

TITLE 6: ANIMALS

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History:

<u>Ordinance</u>	<u>Date of Adoption</u>	<u>Effect</u>
87-17	9/28/87	Codified 76-1, 81-3
90-09	2/19/90	Amended 6.1.03, re vaccination; adopted state rabies control law.

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6.1.01 Definitions Unless otherwise expressly stated, the following terms shall, for the purpose of this chapter, have the meanings indicated in this section:

“Cat” means *Felis catus*.

“Dog” means *Canis familiaris*.

“Owner” means any person or persons, firm, association, partnership, or corporation owning, keeping or harboring an animal or animals of the dog kind.

“At Large” means a dog that is not confined to the premises of the owner by a substantial fence of sufficient strength and height to prevent the dog from escaping therefrom, inside the house, or other enclosure, or secured on said premises by a leash of sufficient strength to prevent the dog from escaping from said premises when the leash is stretch to full length in any direction; provided however, that a dog shall not be considered “at large” when held and controlled by some person by means of leash or chain of proper strength and length to control the actions of the dog, or when confined within a vehicle.

6.1.02 Running at Large

- A. Dogs No owner of any dog shall permit such dog to run at large within the corporation limits of the City.
- B. Other Animals It shall be unlawful for any person to allow or permit any cow, calf, steer, bull, bullock, heifer, any sheep, goat, hog, horse, mare, colt, mule, jack, or jenny owned or controlled by said person to run at large, or be herded in or upon any street, or alley in or upon any unenclosed vacant lot or common or on property of another without the said property owner’s consent within the corporate limits of the city.
- C. Fowl It shall be unlawful for any person to permit, suffer or allow any chickens, ducks, turkeys, geese or other fowl, owned, kept or possessed by them or under their control to wander in or upon or invade the premises of any other person, within the corporate limits of the City, unless the owner or person in charge of said premises shall consent thereto.

6.1.03 Impoundment; fees

- A. Any animal running at large in the City contrary to the terms of this chapter may be impounded by a duly authorized representative of the City, and

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impounded or caused to be impounded in a place provided for that purpose, and if such animal is not called for by the owner within seventy-two (72) hours after impoundment, it may be destroyed humanely or may be released to the agency of impoundment (if other than the City) for adoption or other disposition; provided however, that the owner of any animal impounded shall be permitted to repossess such animal only upon the payment to the impounding agency of its prevailing pound fee, as well as any Fees due to the City in connection with impoundment.

- B. The City may provide for impoundment and the housing and feeding of impounded animals by other entities, either public or private. Fees for impoundment shall be as set forth in the Chapter 3.3 of this code.
- C. Prior to the release of an impounded cat or dog, the owner thereof will be required to show proof that the dog or cat has been vaccinated against rabies as required by State statute. Owners of dogs or cats for which proof of a current vaccination cannot be provided will be required to sign a declaration of intent to have the animal vaccinated and provide proof of vaccination to the City within 48 hours of the animal's release from impoundment. No animal will be released by the impounding agency without a release signed by the Chief of the City Department of Public Safety.

6.1.04

Rabies Control

- A. The provisions of Chapter 826 of the Texas Health and Safety Code and the standards adopted by the State Board of Health are hereby adopted as the standards for rabies control in the City.
- B. All dogs and cats shall be vaccinated against rabies in accordance with State law. The owner of a dog or cat shall maintain proof of current vaccination for city inspection on reasonable request therefor.
- C. The procedures for quarantine of animals shall be as provided by the Texas Health and Safety Code.
- D. The offense of keeping a vicious dog and the penalties therefor shall be as provided in the Texas Penal Code.