

TITLE IV MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH

CHAPTER 1 ANIMAL CONTROL

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4-1-1 DEFINITIONS. For use in this chapter the following terms are defined as follows:

1. The term "dogs" shall mean both male and female animals of the canine species whether altered or not.

2. The term "at large" shall mean any licensed or unlicensed animal found off the premises of the owner and not under the control of a competent person, restrained within a motor vehicle, housed in a veterinary hospital or kennel, on a leash or "at heel" beside a competent person and obedient to that person's command.

3. The term "owner" shall mean any person or persons, firm, association or corporation owning, keeping, sheltering or harboring an animal.

4-1-2 ANNUAL LICENSE REQUIRED.

1. Every owner of a dog or cat over the age of three (3) months shall procure a dog or cat license from the City Clerk-Treasurer on or before the first day of January of each year.

2. Such license may be procured after January 1 and at any time for a dog or cat which has come into the possession or ownership of the applicant or which has reached the age of three (3) months after said date.

3. The owner of a dog or cat for which a license is required shall apply to the clerk on form provided by the Clerk.

4. The form of application shall state the breed, sex, age, color, markings, and name if any, of the dog or cat, and the address of the owner. The applications shall also state the date of the most recent rabies vaccination, the type of vaccine administered and the date the dog or cat shall be vaccinated.

5. All licenses shall expire on December 31 of the year following the date of issuance.

4-1-3 LICENSE FEES. The annual license fee shall be as follows:

1. For the first animal: \$10.00
2. For second and subsequent animals: \$ 5.00 each

4-1-4 DELINQUENCY. All license fees shall become delinquent on the second day of January of the year in which they are due and a delinquent penalty of one (\$1.00) dollar per month shall be added to each unpaid license on or after said date.

4-1-5 LICENSE TAGS. Upon receipt of the application and payment of the license fee, the City Clerk shall issue to the owner a license which shall contain the name of the owner, the owner's place of residence and a description of the animal. The City Clerk shall keep a duplicate of each license issued as a public record.

Upon issuance of the license, the City Clerk shall deliver to the owner a metal tag stamped with the number of the license and the year for which it is issued. The license tag shall be securely fastened to a collar or harness which shall be worn by the animal for which the license is issued. A license issued for one dog or cat shall not be transferable to another dog or cat. Upon expiration of the license, the owner shall remove said tag from the dog or cat.

Any animal found running at large without the license tag attached to its collar or harness shall be deemed unlicensed.

4-1-6 LICENSE RECORDS. The Clerk shall keep a book to be known as the record of licenses which shall show:

1. The serial number and date of each application for license.
2. The description of the dog or cat as specified in the application, together with the name of the owner of the dog or cat.
3. The date when each license tag is issued and the serial number of each tag, the date of the most recent rabies vaccination, the type of vaccine administered, and the date the dog or cat shall be re-vaccinated.
4. The amount of all fees paid.
5. Such other data as may be required by law.

4-1-7 IMMUNIZATION. All dogs six and cats (6) months or older shall be vaccinated against rabies. It shall be a violation of this Ordinance for any dog or cat to not be vaccinated against rabies. A tag showing evidence of proper vaccination shall be worn by every dog or cat when not confined.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 351.33)

4-1-8 AT LARGE PROHIBITED. No owner or person having custody of an animal shall permit such animal to run at large.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 351.41)

4-1-9 ANIMAL NUISANCES. It shall be unlawful for any person to permit an animal under such person's control or within such person's custody to commit a nuisance. An animal shall be considered a nuisance if it:

1. Damages, soils, defiles or defecates on private property other than the owner's or on public walks and recreation areas unless such waste is immediately removed and properly disposed of by the owner.

2. Causes unsanitary, dangerous or offensive conditions.

3. Causes a disturbance by excessive barking or other noisemaking or chases vehicles, or molests, attacks or interferes with persons or other domestic animals on public property.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 657.1)

4-1-10 IMPOUNDING.

1. Any unlicensed or unvaccinated dog found at large or any licensed dog found at large in violation of Sections 4-1-2, 4-1-7, 4-1-8 or 4-1-9 of this chapter shall be seized and impounded, or, at the discretion of the Mayor, the owner may be served a summons to appear before a proper court to answer charges made thereunder.

2. Owners of licensed dogs shall be notified within two (2) days that upon payment of impounding fees plus cost of food and care in a reasonable amount, the dog will be returned. If the impounded licensed dogs are not recovered by their owners within seven (7) days after notice, the dogs shall be disposed of in a humane manner as directed by the City Council or the boarding facility.

3. Impounded unlicensed dogs may be recovered by the owner, upon proper identification, by payment of the license fee, impounding fee and boarding costs, and the costs of vaccination if vaccination is required by Section 4-1-7. If such dogs are not claimed within seven (7) days after notice, they shall be disposed of in a humane manner as directed by the City Council or the boarding facility.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 351.37)

4. Any animal found to have bitten a person or other animal shall be confined as directed by the Mayor, City Council or duly authorized representative.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 351.39)

5. This section shall not apply to a law enforcement dog or horse used by the law enforcement agency, that is acting in the performance of its duties, which has bitten a person.

4-1-11 DANGEROUS ANIMALS.

1. Dangerous Animals Prohibited. No person shall keep, shelter, or harbor for any purpose within the City limits, a dangerous animal.

2. Definitions. A dangerous animal is:

a. Any animal which is not naturally tame or gentle, and which is of a wild nature or disposition, and which is capable of killing, inflicting serious injury upon, or causing disease among human beings or domestic animals, and having known tendencies as a species to do so.

b. The following are animals which shall be deemed to be dangerous animals per se:

(1) Lions, tigers, jaguars, leopards, cougars, lynx, and bobcats;

(2) Wolves, coyotes, and foxes;

(3) Badgers, wolverines, weasels, skunks and mink;

(4) Raccoons;

(5) Bears;

(6) Monkeys, chimpanzees, and apes;

(7) Alligators and crocodiles;

(8) Scorpions; gila monsters;

(9) Snakes that are venomous or constrictors;

(10) Staffordshire terriers - known as pit bulls;

(11) Any cross breed of such animals which have similar characteristics of the animals specified above.

c. Any animals declared to be dangerous by the City Council.

3. Dangerous Animals Exceptions. The keeping of dangerous animals shall not be prohibited in the following circumstances:

a. The keeping of dangerous animals in a public zoo, bona fide educational or medical

institution, humane society, or museum where they are kept as live specimens for the public to view, or for the purpose of instruction, research or study, and has obtained the written approval of the City Council.

4-1-12 KEEPING A VICIOUS DOG OR CAT. It shall be unlawful for any person or persons to harbor or keep a vicious dog or cat within the City. A vicious cat or dog is deemed so when it shall have attacked or bitten any person (without provocation), or when the propensity to attack or bite persons shall exist and such propensity is known or ought reasonably be known to the owner thereof.