**ORDINANCE NO. 2023-01-17**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF STAPLES, TEXAS PROHIBITING DOGS RUNNING AT LARGE AND PROVIDING A PENALTY FOR VIOLATIONS.**

WHEREAS, because of complaints that dogs are allowed to run free, destroy property, frighten citizens, or be a nuisance and in the interest of the citizens of the City of Staples for the public welfare.

WHEREAS, General Law cities are authorized by law to define and prohibit nuisances within their corporate limits:

NOW THEREFORE:

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF STAPLES, TEXAS:

SECTION 1. The council hereby finds that this ordinance is necessary to protect the health, safety and the welfare of the citizens of Staples.

SECTION 2. The council also hereby finds that this ordinance is necessary to protect the health and safety of dogs running at large on roadways located within the City limits of Staples.

 SECTION 3. Owners of dogs shall not permit such animals to run at large within the city limits of Staples. To run at large means: to be on the property of one who is not the owner of such dog or on public or city property, and unrestrained by leash.

SECTION 4. Owners of dogs shall restrain dogs by leash at all times on City of Staples property including the Staples Memorial park, no dogs shall be permitted in the Staples Cemetery.

SECTION 5. An owner or handler shall promptly remove and sanitarily dispose of feces left on city, public or private property by a dog, the dog owner’s private property shall be excluded from this section.

SECTION 6. Any person who violates or fails to comply with this ordinance can be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and punished by a fine not to exceed $500.00.

This ordinance is effective immediately.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 17th day of January 2023.

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 Mayor

ATTEST:

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City Secretary