

Chapter 10

Dogs, Wild Animals, and Vicious Animals

Section 10-1 Dogs running at large prohibited.

It shall be unlawful for any owner of a dog to allow such dog to run at large at any time beyond the limits of the land of its owner, and upon the streets, sidewalks, or other public or private property. A dog shall be considered not to be at large whenever the dog is under the immediate control of a person by means of a leash, chain, cord, or rope not more than six (6) feet in length and of sufficient strength to control the dog.

Section 10-2 Wild animals prohibited.

No wild animal may be kept within the city limits, except under such conditions as shall be fixed by the city, provided, however, that wild animals may be kept for exhibition purposes in accordance with such regulations as shall be established by the city.

Section 10-3 Vicious animals prohibited.

No person shall have in his possession any vicious animal or allow the same to be upon any public street, alley or ground within the limits of the city.

Section 10-4 Vicious animal defined, declared vicious.

- A. An animal may be declared to be vicious by the city council, chief of police, or attending physician. A city resident may request such a declaration under the following guidelines:
 - a. An animal which, in a vicious or terrorizing manner, approaches in an apparent attitude of attack or bites, inflicts injury, assaults, or otherwise attacks a person or other animal upon the streets, sidewalks, or any public grounds or places; or
 - b. An animal which, on private property, in a vicious or terrorizing manner or apparent attitude of attack, bites, inflicts injury, assaults, or otherwise attacks a mailman, meter reader, serviceperson, journeyman, delivery person, or other employed person, or other animal who is on private property by reason of permission of the owner or occupant of such property or who is on private property by reason of a course of dealing with the owner of such private property;
- B. No animal may be declared vicious if the injury or damage is sustained to any person or animal that is committing a willful trespass or other tort upon premises occupied by the owner or keeper of the animal, or who was teasing, tormenting, abusing, or assaulting the animal or was committing or attempting to commit a crime.
- C. When the city council and/or chief of police declare an animal to be vicious, they shall notify the owner of such declaration in writing. Said notice shall be served either in person or by certified mail.
- D. The vicious animal, or any vicious animal found off the premises of its owner, shall be seized and impounded by the chief of police or any law enforcement officer at the owner's expense. If the animal cannot be captured, it may be destroyed.

Section 10-5 Enforcement

If an animal bites a person or another animal, or is declared vicious, the chief of police or any law enforcement officer may immediately seize the animal or may order the owner to deliver the animal to a location selected by the city council and/or chief of police within twenty-four (24) hours and the owner ordered to appear in court to show cause why this animal shall not be destroyed. If the owner of the animal fails to deliver the animal as ordered, the chief of police or any law enforcement officer shall use such means as is necessary to impound the animal.

To secure release from impoundment, the owner or possessor of the dog shall be fined in the following manner and required to pay to the city a release bond as follows:

- A. First Offense \$25.00
- B. Second Offense \$50.00
- C. Third Offense \$75.00
- D. Fourth offense the offending dog shall be destroyed