

BUSINESS IMPACT ESTIMATE FORM

This Business Impact Estimate is given as it relates to the proposed ordinance titled:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA; AMENDING CHAPTER 5, ARTICLE II OF THE COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES TITLED “ANIMAL CONTROL”; AMENDING THE SECTIONS GOVERNINGs ENACTMENT AND AUTHORITY, DEFINITIONS, ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER, PUBLIC NUISANCES, ANIMAL BITES, RESTRAINT AND CONFINEMENT TO PROPERTY, HARBORDING STRAY ANIMALS, UNWANTED ANIMALS, IMPOUNDMENT AND REDEMPTION OF ANIMALS, ENFORCEMENT OF VIOLATIONS, PENALTIES; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Part I.

Summary of the proposed ordinance and statement of public purpose¹:

This ordinance updates an existing Okaloosa County related to local animal control. Overall, it makes minor adjustment to the existing rules on the books. The biggest changes affect the jurisdictional area of the ordinance by limiting it solely to the unincorporated area in the South End of the County and granting jurisdiction and authority to the City of Crestview in the North End of the County. Additionally, it incorporates changes to State law and updates regulations by reducing holding times in shelters, increasing fines, and allows the potential use of special magistrates versus local courts. The overarching purpose is to enhance public safety, improve community animal welfare standards, and give county officials clearer legal tools to manage animal-related issues.

Part II.

Estimate of the direct economic impact of the proposed ordinance on private, for-profit businesses in the County: *(fill out subsections a-c as applicable, if not applicable write “N/A”)*

a. Estimate of direct compliance costs that businesses may reasonably incur if the proposed ordinance is enacted:

¹ Address the public purpose to be served by the proposed ordinance, such as serving the public health, safety, morals, and welfare of the County.

The changes have no impact on businesses as the existing ordinance relates primarily to domestic household pet such as dogs and cats. The ordinance previously regulated vicious animals, neglected and abused animals and stray animals, which all will remain in place. The amendment of the existing language does alter what it regulates. Hypothetically, If a business were to own an animal and it were to abuse that animal or that animal bite someone, this amendment increases potential penalties for dangerous dogs or animal neglect/abuse.

b. Identification of any new charges or fees on businesses subject to the proposed ordinance, or for which businesses will be financially responsible; and

Again, the existing ordinance primarily relates to domestic animals as household pets. The only new change potentially within the new ordinance is an increase in the existing civil penalties for violations of this ordinance, which is not expected to impact any businesses.

c. An estimate of the County's regulatory costs, including an estimate of revenues from any new charges or fees that will be imposed on businesses to cover such costs.

The proposed ordinance imposes **no new charges or fees on general businesses** to cover the County's regulatory costs. Consequently, projected business-derived revenue specifically allocated to offset these operational expenses is **\$0**. The County's overall regulatory costs will continue to be paid from the general fund unrelated to the minor amendments contained within this ordinance.

Part III.

Good Faith Estimate of the number of businesses likely to be impacted by the ordinance:

None. Unrelated to the ordinance, the County is partnering with a local private, for-profit veterinary clinic to assist with provided this public service.