

News Release

Jefferson Parish, Louisiana

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Public Information Officer



Our Mission Is:

“Provide the services,
leadership, and vision to
improve the quality of life
in Jefferson Parish.”

Steve J. Theriot
Parish President

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 1, 2010

Animal Shelter Rule To Speed Up Pet Adoptions

Stray animals in the Jefferson Parish Animal Shelter may be adopted sooner, with the recent amendment to Chapter 7, Sections 47 and 50, of the Jefferson Parish Code of Ordinances, which reduces the mandatory holding period for stray animals.

The previous ordinance held strays for five days; however, due to the method of calculating the time – i.e., impoundment day and Sunday were not included - the actual stray hold was seven days. On January 27, 2010, the Jefferson Parish Council amended this ordinance to reduce the hold period for stray animals to five days, including impoundment day, exclusive of Sundays and all legal holidays.

The average length of stay at the shelter before a lost animal is returned to its owner was approximately 3.5 days in 2009. Therefore, reducing the stray hold time will reduce the likelihood of illness and increase the chance of adoption with little impact on lost animals being returned to their owners. The shelter environment, which is stressful for an animal, suppresses the immune system and makes the animal more prone to disease.

Progressive communities have shorter stray hold periods, and this change was also recommended by the Parish's consultant from the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. Jefferson Parish will also now have holding periods comparable to the neighboring parishes of Orleans and Plaquemines who have an effective five day hold.

To view this entire ordinance, log onto www.jeffparish.net and click on Municipal Codes. For more information contact, Tiffany Peperone, Interim Director of the Animal Shelter, at 736-6111.

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