

CHAPTER 55

ANIMAL PROTECTION AND CONTROL

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55.01 DEFINITIONS. The following terms are defined for use in the chapters of this Code of Ordinances pertaining to Animal Protection and Control:

1. "Animal" means a nonhuman vertebrate.
2. "At Large" means off the premises of the animal's owner and not under the control of a competent person, restrained within a motor vehicle, or housed in a veterinary hospital or kennel.
3. "Livestock" means an animal belonging to the bovine, caprine, equine, ovine, porcupine species, farm deer, ostriches, rheas, emus, or poultry.
4. "Owner" means any person owning, keeping, sheltering or harboring an animal.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 717.1 and 717B.1)

55.02 ANIMAL NEGLECT. It is unlawful for a person who impounds or confines, in any place, an animal, excluding livestock, to fail to supply the animal during confinement with a sufficient quantity of food or water, or to fail to provide a confined dog or cat with adequate shelter, or to torture, deprive of necessary sustenance, mutilate, beat, or kill such animal by any means which causes unjustified pain, distress or suffering.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 717B.3)

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55.03 LIVESTOCK NEGLECT. It is unlawful for a person who impounds or confines livestock in any place to fail to provide the livestock with care consistent with customary animal husbandry practices or to deprive the livestock of necessary sustenance or to injure or destroy livestock by any means which causes pain or suffering in a manner inconsistent with customary animal husbandry practices.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 717.2)

55.04 ABANDONMENT OF CATS AND DOGS. A person who has ownership or custody of a cat or dog shall not abandon the cat or dog, except the person may deliver the cat or dog to another person who will accept ownership and custody or the person may deliver the cat or dog to an animal shelter or pound.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 717B.7)

55.05 LIVESTOCK. It is unlawful for a person to keep livestock within the City except by written consent of the Council or except in compliance with the City's zoning regulations.

55.06 AT LARGE PROHIBITED. It is unlawful for any owner to allow an animal to run at large within the corporate limits of the City.

55.07 CATS OR DOGS RUNNING AT LARGE. It is unlawful for any owner of a cat or dog to allow or permit such cat or dog to do any of the following while at large:

1. Defecate on property other than that of the owner.
2. Deface, scratch, or mar any personal property of another.
3. Cause injury to any person or animal.
4. Hiss, meow, bark or fight at such times or in such places as to disturb the peace and quiet of others.

55.08 DAMAGE OR INTERFERENCE. It is unlawful for the owner of an animal to allow or permit such animal to pass upon the premises of another thereby causing damage to, or interference with, the premises.

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55.09 ANNOYANCE OR DISTURBANCE. It is unlawful for the owner of a dog to allow or permit such dog to cause serious annoyance or disturbance to any person or persons by frequent and habitual howling, yelping, barking, or otherwise; or, by running after or chasing persons, bicycles, automobiles or other vehicles.

55.10 RELEASE OF ANIMALS. No person shall aid or cause an animal, whether owned by such person or not, to escape confinement or impoundment, whether such confinement or impoundment is upon such person's property or that of another, by opening any gate, door or window, by making an opening in any fence, enclosure or structure, or by unleashing such animal.

55.11 CONTROL OF ANIMALS. It is the duty of every person owning or having the custody or control of an animal to physically restrain the animal within an enclosure or upon a leash when such animal is left unattended outside or is not at heel. The animal must be restrained so as to prevent the animal from leaving the premises of its owner or from coming in contact with public right-of-way or the property of another.

55.12 INTERFERENCE WITH CITY EMPLOYEES PROHIBITED. It is prohibited for any person in any manner to interfere with any employee or designated representative of the City so as to hinder, delay or prevent said employee or representative from executing duties pursuant to this chapter.

55.13 IMMUNIZATION OF CATS. Any owner of a cat shall have such cat vaccinated for rabies by the time the cat reaches the age of six months and the owner shall have in his or her possession a certificate signed by a veterinarian describing the cat and certifying that the cat has been so vaccinated.

55.14 OWNER'S DUTY. It is the duty of the owner of any dog, cat or other animal which has bitten or attacked a person or any person having knowledge of such bite or attack to report this act to a local health or law enforcement official. It is the duty of physicians and veterinarians to report to the local board of health the existence of any animal known or suspected to be suffering from rabies.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 351.38)

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55.15 CONFINEMENT. When a local board of health receives information that any person has been bitten by an animal or that a dog or animal is suspected of having rabies, it shall order the owner to confine such animal in the manner it directs. If the owner fails to confine such animal in the manner directed, the animal shall be apprehended and impounded by such board, and after two weeks the board may humanely destroy the animal. If such animal is returned to its owner, the owner shall pay the cost of impoundment.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 351.39)

55.16 AT LARGE: IMPOUNDMENT. Animals found at large in violation of this chapter shall be seized and impounded, or at the discretion of the peace officer, the owner may be served a summons to appear before a proper court to answer charges made thereunder. The owner shall pay all impoundment fees.

55.17 DISPOSITION OF ANIMALS. When an animal has been apprehended and impounded, written notice shall be given in not less than two (2) days to the owner, if known. Impounded animals may be recovered by the owner upon payment of impounding costs, and if an unvaccinated dog, by having it immediately vaccinated. If the owner does not redeem the animal within seven (7) days, the animal may be humanely destroyed or otherwise disposed of in accordance with law.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 351.37, 351.41)

55.18 VIOLATION – MUNICIPAL INFRACTION. A violation of this chapter shall be considered a municipal infraction under Chapter 4 of this Code of Ordinances.