

INCORPORATED COUNTY OF LOS ALAMOS CODE ORDINANCE NO. 02-384

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE INCORPORATED COUNTY OF LOS ALAMOS BY AMENDING CHAPTER 6, ARTICLE I, SECTION 6-10, BITES; IMPOUNDING

WHEREAS, the Incorporated County of Los Alamos (“County”) is committed to protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the public and domestic animals within the community; and

WHEREAS, County recognizes the importance of providing Animal Control Officers with clear authority to respond to aggressive dog incidents involving both people and domestic or pet animals; and

WHEREAS, current animal control practices and procedures include evaluating dogs involved in bite incidents to determine whether the dog poses an ongoing threat to public safety; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of this amendment is to formalize and clarify the authority of Animal Control Officers to detain, quarantine, assess, analyze, and evaluate dogs involved in bite incidents involving domestic or pet animals in order to determine whether further action is warranted to ensure community safety.

THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE INCORPORATED COUNTY OF LOS ALAMOS that:

Section 1. Chapter 6, Article I, Section 6-10, Bites; impounding, of the Code of the Incorporated County of Los Alamos, is amended, as follows:

Section 6-10. Dog Bites; impounding

- (a) Every case of a~~[n]~~ dog ~~[animal]~~ biting a person or a domestic or pet animal shall be reported to the animal control officer who may order the offending ~~[animal]~~ dog to be confined at any time during the ten days ~~[next]~~ following the bite. No ~~[animal]~~ dog shall be placed for adoption during the ten-day period following a bite.
- (b) Any expenses incurred by the confinement of such animal shall be assumed by the keeper.

Section 2. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall become effective thirty (30) days after publication of its notice of adoption.

Section 3. Severability. Should any section, paragraph, clause or provision of this ordinance, for any reason, be held to be invalid or unenforceable, the invalidity or unenforceability of such section, paragraph, clause or provision shall not affect any of the remaining provisions of this ordinance.

[this section intentionally left blank]

Section 4. Repealer. All ordinances or resolutions, or parts thereof, inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed only to the extent of such inconsistency. This repealer shall not be construed to revive any ordinance or resolution, or part thereof, heretofore repealed.

ADOPTED this 30th day of June 2026.

**COUNCIL OF THE INCORPORATED
COUNTY OF LOS ALAMOS**

**Randall T. Ryti,
Council Chair**

ATTEST: (SEAL)

**Michael D. Redondo,
Los Alamos County Clerk**