



**Magnolia Valley Civic Association Inc.
Code & Covenant Compliance Committee
PO Box 1151
New Port Richey, FL 34656-1151**

August 10, 2004

Honorable Chairman and Members of
The Board of County Commissioners

I am a director for the Magnolia Valley Civic Association and the Chairman of the Code & Covenant Compliance Committee.

Let me start by saying we support any proposed changes to the Animal Control Ordinance that will strengthen the authority of the Animal Control Department, protect the welfare of both the animal and residents of the county, and allow for the reasonable use and enjoyment of ones own property.

Our main concern is that the Animal Control Ordinance as written does not allow the prosecution of owners of companion animals that unreasonably annoy humans, endanger the life or health of other animals or individuals, or substantially interfere with the rights of citizens, other then the owner, and thereby interfering with the reasonable use of, and enjoyment of, ones own property unless it is caused by a dog or pot belly pig.

The Animal Control Ordinance does not address nuisance issues found in our communities caused by companion animals such as cats, birds, or other mammals. The residents of our county harbor a variety of different pets that when owned by irresponsible pet owners can and do cause a nuisance.

Noise created by pet birds is not addressed in the Animal Control Ordinance. Cockatoos, Macaws, and Congos are popular species of birds found in our communities. All require considerable space, make decent talkers and develop an intense bond with there caretaker however, Macaws are incredible shriekers, screamers, and callers, and are prone to screech attacks that can be too loud to be kept in suburban neighborhoods.

Cats are allowed to roam freely and destroy plants and flowers by defecating and urinating in flowerbeds, leaving a horrible smell by spraying the sides of homes or areas where people congregate such as barbeque patios, and pool areas. Cat owners can let there cat out at 6:00 a.m. let it back in at 10:00 p.m. and as long as the owner feeds, waters, and checks on it's condition every 24 hours nothing can be done to curb these offensive acts.

With the explosion of Pasco County's population, animal issues will substantially increase. Our Animal Control Ordinance as written does noting to stop the imposition forced onto county residents by irresponsibly pet owners, again unless it is caused by a dog or pot belly pig.

Pasco County is in need of a comprehensive Animal Control Ordinance that will include a wide range of issues that are present now and that will be encountered in the future.

We ask the Board of County Commissioners this evening to take the steps necessary to eliminate the impositions forced onto the valuable citizens of this county by directing the County Attorneys' Office to add language that covers nuisances caused by birds and cats or adopt this amendment and direct the County Attorneys' Office write a comprehensive animal control ordinance for consideration by the board in the near future.

Thank you