

Sponsor(s)	:	County Council
First Reading	:	September 8, 2025
Committee Referral	:	N/A
Committee Consideration Date	:	N/A
Committee Recommendation	:	N/A
Second Reading	:	October 6, 2025
Public Hearing	:	November 3, 2025
Third Reading	:	January 5, 2026
Effective Date	:	Immediately

I, Martha B. Thomas,  
Council Clerk, certify that this  
Ordinance was advertised for  
Public Hearing on 10/16/25.

## ORDINANCE NO. 25-O-09

### COUNCIL-ADMINISTRATOR FORM OF GOVERNMENT FOR COLLETON COUNTY

[An Ordinance to Amend Title 6, Animals, Section 6.04.050 Enforcement and Section 6.04.010 Definitions of the Colleton County Code of Ordinance, to Provide Greater Authority to Animal Service Officers.]

**WHEREAS**, the Colleton County Council recognizes the need for effective enforcement of animal control laws in order to protect the health, safety, and welfare of residents and animals within the community; and

**WHEREAS**, the Council finds it necessary to clarify and expand the authority of Animal Control Officers to ensure compliance with Title 6 of the Colleton County Code;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY COLLETON COUNTY COUNCIL, DULY ASSEMBLED, THAT:**

#### Section 1. Amendment

Title 6, Animals, Section 6.04.050 Enforcement of the Colleton County Code of Ordinance is hereby amended to read in its entirety as follows:

#### 6.04.50 Enforcement

- e) When a pet or animal is found in a condition which evidences a first-time violation of this chapter, the animal control officer may issue a Notice of Violation to its owner, if known, or in the alternative issue a summons to the owner to appear in magistrates court.

If the officer issues a notice of violation, the owner shall then have a minimum of 24 hours to correct the violation. If the owner does not correct or remedy the first-time violation within the given time period to the satisfaction of the animal control officer, the animal control officer may issue a summons to such person, and the matter shall be heard before a magistrate. However, nothing in this chapter shall limit an animal control officer from taking immediate action as described in subsection (F) of this section when it is deemed to be in the best interest of the pet or animal or the community at large.

Title 6, Animals, Section 6.04.010 Definitions of the Colleton County Code of Ordinance is hereby amended to read in its entirety as follows:

**6.04.010 Definitions**

*Dangerous/vicious animal* means any animal of the canine or feline family:

2. Which makes an unprovoked attack that causes bodily injury to a human being or other animal and the attack occurs in a place other than the place where the animal is confined as required by S.C. Code 1976, § 47-3-720;

**Severability:** If any provision of this Ordinance or the application thereof to any person or circumstances is held invalid, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or applications of the Ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application and to this end, the provisions of this Ordinance are severable.

**Conflict:** Provisions in other County Ordinances, Resolutions, policies, or by-laws in conflict with this Ordinance are hereby repealed.

**Effective Date:** The effective date of this Ordinance shall be upon final reading and approval as prescribed by law.

This Ordinance shall take effect upon 3<sup>rd</sup> reading by County Council, on the 5<sup>th</sup> day January 2025

ATTEST:



Martha B. Thompson, Clerk to Council

SIGNED:



Scott Biering, Chairman

Approved as to Form  
Sean Thornton, County Attorney

COUNCIL VOTE:  
OPPOSED: *o* UNANIMOUS