

CHAPTER 10. ANIMALS

ARTICLE I. In General

State law references--General authority relative to animals, Minn. Stats. §§ 410.33, 412.221, subd. 21; animal health, Minn. Stats. ch. 35; stray animals and companion animals, Minn. Stats. ch. 346; dogs and cats, Minn. Stats. ch. 347; cruelty to animals, Minn. Stats. § 343.20 et seq.

Section 10-1. Definitions.

For the purposes of this Chapter, the following terms and definitions apply:

Animal. “Animal” shall mean any mammal, reptile, amphibian, fish, bird, or other member commonly accepted as part of the animal kingdom. Animals shall be classified as follows:

Domestic Animal. Animals commonly accepted as domesticated household pets. Unless otherwise defined, such animals shall include dogs, cats, caged birds, gerbils, hamsters, guinea pigs, domesticated rabbits, fish, non-poisonous, non-venomous and non-constricting reptiles or amphibians, and other similar animals.

Farm Animal. Animals commonly associated with a farm or performing work in an agricultural setting. Unless otherwise defined, such animals shall include members of the equestrian family (horses, mules), bovine family (cows, bulls), sheep, poultry (chickens, turkeys), fowl (ducks, geese), swine (including Vietnamese pot-bellied pigs), goats, and other animals associated with a farm.

Non Domestic Animal. Means those animals commonly considered to be naturally wild and not naturally trained or domesticated, or which are commonly considered inherently dangerous to the health, safety, and welfare of people. Unless otherwise defined, such animals shall include:

- (a) Any member of the large cat family (family felidae) including lions, tigers, cougars, bobcats, leopards, and jaguars, but excluding commonly accepted domesticated house cats.
- (b) Any naturally wild member of the canine family (family canidae) including wolves, foxes, coyotes, dingoes, and jackals, but excluding commonly accepted domesticated dogs.
- (c) Any crossbreeds such as the crossbreed between a wolf and a dog, unless the crossbreed is commonly accepted as a domesticated house pet.
- (d) Any member or relative of the rodent family including any skunk (whether or not descended), raccoon, squirrel, or ferret, but excluding those members otherwise defined or commonly accepted as domesticated pets.
- (e) Any poisonous, venomous, constricting, or inherently dangerous member of the reptile or amphibian families including rattlesnakes, boa constrictors, pit vipers, crocodiles and alligators.
- (f) Any other animal which is not explicitly listed above but which can be reasonably defined by the terms of this subpart, including by not limited to bears, deer, monkeys, and game fish.

Section 10-2. Animals Prohibited.

Unless otherwise noted in this chapter, no person shall keep, harbor, or maintain care custody, or control, over any non-domesticated or farm animal with the City limits.

Section 10-3. Running at large; disposal of feces; barking dogs.

- (a) Any domestic animal within the City shall not be permitted by the owner to run at large within the City. For purposes of this section the term "at large" means any animal not restrained by chain or leash not exceeding eight feet, except:
 - (1) Police dogs;
 - (2) Animals restrained in a vehicle, fenced-in area, or building;
 - (3) Animals on the premises of the owner and under the control of the owner or a member of his family.
- (b) Feces of any domestic animal shall be properly disposed of by the owner and shall be promptly removed from any public property or any private property not owned by the owner of the animal.
- (c) No person shall own, keep, harbor, or be in physical control of a dog or cat that is a nuisance. No person shall permit a dog or cat to be a nuisance. It shall be a nuisance for any animal when unprovoked to: bite, attack or endanger the safety of humans or domestic animals; to run at large; to habitually or frequently bark or cry; to frequent school grounds, parks or public beaches when unrestrained; to chase vehicles; to molest or annoy any person if such person is not on the property of the owner or custodian of the animal; to molest, defile, or destroy any property, public or private; or to leave excrement on any property, public or private.
- (d) The provisions of this section shall not apply to the ownership or use of seeing eye dogs by blind persons, dogs when used in police activities by the city, or tracking dogs when used by or with the permission of the city.
- (e) It is a petty misdemeanor to violate the provisions of this section. It is a misdemeanor to violate the provisions of this section more than once within any 12-month period.

State law reference--Livestock at large, Minn. Stats. § 346.16 et seq.

Section 10-4. Rabies quarantine.

- (a) Whenever a domestic animal such as a dog, cat or other domestic animal capable of transmitting rabies, bites a person causing a puncture, laceration, abrasion or similar type wound or break in the skin or any time the saliva of such animal comes into contact with a puncture, laceration, abrasion or similar type wound or break in the skin of a person, the animal shall be placed under quarantine for a ten day period from the date of the bite or saliva exposure.
- (b) An animal under quarantine may be kept on the premises of the owner under the following conditions:
 - (1) The animal must be kept confined in a building or other suitable structure or enclosure from which the animal cannot escape, and which prohibits contact with other animals or persons other than immediate

family members. An outside kennel or fenced yard is not a suitable structure or enclosure for quarantine purposes.

- (2) The animal may not be removed or released from the building or structure except the animal may be taken to a veterinary hospital to receive emergency veterinary care or the animal may be taken outside (limited to the premises of the owner) to urinate and defecate, provided the animal is securely leashed and under the immediate supervision of a responsible person. When outside the animal shall not be allowed to come into contact with any animals or persons other than immediate family members. When an animal has finished, it shall be immediately returned to the building where it is being confined for the quarantine period.
 - (3) The animal may not be vaccinated against rabies virus during the quarantine period.
 - (4) The animal must be made available to the city police department or state health department for inspection at reasonable times during the quarantine period.
 - (5) The animal may not be authorized or otherwise killed except upon order of the state health department or the city police department.
 - (6) If the animal becomes sick or dies during the quarantine period, the city police department shall be notified immediately. The carcass of any animal that dies during the quarantine period shall be immediately turned over to the city police department or state health department.
- (c) If the owner fails to comply with any of the above conditions, the animal shall be immediately impounded for the duration of the quarantine period at the city dog pound at the expense of the owner. The owner of an animal may impound the animal at the city dog pound for the quarantine period if he chooses, at his own expense.

State law reference--Rabies control, Minn. Stats. § 35.255 et seq.

Sections 10-5 thru 10-30. Reserved.

Section 10-31. Interference with officers.

It shall be unlawful for any unauthorized person to break open the pound or attempt to do so or to take or let out any animal from the pound or to take or attempt to take from any officer any animal taken up by him in compliance with this article or in any manner to interfere with or hinder such officer in the discharge of his duties under this article.

Section 10-32 thru 10-50. Reserved.

Section 10-51. City pound; pound keeper.

A city pound is hereby established for the purpose of enforcing this chapter. The Chief of Police shall be pound keeper.

Section 10-52. Impoundment.

The police officers of the city shall impound any animal prohibited by section 10-1, any animal running at large, or any animal not licensed as required by law.

Section 10-53. Release.

Upon impounding any animal, reasonable effort shall be made to notify the owner and the owner may obtain the animal from the pound by payment of the impounding fee as set from time to time by the city council. If a dog or cat has not been licensed, it may be released to its owner on condition that the owner furnishes proof of obtaining a license within five days after release. Failure to furnish such proof within five days shall constitute a violation of this Code.

Section 10-54. Disposition of unclaimed animals.

Any animal which is not claimed within five days impoundment may be sold or painlessly killed and disposed of at the direction of the pound keeper.

State law reference--Notification of owners of impounded animals,
Minn. Stats. § 346.55.

Section 10-55. Destruction of animals.

The pound master and all police officers of this city are authorized to kill any animal subject to impoundment that cannot be safely taken up and impounded.

Sections 10-56 thru 10-80. Reserved.