



## **ORDINANCE OF HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS REGARDING CONTROL OF RABIES IN UNINCOPORATED AREAS OF HIDALGO COUNTY**

The commissioners Court of Hidalgo County hereby ordains and adopts the rules and regulations set forth as follows:

1. The commissioners Court of Hidalgo County adopts the provisions, rules and regulations contained in Chapter 826, Texas Health Code.
2. The Commissioners Court of Hidalgo County also adopts this ordinance and rules establishing a local rabies control program in unincorporated areas of the county as follows:
  - a. Each dog or cat located outside the boundaries of each City in the County shall be restrained by its owner either by leash or by enclosure within a building or fenced in area. Each dog or cat which is not so restrained shall be deemed to be a stray dog or cat.
  - b. Each stray dog or cat shall be declared a public nuisance.
  - c. Each owner of a dog or cat located outside the boundaries of each city in the County shall have the said animal vaccinated by January 23, 1995
  - d. Each stray dog or cat shall be detained and/or impounded by a County Animal Control Officer or that officer's designee.
  - e. Each stray dog or cat detained. Shall be impounded for a period of seventy-two (72) hours and if the stray dog or cat is unclaimed within the Impoundment period, a humane disposition of the stray animal shall be made.
  - f. Any owner of a stray dog or cat must pay a fee of \$20.00 after the animal is impounded and before the animal may be released. The fees shall be collected in the treasury of Hidalgo County and used only to help defray the cost of administering the control rabies control program.
  - g. Each person commits a penal offense deemed to be a Class "C" misdemeanor if that person fails or refuses to restrain a stray dog or cat owned by the person that is located outside the boundaries of the cities in Hidalgo County. Each person found guilty of this offense shall be fined not less than \$50.00 nor more than \$500.00.