____ Physical Address (if different): _____ _____ Phone Number: _____ Email (optional): _____	Animal Information Type of Animal (check one): <input type="checkbox"/> Livestock Dog <input type="checkbox"/> Service Animal <input type="checkbox"/> Emotional Support Animal Breed: _____ Color/Description: _____ Age: ____ Sex: ____ Rabies Vaccination Status: <input type="checkbox"/> Current <input type="checkbox"/> Not Current Microchipped? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
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Reason for Exception Request

Provide explanation supporting eligibility under Section 8(B):

Attach additional documentation as needed.

Supporting Documentation

- Service Animal Certification
- Verification from Licensed Medical Provider
- Vaccination Records
- Proof of Licensing
- Other: _____

Applicant Certification

I certify that the information provided is true and accurate. I understand that submission does not guarantee approval. I agree to comply with all conditions imposed by the Governor's Office and the Animal Control Ordinance.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

APPENDIX B: EXCEPTION REQUEST FORM

Conditions of Approval (If Granted)

If an exception is approved, the following conditions shall apply:

1. The animal must remain properly vaccinated in accordance with Ordinance requirements.
2. The animal must be licensed and registered annually.
3. The animal must not pose a threat to public safety.
4. The animal must comply with leash, confinement, and nuisance provisions.
5. This exception is specific to the identified animal and applicant and is not transferable.
6. The Animal Control Officer may conduct inspections as necessary to ensure compliance.
7. Failure to comply with any condition may result in immediate revocation of the exception.
8. Approval does not exempt the owner from liability for injury, damage, or nuisance.

Additional Conditions (if applicable):

Renewal Provisions

1. Exceptions shall be valid for **one year** from the date of issuance unless otherwise specified.
2. Renewal must be requested at least **30 days prior to expiration**.
3. Renewal requires:
 - o Updated vaccination records
 - o Proof of continued eligibility (if applicable)
 - o Confirmation of compliance with all prior conditions
4. The Governor's Office retains discretion to approve, deny, or modify renewal requests.
5. Failure to renew prior to expiration may result in automatic revocation.

Administrative Review (Official Use Only)

Received by Animal Control Officer(ACO): _____ Date Received: _____
ACO Initials

Filing Fee (\$50.00) Received Yes No

Decision: Approve Deny

Animal Control Officer Signature Date: _____

Special Use Permit Number: _____ Effective Date: _____

Expiration Date: _____ Filed with Animal Control Officer: Yes No

APPENDIX C: Appeal of Enforcement Action

**Santo Domingo Pueblo
Animal Control
Appeal of Enforcement Action**

Any owner aggrieved by an enforcement action may file this appeal with the Santo Domingo Pueblo Animal Control Officer within **three (3) business days** of receiving notice of the action. Failure to file within three (3) business days may result in dismissal of the appeal as untimely.

1. Owner Information

Full Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Physical Address (if different): _____

Phone Number: _____

Email (optional): _____

2. Enforcement Action Being Appealed

Date of Notice: _____

Case Number (if applicable): _____

Animal ID / Tag #: _____

Animal Description: _____

Type of Enforcement Action :

Citation / Fine Impoundment

Dangerous Dog Other: _____

3. Basis for Appeal: Please explain why you believe the enforcement action should be affirmed, modified, or overturned. Attach additional pages if necessary.

Supporting documentation attached: Yes No List attachments: _____

4. Requested Relief: What action are you requesting from the Governor?

Dismissal of citation Reduction of fine Return of animal Other: _____

5. Certification:

I certify that the information provided is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

6. Administrative Section (Official Use Only)

Date Appeal Received: _____ **\$50.00** Filing Fee Received Yes No Received By: _____

Timely Filed: Yes No Hearing Scheduled (if applicable): _____

Appeals Committee Decision:

Affirm Enforcement Action Modify Enforcement Action Overturn Enforcement Action

<p>Comments:</p>					
Tribal Official #__	Date	Tribal Official #__	Date	Community Member	Date