



March 31, 2025

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# Animal Control Program

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Dear Reader:

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We hope this information will be useful to you; reference to it will assist you with many of the questions that will arise in your tenure with county government. However, the *Tennessee Code Annotated* and other relevant laws or regulations should always be consulted before any action is taken based upon the contents of this document.

Please feel free to contact us if you have questions or comments regarding this information or any other CTAS website material.

Sincerely,

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# Animal Control Program

## Private Acts of 1986 Chapter 167

**SECTION 1.** By Resolution of its county legislative body, Washington County is authorized to establish and administer an animal control program, to appropriate funds for such program, to employ personnel, to establish reasonable fees for services performed under such program, to make rules and regulation governing vaccination and the control of dogs and cats not in conflict with the general law, to establish civil penalties not to exceed fifty dollars (\$50.00) per occurrence for violation of such rules and regulations, to enforce the laws preventing cruelty to animals, with authority vested in the Washington County - Johnson City Animal Center, to contract with any municipality located in the county for the purpose of effectuating an animal control program in the county, and to allocate responsibilities and funding of an animal control program between the county and any contracting municipalities according to the contract approved by the county legislative body, and to do all things necessary or appropriate in accomplishing the above stated goal, not in conflict with the general state law, to enforce Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-14-202, the prevention of cruelty to animals.

As amended by: Private Acts of 1990, Chapter 145,  
Private Acts of 2000, Chapter 88.

**SECTION 2.** This Act shall have no effect unless it is approved by a two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) vote of the county legislative body of Washington County. Its approval or nonapproval shall be proclaimed by the presiding officer of the county legislative body of Washington County and certified by him to the Secretary of State.

**SECTION 3.** For the purpose of approving or rejecting the provisions of this Act, it shall be effective upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it. For all other purposes, it shall become effective on the 25th day of November, 1986.

PASSED: April 7, 1986

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