

**Chapter 5. Animals and Fowl**

**Section 500 - General**

**500.01 Appointment of Animal Control Warden.** The City Council shall, annually in the month of January, appoint an Animal Control Warden.

**500.02 Compensation of Animal Control Warden.** The City Council shall prescribe the compensation of the Animal Control Warden.

**500.03 Interference with the Duties of the Animal Control Warden.** It shall be unlawful for an unauthorized person to attempt to take from the Animal Control Warden or any authorized law enforcement official, any dog taken up or apprehended in compliance with this Section or in any manner to interfere with or hinder the persons in the discharge of their duties under the provisions of this Section.

**500.04 License Required.** Every dog or cat over the age of 6 months, kept, harbored or maintained within the City shall be licensed.  
(Am. Ord. 252, passed 8-26-98)

**500.05 Prerequisite to Issuance or Renewal of License.** Before a dog license can be issued or renewed by the Clerk-Administrator, the person applying for the license shall present a certificate from a licensed veterinarian showing that the dog to be licensed has been vaccinated for rabies within the previous twenty-four (24) months.

**500.06 License Fees.** The fee for a dog license shall be as set in the fee schedule adopted from time to time by the council . In case a dog tag is lost or destroyed a duplicate may be obtained for the fee set in the fee schedule adopted from time to time by the council. No reduction in the license fee shall be made because of the expiration of a portion of the license period and no refund of any portion of the license fee shall be made at any time for any reason.

**500.07 Expiration of Licenses.** Each dog license shall expire upon the expiration of the required rabies vaccination. A dog license shall not be transferred to a new or different dog.

**500.08 Clerk-Administrator to Keep Records of Licenses Issued and Issue Tags.** The Clerk-Administrator shall keep a record of all licenses issued pursuant to this Section and shall issue a metal tag with each licensed issued.

**500.09 Offenses Involving Tags.** It shall be unlawful to counterfeit the metal tags provided for in Subsection 500.08 of this section or take from any dog a tag legally placed upon it by its owner or to place a tag so taken upon another dog.

**500.10 Impoundment.**

A. The Animal Control Warden or designee or any law enforcement officer shall impound any dog or cat found unlicensed or running at large, and shall give notice of the impoundment to the owner of the animal if known. In case the owner is unknown, notice of the impoundment shall be posted on the City's web page and at City Hall, and if the animal is not claimed within five regular business days following the posting and all fees and charges have not been paid, the City shall cause the animal to be destroyed and its carcass disposed of in a humane way, unless a licensed educational or scientific institution under Minn. Stat. § 35.71 requests the animal, or unless the animal is transferred to another humane society, shelter, or other care provider. The City may also impound or destroy any animal found to be posing a threat to the public's health, safety and welfare. Such impoundment or destruction shall be made pursuant to applicable State laws.

B. The Animal Control Warden shall house and feed impounded dogs in a humane manner for as long as required by this Section. An impounding fee and a daily boarding charge for feeding shall be charged for all impounded dogs.

(Am. Ord. 252, passed 8-26-98; Am. Ord. 2006-2, passed 2-14-06)

**500.11 Running at Large Prohibited.** No dog or cat shall be permitted to run at large within the City limits.

(Am. Ord. 252, passed 8-26-98)

**500.12 Permitted on Streets, Public Property When on Leash, under Control.** The restriction imposed by Subsection 500.09 shall not prohibit the appearance of any dog upon the streets or public property of the City when the dog is on a leash and is kept under the control of the accompanying person.

**500.13 Abandoning Dogs Prohibited.** Any person turning loose a dog away from home or otherwise abandoning a dog within the City shall be guilty of misdemeanor and on conviction thereof shall be punished as prescribed in Minn. Stat. § 144.49, Subdivision 1 as amended.

**500.14 Dangerous Dogs.** Whenever the owner of a vicious, dangerous or destructive dog has forfeited bond or bail or has pleaded or been found guilty in connection with a charge of maintaining a dangerous dog and permitting the dog to run at large, the court in addition to fine or imprisonment of the owner, may order the dog confined in a specific manner on its owner's premises if the dog is found running at large thereafter, the Animal Control Warden upon apprehension, shall summarily destroy the dog.

Whenever four or more adult persons, having no relationship to each other, make written petition to the City requesting the confinement of a dog because of a present potential danger for children in the area, the Animal Control Warden, after investigation, may order the immediate confinement of the dog or proceed to procure through a complaint, a court order for permanent confinement of the animal, or such other substantial disposition as the court may deem appropriate.

**500.15 Dogs Which Have Bitten.** Whenever any dog shall have bitten a person or there is good reason to believe that the dog has bitten a person, the fact shall be reported within 24 hours to the City, and thereafter the owner of the dog shall comply with the instructions of the Animal Control Warden concerning the dog.

**500.16 Removal of Excrement.** It shall be unlawful for any person who owns or has custody of a dog or cat to cause or permit such animal to defecate on any private property without consent of the property owner, or on any public property, unless the person immediately removes the excrement and places it in a proper receptacle. The provisions of this Subsection shall not apply to seeing-eye dogs under the control of a blind person or to any dog while being used in law enforcement activity.