



WASHINGTON SPARK!

A monthly newsletter
from the city
government of
Washington, Georgia.

Empowering our
citizens through
public information.
July 2015.



NEW DOG LAW AIMS TO PREVENT MORE TRAGEDY

Washington is cracking down on owners of troublesome dogs. The City Council created a new ordinance in June to help prevent dog attacks such as the one that killed Neta Lee Adams, 81, this spring.

The new law immediately requires dogs to be restrained at all times, such as on leashes, or in pens or behind fences. If a dog jumps a fence or breaks a restraint, then fault falls on the owner or other person with possession, control or care of the dog, said Washington City Administrator Sherri Bailey.

Authorities already can confiscate any roaming dog, and will be able to confiscate unlicensed dogs too in 2016. Further, the new law immediately authorizes the city to remove dogs from their owners when those dogs don't have adequate shelter, food and water.

The law defines adequate shelter to include protection from the rain and from levels of heat and cold that are not "healthful." Adequate shelter also must be free of accumulated waste and debris, and suitably drained.

Washington's Animal Control specialist, Darren Altman, carries on his truck a special cage for capturing any vicious dogs or other unrestrained animals he finds. The cage, pictured above with Altman, has thick bars and a port for animal handlers to restrain captured animals before opening the doors.

Starting in 2016, the law requires owners to register their dogs and provide current color photos of them. Registration will be free for 90 days, then \$7.50 per dog. Dogs will have to wear licenses on red collars at all times. Owners will be fined for not complying.

In 2016, dog owners must get permits to breed dogs. Specifically, owners are not allowed to let a dog produce more than two litters of puppies per year without a breeding permit for each pregnancy. The city will assume that dog owners who request three permits in a year are professional breeders who also need a business license and a professional breeder permit.

The city plans to pay to have 200 dogs spayed and neutered in early 2016 for owners who need financial assistance, Bailey said. That service will remove excuses for dogs' non-permitted pregnancies. Spaying and neutering are in the "best interests" of the city to prevent production of unwanted animals, says the new law.



PLEASE ADOPT THIS MONTH'S PET

Frankie is a 10-week-old boxer-beagle mix. He's at the Washington-Wilkes Animal Shelter, being cared for by staff members like Scott Stevens (above, with Frankie), but Frankie needs a home like yours. He enjoys attention and being held. So, please add Frankie to your family by calling (706) 678-2287.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

City offices are closed Friday, July 3, for the Independence Day holiday on July 4.

The City Council meets at 6 p.m., Monday, July 13, at the Pope Center, at 48 Lexington Ave.

PLEASE WRITE COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS FOR CITY OFFICIALS ON BACK OF YOUR UTILITY PAYMENT STUB. THANKS!

CITY COUNCIL: Mayor Ames Barnett, Robert S. Armour, Travis Armour, Nathaniel Cullars Sr., Kimberly J. Rainey, Mike Scarborough and Marion Tutt Jr. Please visit www.cityofwashingtonga.gov.

