

CITY CODE FOR DOGS AND CATS

§ 91.02 DOGS AND CATS.

(A) *Running at large prohibited.* It shall be unlawful for the dog or cat of any person who owns, harbors, or keeps a dog or cat, to run at large. A person, who owns, harbors, or keeps a dog or cat which runs at large shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. Dogs or cats on a leash and accompanied by a responsible person so as to be effectively restrained by leash, not to exceed 6 feet in length, shall be permitted in streets or on public land unless the city has posted an area with signs reading "Dogs or Cats Prohibited." Leashes shall be non-retractable.

(B) *License required.*

(1) All dogs over the age of 6 months kept, harbored, or maintained by their owners in the city, shall be licensed and registered with the city. Dog licenses shall be issued by the City Clerk upon payment of the license fee as established in the Resolution Setting Fees and Charges adopted by the City Council.

(2) It shall be the duty of each owner of a dog subject to this section to pay to the City Clerk the license fee established in the Resolution Setting Fees and Charges adopted by the City Council.

(3) Upon payment of the license fee as established by the Resolution Setting Fees and Charges adopted by the City Council, the Clerk shall issue to the owner a license certificate and metallic tag for each dog licensed. The tag shall have stamped on it the year for which it is issued and the number corresponding with the number on the certificate. Every owner shall be required to provide each dog with a collar to which the license tag must be affixed, and shall see that the collar and tag are constantly worn. In case a dog tag is lost or destroyed, a duplicate shall be issued by the City Clerk. A charge shall be made for each duplicate tag in an amount established in the Resolution Setting Fees and Charges adopted by the City Council. Dog tags shall not be transferable from one dog to another and no refunds shall be made on any dog license fee or tag because of death of a dog or the owner leaving the city before the expiration of the license period.

(4) The licensing provisions of this division (B) shall not apply to dogs whose owners are nonresidents temporarily within the city, nor to dogs brought into the city for the purpose of participating in any dog show. If the animal owned is a service animal which is capable of being properly identified as from a recognized school for seeing eye, hearing ear, service or guide animals, and the owner is a blind or deaf person, or a person with physical or sensory disabilities, then no license shall be required.

(5) The funds received by the City Clerk from all dog license and metallic tag fees as established by the Resolution Setting Fees and Charges adopted by the City Council, shall first be used to defray any costs incidental to the enforcement of this chapter; including, but not restricted to, the costs of licenses, metallic tags, and impounding and maintenance of the dogs.

(C) *Cats.* Cats shall be included as controlled by this division insofar as running-at-large, pickup, impounding, boarding, licensing and proof of anti-rabies vaccine is concerned. All other provisions of this section shall also apply to cats unless otherwise provided.

(D) *Vaccination.*

(1) All dogs and cats kept harbored, maintained, or transported within the city shall be vaccinated at least once every 3 years by a licensed veterinarian for:

- (a) Rabies; and
- (b) Distemper.

(2) A certificate of vaccination must be kept on which is stated the date of vaccination, owner's name and address, the animal's name (if applicable), sex, description and weight, the type of vaccine, and the veterinarian's signature. Upon demand made by the City Clerk, the Animal Control Officer or a police officer, the owner shall present for examination the required certificate(s) of vaccination for the animal(s). In cases where certificates are not presented, the owner or keeper of the animal(s) shall have 7 days in which to present the certificate(s) to the City Clerk or officer. Failure to do so shall be deemed a violation of this section.

(Am. Ord. 17, 4th Series, passed 1-17-2008; Am. Ord. 63, 4th Series, passed 1-5-2015) Penalty, see § [91.99](#)

§ 91.05 IMPOUNDING.

(A) *Running at large.* Any unlicensed animal running at large is hereby declared a public nuisance. Any Animal Control Officer or police officer may impound any dog or other animal found unlicensed or any animal found running at large and shall give notice of the impounding to the owner of the dog or other animal, if known. The Animal Control Officer or police officer shall not enter the property of the owner of an animal found running at large or the owner of an unlicensed animal unless the officer has first obtained the permission of the owner to do so or has obtained a warrant issued by a court of competent jurisdiction to search for and seize the animal. In case the owner is unknown, the officer shall post notice at the city office that if the dog or other animal is not claimed within the time specified in division (C) of this section, it will be sold or otherwise disposed of. Except as otherwise provided in this section, it shall be unlawful to kill, destroy, or otherwise cause injury to any animal, including dogs and cats running at large.

(B) *Biting animals.* Any animal that has not been inoculated by a live modified rabies vaccine and which has bitten any person, wherein the skin has been punctured or the services of a doctor are required, shall be confined in the city pound for a period of not less than 10 days, at the expense of the owner. The animal may be released at the end of the time if healthy and free from symptoms of rabies, and by the payment of all costs by the owner. However, if the owner of the animal shall elect immediately upon receipt of notice of need for the confinement by the officer to voluntarily and immediately confine the animal for the required period of time in a veterinary hospital of the owner's

choosing, within a 15 mile radius of this city, and provide immediate proof of confinement in the manner as may be required, the owner may do so. If, however, the animal has been inoculated with a live modified rabies vaccine and the owner has proof of the vaccination by a certificate from a licensed veterinarian, the owner may confine the dog or other animal to the owner's property.

(C) *Reclaiming.* All animals conveyed to the pound shall be kept, with humane treatment and sufficient food and water for their comfort, at least five regular business days, unless the animal is a dangerous animal as defined under § [91.11](#) in which case it shall be kept for seven regular business days or the times specified in § [91.11](#), and except if the animal is a cruelly-treated animal in which case it shall be kept for ten regular business days, unless sooner reclaimed by their owners or keepers as provided by this section. In case the owner or keeper shall desire to reclaim the animal from the pound, the following shall be required, unless otherwise provided for in this code or established from time to time by resolution of the City Council:

(1) Payment of the release fee and receipt of a release permit as established by the city, as that may be amended from time to time.

(2) Payment of maintenance costs, as provided by the pound, per day or any part of day while animal is in the pound; and

(3) If a dog is unlicensed, payment of a regular license fee as established by the Resolution Setting Fees and Charges adopted by the City Council, and valid certificate of vaccination for rabies and distemper shots is required.

(D) *Unclaimed animals.* At the expiration of the times established in division (C) of this section, if the animal has not been reclaimed in accordance with the provisions of this section, the officer appointed to enforce this section may let any person claim the animal by complying with all provisions in this section. Any money collected under this section shall be payable to the City Clerk.

(Am. Ord. 43, 4th Series, passed 1-17-2012; Am. Ord. 63, 4th Series, passed 1-5-2015) Penalty, see § [91.99](#)

§ 91.06 KENNELS.

(A) *Definition of kennel.* The keeping of 4 or more dogs or 4 or more cats on the same premises, whether owned by the same person or not and for whatever purpose kept, shall constitute a “kennel;” except that a fresh litter of pups or kittens may be kept for a period of three months before that keeping shall be deemed to be a “kennel.”

(B) *Kennel as a nuisance.* Because the keeping of 4 or more dogs or 4 or more cats on the same premises is subject to great abuse, causing discomfort to persons in the area by way of smell, noise, hazard, and general aesthetic depreciation, the keeping of 4 or more dogs or 4 or more cats on the premises is hereby declared to be a nuisance and no person shall keep or maintain a kennel within the city.

Penalty, see § [91.99](#)