

## **SECTION 9.20. ANIMAL LICENSING AND REGULATION.**

**Subd. 1. Definition.** For the purpose of this Section:

A. "Owner" means a person who owns an animal hereby regulated.

B. "Own" means to have a property interest in, or to, harbor, feed, board or keep.

C. "Dangerous Animal" means an animal which has caused damage to property or injury to a person, or which animal, by its actions, exhibits a propensity for causing imminent danger to persons.

D. "Dog" means both male and female and includes any animal of the dog kind.

E. "Cat" means both male and female and includes any animal of the feline kind.

F. "Animal" means a dog or a cat.

G. "Animal Pound" means a public or privately-owned facility with which a contract for services has been entered into and approved by the Council.

**Subd. 2. Running at Large Prohibited.** It is unlawful for the owner of any animal to permit such animal to run at large. Any dog shall be deemed to be running at large with the permission of the owner unless it is on a durable leash secured to an object which it cannot move and on the premises of the owner, or on a leash and under the control of an accompanying person of suitable age and discretion, or effectively confined within a motor vehicle, building, or enclosure. Any cat shall be deemed to be running at large with the permission of the owner unless it is on the premises of the owner, or effectively confined within a motor vehicle, building, or enclosure.

**Subd. 3. License Required.** It is unlawful for the owner of any dog, three months of age or more, to fail to obtain a license therefore from the City.

**Subd. 4. License Issuance, Term and Renewal.** All dog licenses shall be issued only upon presentation of a certificate issued by a veterinarian, licensed to practice veterinary medicine in the State of Minnesota, showing rabies immunization of the dog for at least the term of the license. All dog licenses shall expire on December 31. Application for license renewal, accompanied by a veterinarian's certificate, shall be made at least thirty (30) days prior to expiration of the license.

**Subd. 5. Adoption of Fees.** All fees for the licensing impounding and maintenance of animals, including penalties for late application, may be fixed and determined by the Council, adopted by resolution, and uniformly enforced. Such fees

may from time to time be amended by the Council. by resolution. A copy of the resolution setting forth currently effective fees shall be kept on file in the office of the City Clerk-Treasurer and open to inspection during regular business hours.

**Subd. 6. Tag Required.** All licensed dogs shall wear a collar and have a tag firmly affixed thereto evidencing a current license. A duplicate for a lost tag may be issued by the City upon presentation of the receipt showing the payment of the duplicate license fee. Tags shall not be transferable, and no refund shall be made on any license fee because of leaving the City or death of the dog before the expiration of the license.

**Subd. 7. Animal Pound.** Any animal found in the City without a license tag, running at large, or otherwise in violation of this Section, shall be placed in an Animal Pound, and an accurate record of the time of such placement shall be kept on each animal. Every animal so placed in the Animal Pound shall be held for redemption by the owner for a period of not less than ten regular business days. A “regular business day” is one during which the Pound is open for business to the public for at least four hours between 8:00 o’clock A.M. and 7:00 o’clock P.M. Impoundment records shall be preserved for a minimum of six months and shall show (1) the description of the animal by specie, breed, sex, approximate age, and other distinguishing traits; (2) the location at which the animal was seized; (3) the date of the seizure; (4) the name and address of the person from whom any dog three months of age or over was received, and, (5) the name and address of the person to whom any dog three months of age or over was transferred. If unclaimed, such animal shall be humanely destroyed and the carcass disposed of, unless it is requested by a licensed educational or scientific institution under authority of Minnesota Statutes, Section 35.71. Provided, however, that if a tag affixed to the animal, or a statement by the animal’s owner after seizure specifies that the animal should not be used for research, such animal shall not be made available to any such institution but may be destroyed after the expiration of the ten-day period.

**Subd. 8. Notice of Impounding.** Upon the impounding of any animal, the owner shall be notified, or if the owner is unknown, written notice shall be posted for ten days at the City Hall describing the animal and the place and time of taking.

**Subd. 9. Release from Animal Pound.** Animals shall be released to their owners, as follows:

A. If such animal is a dog and owned by a resident of the City, after purchase of a license, if unlicensed, and, if either a dog or a cat, after payment of the impounding fee and maintenance,

B. If such animal is a dog and owned by a person not a resident of the City, after immunization of such dog for rabies, and, if either a dog or a cat, after payment of the impounding fee and maintenance.

**Subd. 10. Seizure by a Citizen.** It is lawful for any person to seize and impound an animal so found running at large and shall within six hours thereafter notify County Law Enforcement of said seizure. It shall be the duty of County Law Enforcement to place said animal in the County Pound. If the name or the owner of such animal so seized

is known to the person who first takes such animal into custody, he or she shall inform County Law Enforcement of the name of the owner, and the address if known.

**Subd. 11. Immobilization of Animals.** For the purpose of enforcement of this Section any peace officer, or person whose duty is animal control, may use a so-called tranquilizer gun or other instrument for the purpose of immobilizing and catching an animal.

**Subd. 12. Other Unlawful Acts.** It is unlawful for the owner of any animal to (1) fail to have the license tag issued by the City firmly attached to a collar worn at all times by the licensed dog, or (2) own a dangerous animal, or (3) interfere with any police officer, or other City employee, in the performance of his duty to enforce this Section, or (4) fail to keep his dog from barking, howling or whining, or (5) fail to keep his cat from emitting loud or unusual noise.

**Subd. 13. Summary Destruction.** If an animal is diseased, vicious, dangerous, rabid or exposed to rabies and such animal cannot be impounded after a reasonable effort or cannot be impounded without serious risk to the person attempting to impound, such animal may be destroyed in a humane manner.

**Subd. 14. Rabies Control - Generally.**

**A.** Every animal which bites a person shall be promptly reported to Coin Law Enforcement and shall thereupon be securely quarantined at the direction of County Law Enforcement for a period of fourteen (14) days, and shall not be released from such quarantine except by written permission of the County. In the discretion of County Law Enforcement, such quarantine may be on the premises of the owner or at the veterinary hospital of his choice. If the animal is quarantined on the premises of the owner, the County shall have access to the animal at any reasonable time for study and observation of rabies symptoms. In the case of a stray animal or in the case of an animal whose ownership is not known, such quarantine shall be at the animal pound, or at the discretion of the council the animal may be confined in a veterinary hospital designated by the council.

**B.** The owners, upon demand made by County Law Enforcement or by any other City employee empowered by the Council to enforce this Section, shall forthwith surrender any animal which has bitten a human, or which is suspected as having been exposed to rabies, for the purpose of supervised quarantine. The expenses of the quarantine shall be borne by the owner and the animal may be reclaimed by the owner if adjudged free of rabies upon payment of fees set forth in this Section and upon compliance with licensing provisions set forth in this Section.

**C.** When an animal under quarantine and diagnosed as being rabid or suspected by a licensed veterinarian as being rabid dies or is killed, the County

shall immediately send the head of such animal and rabies data report to the State Health Department for pathological examination and shall notify all persons concerned of the results of such examination.

**D.** The County shall issue such proclamation and take such action when rabies is suspected or exists as is required by Minnesota Statutes.

**Subd. 15. Reports of Bite Cases.** It is the duty of every physician, or other practitioner, to report to the council the names and addresses of persons treated for bites inflicted by animals, together with such other information as will be helpful in rabies control.

**Subd. 16. Responsibility of Veterinarians.** It is the duty of every licensed veterinarian to report to the council his diagnosis of an animal observed by him as a rabies suspect

**Subd. 17. Police Dogs, Seeing-Eye Dogs.** The provisions of this Section shall not apply to the ownership or use of seeing-eye dogs by blind persons, or dogs used in police activities of the County, such as canine corps or tracking dogs used by or with the permission of the council or any law enforcement agency.

**Subd. 18. Animals in Heat.** Except for controlled breeding purposes, every female animal in heat shall be kept confined in a building or secure enclosure, or in a veterinary hospital or boarding kennel, in such manner that such female animal cannot come in contact with other animals.