

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-25

AN ORDINANCE OF THE WALTON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REPEALING AND REPLACING, IN PART, ORDINANCE 2023-20, AND THEREBY AMENDING CHAPTER 14, "PARKS AND RECREATION", SECTION 14-10 "ANIMALS" OF THE WALTON COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES TO AUTHORIZE DOMESTIC DOGS TO BE PERMITTED IN CERTAIN PARKS UPON RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS, SEVERABILITY, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

**WHEREAS**, the Walton County Board of County Commissioners owns, operates, and maintains certain parks and recreational facilities within the County, and regulates said parks by Ordinance, and;

**WHEREAS**, the current Ordinance, 2023-20, adopted October 9, 2023, includes a section that prohibits all domestic animals, except service animals within all Walton County parks, and;

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners has considered the requests of the public that certain parks be opened to allow for domestic dogs, and;

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners determines the amendment contained herein, and the ability to allow domestic dogs in certain parks and subject to limitations to be enumerated, is in the best interests of the public,

**NOW THEREFORE, be it ordained** that Chapter 14, Parks and Recreation, Section 14-10, Animals, of the Walton County Code of Ordinances, shall henceforth read as follows:

**Sec. 14-10. - Animals.**

- (a) Domesticated animals are prohibited within park property, unless and except for domestic dogs as may be provided for in the Board of County Commissioner's discretion and under such terms as it deems prudent in a duly adopted resolution of the Board. This prohibition shall not apply to service animals. Any and all animals permitted hereunder must be restrained at all times at a distance not greater than six feet in length from their handler. Any and all animals permitted hereunder shall wear up-to-date tags indicating that they have had rabies vaccinations. Owners shall be required to dispose of any feces left by the animals.

**Conflicts and Severability.** Should any provision hereof be found in conflict internally or with other laws, it shall be deemed severed and the remainder hereof shall remain in full force and effect.

**Effective Date.** The Ordinance shall become effective upon adoption.

Passed and duly adopted in regular session by the Board of County Commissioners of Walton County, Florida, this 27<sup>th</sup> day of Aug, 2024.



**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF WALTON COUNTY, FLORIDA**

Attest:

*for* Seretta A. David  
Alex Alford, Clerk of the Circuit Court  
And County Comptroller

Tony Anderson  
Anthony "Tony" Anderson, Chairman