

# NUISANCES AND ANIMAL CONTROL

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## CHAPTER 50

# NUISANCE ABATEMENT PROCEDURE

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**50.01 DEFINITION OF NUISANCE.** Whatever is injurious to health, indecent, or unreasonably offensive to the senses, or an obstacle to the free use of property so as essentially to unreasonably interfere with the comfortable enjoyment of life or property is a nuisance.

*(Code of Iowa, Sec. 657.1)*

**50.02 NUISANCES ENUMERATED.** The following subsections include, but do not limit, the conditions that are deemed to be nuisances in the City:

*(Code of Iowa, Sec. 657.2)*

1. **Offensive Smells.** Erecting, continuing, or using any building or other place for the exercise of any trade, employment, or manufacture that, by occasioning noxious exhalations, unreasonably offensive smells, or other annoyances, becomes injurious and dangerous to the health, comfort, or property of individuals or the public.
2. **Filth or Noisome Substance.** Causing or suffering any offal, filth, or noisome substance to be collected or to remain in any place to the prejudice of others.
3. **Impeding Passage of Navigable River.** Obstructing or impeding without legal authority the passage of any navigable river, harbor, or collection of water.
4. **Water Pollution.** Corrupting or rendering unwholesome or impure the water of any river, stream, or pond, or unlawfully diverting the same from its natural course or state, to the injury or prejudice of others.
5. **Blocking Public and Private Ways.** Obstructing or encumbering, by fences, buildings or otherwise, the public roads, private ways, streets, alleys, commons, landing places, or burying grounds.
6. **Billboards.** Billboards, signboards, and advertising signs, whether erected and constructed on public or private property, that so obstruct and impair the view of any portion or part of a public street, avenue, highway, boulevard or alley or of a railroad or street railway track as to render dangerous the use thereof. **(See also Section 62.06)**
7. **Storing of Flammable Junk.** Depositing or storing of flammable junk, such as old rags, rope, cordage, rubber, bones and paper, by dealers in such articles within the fire limits of the City, unless in a building of fireproof construction. **(See also Chapter 51)**
8. **Air Pollution.** Emission of dense smoke, noxious fumes, or fly ash.
9. **Weeds, Brush.** Dense growth of all weeds, vines, brush, or other vegetation in the City so as to constitute a health, safety, or fire hazard.
10. **Dutch Elm Disease.** Trees infected with Dutch elm disease. **(See also Chapter 151)**

11. Airport Air Space. Any object or structure hereafter erected within 1,000 feet of the limits of any municipal or regularly established airport or landing place, which may endanger or obstruct aerial navigation including take-off and landing, unless such object or structure constitutes a proper use or enjoyment of the land on which the same is located.

12. Houses of Ill Fame. Houses of ill fame, kept for the purpose of prostitution and lewdness; gambling houses; places resorted to by persons participating in criminal gang activity prohibited by Chapter 723A of the *Code of Iowa* or places resorted to by persons using controlled substances, as defined in Section 124.101 of the *Code of Iowa*, in violation of law, or houses where drunkenness, quarreling, fighting or breaches of the peace are carried on or permitted to the disturbance of others.

13. Septic Tank Drainage. Effluent from septic tank or drain field running or ponding on the ground in the open.

14. Obstruction of Drainage. Any article or substance placed upon a street, alley, sidewalk, public ground, or in any ditch, waterway, or gutter so as to obstruct the drainage.

15. Rubbish or Trash. Accumulations of rubbish or trash tending to harbor vermin, rodents, and rank growth of weeds or other vegetation and plants, which is conducive to hazard.

16. Noise Disturbance. The causing or continuance or allowing to be made any noise disturbance within the City. For purposes of this subsection, "noise disturbance" means any sound which disturbs humans or which causes or tends to cause an adverse psychological or physiological effect on humans. Included within the definition of "noise disturbance" is the use, operation, or causing to be used or operated any sound equipment upon the public rights-of-ways or in any commercial or nonresidential building structure, or upon any commercial or nonresidential premises, public or private, if the sound emitted thereby is plainly audible from the public right-of-way within the City during the hours of 10:00 p.m. through the following 7:00 a.m. each day commencing on Sunday through Thursday of each week, and from the hours of 11:59 p.m. through the following 7:00 a.m. on each day commencing Friday and Saturday of each week. For purposes of this subsection, "sound equipment" means any radio, record player, tape deck or player, loud speaker, amplifier, sound track or other device for producing, reproducing or amplifying sound; and the sound made by a drum, horn, reed instrument, string instrument or other musical instrument or singing device.

17. Emerald Ash Borer. Trees infected with the Emerald Ash Borer.

**50.03 OTHER CONDITIONS.** The following chapters of this Code of Ordinances contain regulations prohibiting or restricting other conditions that are deemed to be nuisances:

1. Junk and Junk Vehicles (See Chapter 51)
2. Dangerous Buildings (See Chapter 145)
3. Storage and Disposal of Solid Waste (See Chapter 105)
4. Numbering of Buildings (See Chapter 150)
5. Trees (See Chapter 151)

**50.04 NUISANCES PROHIBITED.** The creation or maintenance of a nuisance is prohibited, and a nuisance, public or private, may be abated in the manner provided for in this chapter or State law.

*(Code of Iowa, Sec. 657.3)*

**50.05 NUISANCE ABATEMENT.** Whenever any authorized municipal officer finds that a nuisance exists, such officer has the authority to determine on a case-by-case basis whether to utilize the nuisance abatement procedure described in Section 50.06 of this chapter or the municipal infraction procedure referred to in Section 50.07.

*(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.12[3h])*

**50.06 ABATEMENT OF NUISANCE BY WRITTEN NOTICE.** Any nuisance, public or private, may be abated in the manner provided for in this section:

*(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.12[3h])*

1. Contents of Notice to Property Owner. The notice to abate shall contain: †
  - A. Description of Nuisance. A description of what constitutes the nuisance.
  - B. Location of Nuisance. The location of the nuisance.
  - C. Acts Necessary to Abate. A statement of the act or acts necessary to abate the nuisance.
  - D. Reasonable Time. A reasonable time within which to complete the abatement.
  - E. Assessment of City Costs. A statement that if the nuisance or condition is not abated as directed and no request for hearing is made within the time prescribed, the City will abate it and assess the costs against the property owner.
2. Method of Service. The notice may be in the form of an ordinance or sent by certified mail to the property owner.
 

*(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.12[3h])*
3. Request for Hearing. Any person ordered to abate a nuisance may have a hearing with the Council as to whether a nuisance exists. A request for a hearing must be made in writing and delivered to the Clerk within the time stated in the notice, or it will be conclusively presumed that a nuisance exists and it must be abated as ordered. The hearing will be before the Council at a time and place fixed by the Council. The findings of the Council shall be conclusive and, if a nuisance is found to exist, it shall be ordered abated within a reasonable time under the circumstances.
4. Abatement in Emergency. If it is determined that an emergency exists by reason of the continuing maintenance of the nuisance or condition, the City may perform any action that may be required under this chapter without prior notice. The City shall assess the costs as provided in Subsection 6 of this section after notice to the

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† **EDITOR'S NOTE:** A suggested form of notice for the abatement of nuisances is included in the Appendix of this Code of Ordinances. Caution is urged in the use of this administrative abatement procedure, particularly where cost of abatement is more than minimal or where there is doubt as to whether or not a nuisance does in fact exist. If compliance is not secured following notice and hearings, we recommend you review the situation with your attorney before proceeding with abatement and assessment of costs. Your attorney may recommend proceedings in court under Chapter 657 of the *Code of Iowa* rather than this procedure.

property owner under the applicable provisions of subsection 1 and 2, and the hearing as provided in subsection 3.

*(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.12[3h])*

5. **Abatement by City.** If the person notified to abate a nuisance or condition neglects or fails to abate as directed, the City may perform the required action to abate, keeping an accurate account of the expense incurred. The itemized expense account shall be filed with the Clerk, who shall pay such expenses on behalf of the City.

*(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.12[3h])*

6. **Collection of Costs.** The Clerk shall send a statement of the total expense incurred, including an administrative fee of \$150.00, by certified mail to the property owner who has failed to abide by the notice to abate, and if the amount shown by the statement has not been paid within one month, the Clerk shall certify the costs to the County Treasurer and such costs shall then be collected with, and in the same manner as, general property taxes.

*(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.12[3h])*

7. **Installment Payment of Cost of Abatement.** If the amount expended to abate the nuisance or condition exceeds \$500.00, the City may permit the assessment to be paid in up to 10 annual installments, to be paid in the same manner and with the same interest rates provided for assessments against benefited property under State law.

*(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.13)*

8. **Failure to Abate.** Any person causing or maintaining a nuisance who shall fail or refuse to abate or remove the same within the reasonable time required and specified in the notice to abate is in violation of this Code of Ordinances.

**50.07 MUNICIPAL INFRACTION ABATEMENT PROCEDURE.** In lieu of the abatement procedures set forth in Section 50.06, the requirements of this chapter may be enforced under the procedures applicable to municipal infractions as set forth in Chapter 3 of this Code of Ordinances.

**50.08 CONDEMNATION OF NUISANCE.** The City may condemn a residential building found to be a public nuisance and take title to the property for the public purpose of disposing of the property under Section 364.7 by conveying the property to a private individual for rehabilitation or for demolition and construction of housing.

*(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.12A)*

**50.09 SUBSEQUENT VIOLATION WITHIN 365 DAYS.** If a person allows a subsequent nuisance to exist within 365 days of being served with a previous nuisance abatement notice involving the same subject matter and property as the previous nuisance and for which the City abated the previous nuisance, the City shall have the right to abate the subsequent nuisance without prior notice to such person and to immediately certify the costs thereof to the County Treasurer.

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## CHAPTER 51

# JUNK AND JUNK VEHICLES

51.01 Definitions

51.02 Junk and Junk Vehicles Prohibited

51.03 Junk and Junk Vehicles a Nuisance

51.04 Parking and Storage of Inoperable Vehicles and Junk

51.05 Exceptions

51.06 Notice to Abate

51.07 Disposal of Impounded Vehicles

**51.01 DEFINITIONS.** For use in this chapter, the following terms are defined:

1. "Inoperable" means incapable of being put into use or operation.
2. "Inoperable vehicle" means any motor vehicle that is required to be licensed by law, recreational vehicle, boat, trailer, or semi-trailer which lacks (i) current registration or (ii) one or more wheels (exclusive of the spare) or an engine transmission, differential, drive shaft, axle, or any other component part thereof, the absence or removal of which renders the vehicle inoperable by its own power.
3. "Junk" means all old or scrap copper, brass, lead, or any other non-ferrous metal; old or discarded rope, rags, batteries, paper, trash, rubber, debris, waste or used lumber, or salvaged wood; dismantled vehicles, machinery and appliances or parts of such vehicles, machinery or appliances; iron, steel or other old or scrap ferrous materials; old or discarded glass, tinware, plastic or old or discarded household goods or hardware. Neatly stacked firewood located on a side yard or a rear yard is not considered junk.
4. "Junk vehicle" means any vehicle legally placed in storage with the County Treasurer or unlicensed and having any of the following characteristics:
  - A. Broken Glass. Any vehicle with a broken or cracked windshield, window, headlight or tail light, or any other cracked or broken glass.
  - B. Broken, Loose, or Missing Part. Any vehicle with a broken, loose, or missing fender, door, bumper, hood, steering wheel or trunk lid.
  - C. Habitat for Nuisance Animals or Insects. Any vehicle that has become the habitat for rats, mice, snakes, or any other vermin or insects.
  - D. Flammable Fuel. Any vehicle that contains gasoline or any other flammable fuel.
  - E. Inoperable. Any motor vehicle that lacks an engine or two or more wheels or other structural parts, rendering said motor vehicle totally inoperable, or that cannot be moved under its own power or has not been used as an operating vehicle for a period of 30 days or more.
  - F. Defective or Obsolete Condition. Any other vehicle that, because of its defective or obsolete condition, in any other way constitutes a threat to the public health and safety.
  - G. Any vehicle which is used for storage or the accumulation of junk, trash, debris, garbage or vehicular component parts.

H. Any motor vehicle, recreational vehicle, boat, trailer, or semi-trailer which lacks a current registration or component part which renders the vehicle unfit for legal use.

I. Any stock car, racing car, or vehicular component parts.

Mere licensing of such vehicle shall not constitute a defense to the finding that the vehicle is a junk vehicle.

5. "Vehicle" means every device in, upon, or by which a person or property is or may be transported or drawn upon a highway or street, except devices moved by human power or used exclusively upon stationary rails or tracks, and includes without limitation a motor vehicle, automobile, truck, motorcycle, tractor, buggy, wagon, farm machinery, or any combination thereof.

**51.02 JUNK AND JUNK VEHICLES PROHIBITED.** It is unlawful for any person to store, accumulate, or allow to remain on any private property within the corporate limits of the City any junk or junk vehicle.

**51.03 JUNK AND JUNK VEHICLES A NUISANCE.** It is hereby declared that any inoperable vehicle, junk, or junk vehicle located upon private property, unless excepted by Section 51.05, constitutes a threat to the health and safety of the citizens and is a nuisance within the meaning of Section 657.1 of the *Code of Iowa*. If any inoperable vehicle, junk, or junk vehicle is kept upon private property in violation hereof, the owner of or person occupying the property upon which it is located shall be prima facie liable for said violation.

*(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.12[3a])*

**51.04 PARKING AND STORAGE OF INOPERABLE VEHICLES OR JUNK.** No person shall park, place, keep, store, or permit the parking, placing, keeping, or storage of an inoperable vehicle, vehicle component parts, or miscellaneous junk and debris on any public or private property within the City unless it is within a completely enclosed building. This section does not apply to short term emergency repairs on licensed vehicles.

**51.05 EXCEPTIONS.** The provisions of this chapter do not apply to:

1. Any junk or a junk vehicle stored within a garage or other enclosed structure.
2. An auto salvage yard or junk yard lawfully operated within the City enclosed by a fence or wall at least eight feet in height and constructed so as to prevent unauthorized entrance and access.

**51.06 NOTICE TO ABATE.** Upon discovery of any junk or junk vehicle located upon private property in violation of Section 51.03, the City shall within five days initiate abatement procedures as outlined in Chapter 50 of this Code of Ordinances.

*(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.12[3a])*

**51.07 DISPOSAL OF IMPOUNDED VEHICLES.** All in operable vehicle removed and impounded shall be sold to the highest bidder at a public auction, the time and place of which shall be duly published in a newspaper of general circulation within the City not less than seven days before said auction. All revenues derived from such sale accrue to the City for the purpose of recovering its costs of removal and sale. Any excess revenue from such sale shall be paid to the owner of the vehicle. Any unrecovered costs shall be the responsibility of the owner of the vehicle.

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## CHAPTER 55

# ANIMAL PROTECTION AND CONTROL

55.01 Definitions	55.13 Disposition of Animals
55.02 Animal Neglect	55.14 Impounding Costs
55.03 Livestock Neglect	55.15 Pet Awards Prohibited
55.04 Abandonment of Cats and Dogs	55.16 Unhealthful or Unsanitary Conditions
55.05 Livestock	55.17 Tethering of Animals
55.06 At Large Prohibited	55.18 Confinement of Female Dogs in Heat
55.07 Damage or Interference	55.19 Bee Keeping
55.08 Annoyance or Disturbance	55.20 Removing Animals from Animal Shelter
55.09 Rabies Vaccination	55.21 Exemption of Police Service Dogs
55.10 Owner's Duty	55.22 Tampering With A Rabies Vaccination Tag
55.11 Confinement	55.23 Tampering With An Electronic Handling Device
55.12 At Large: Impoundment	

**55.01 DEFINITIONS.** The following terms are defined for use in this chapter.

1. "Advertise" means to present a commercial message in any medium, including (but not limited to) print, radio, television, sign, display, label, tag, or articulation.

*(Code of Iowa, Sec. 717E.1)*

2. "Animal" means a nonhuman vertebrate.

*(Code of Iowa, Sec. 717B.1)*

3. "Animal shelter" means a facility which is used to house or contain dogs or cats, or both, and which is owned, operated, or maintained by an incorporated humane society, animal welfare society, society for the prevention of cruelty to animals, or other nonprofit organization devoted to the welfare, protection, and humane treatment of such animals.

*(Code of Iowa, Sec. 162.2)*

4. "At large" means off the premises of the owner and not under the control of a competent person, restrained within a motor vehicle, or housed in a veterinary hospital or kennel.

5. "Business" means any enterprise relating to any of the following:

*(Code of Iowa, Sec. 717E.1)*

- A. The sale or offer for sale of goods or services.
- B. A recruitment for employment or membership in an organization.
- C. A solicitation to make an investment.
- D. An amusement or entertainment activity.

6. "Commercial establishment" means an animal shelter, boarding kennel, commercial breeder, commercial kennel, dealer, pet shop, pound, public auction, or research facility.

*(Code of Iowa, Sec. 717.B1)*

7. “Fair” means any of the following:  
(*Code of Iowa, Sec. 717E.1*)
- A. The annual fair and exposition held by the Iowa State Fair Board pursuant to Chapter 173 of the *Code of Iowa* or any fair event conducted by a fair under the provisions of Chapter 174 of the *Code of Iowa*.
  - B. An exhibition of agricultural or manufactured products.
  - C. An event for operation of amusement rides or devices or concession booths.
8. “Game” means a “game of chance” or “game of skill” as defined in Section 99B.1 of the *Code of Iowa*.  
(*Code of Iowa, Sec. 717E.1*)
9. “Injury” means an animal’s disfigurement; the impairment of an animal’s health; or an impairment to the functioning of an animal’s limb or organ, or the loss of an animal’s limb or organ.  
(*Code of Iowa, Sec. 717.B1*)
10. “Livestock” means an animal belonging to the bovine, caprine, equine, ovine or porcine species, ostriches, rheas, and emus; farm deer (as defined in Section 170.1 of the *Code of Iowa*); or poultry.  
(*Code of Iowa, Sec. 717.1*)
11. “Owner” means any person owning, keeping, sheltering, or harboring an animal.
12. “Pet” means a living dog, cat, or an animal normally maintained in a small tank or cage in or near a residence, including but not limited to a rabbit, gerbil, hamster, mouse, parrot, canary, mynah, finch, tropical fish, goldfish, snake, turtle, gecko, or iguana.  
(*Code of Iowa, Sec. 717E.1*)
13. “Police service dog” means a dog used by a peace officer or correctional officer in the performance of the officer’s duties.
14. “Pound” means a facility for the prevention of cruelty to animals operated by the State, a municipal corporation, or other political subdivision of the State for the purpose of impounding or harboring seized stray, homeless, abandoned, or unwanted dogs, cats, or other animals; or a facility operated for such a purpose under a contract with any municipal corporation or incorporated society.  
(*Code of Iowa, Sec. 162.2*)
15. “Research facility” means any school or college of medicine, veterinary medicine, pharmacy, dentistry, or osteopathic medicine, or hospital, diagnostic or research laboratories, or other educational or scientific establishment situated in the State concerned with the investigation of, or instruction concerning the structure or function of living organisms, the cause, prevention, control, or cure of diseases or abnormal conditions of human beings or animals.  
(*Code of Iowa, Sec. 162.2*)
16. “Veterinarian” means a veterinarian licensed pursuant to Chapter 169 of the *Code of Iowa* who practices veterinary medicine in the State.  
(*Code of Iowa, Sec. 717.B1*)  
(*Section 55.01 – Ord. 196 – Nov. 21 Supp.*)

**55.02 ANIMAL NEGLECT.**

1. It is unlawful for a person who owns or has custody of an animal and confines that animal to fail to provide the animal with any of the following conditions for the animal's welfare:

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

A. Access to food in an amount and quality reasonably sufficient to satisfy the animal's basic nutrition level to the extent that the animal's health or life is endangered.

B. Access to a supply of potable water in an amount reasonably sufficient to satisfy the animal's basic hydration level to the extent that the animal's health or life is endangered. Access to snow or ice does not satisfy this requirement.

C. Sanitary conditions free from excessive animal waste or the overcrowding of animals to the extent that the animal's health or life is endangered.

D. Ventilated shelter reasonably sufficient to provide adequate protection from the elements and weather conditions suitable for the age, species, and physical condition of the animal so as to maintain the animal in a state of good health to the extent that the animal's health or life is endangered. The shelter must protect the animal from wind, rain, snow, or sun and have adequate bedding to provide reasonable protection against cold and dampness. A shelter may include a residence, garage, barn, shed, or doghouse.

E. Grooming, to the extent it is reasonably necessary to prevent adverse health effects or suffering.

F. Veterinary care deemed necessary by a reasonably prudent person to relieve an animal's distress from any of the following:

(1) A condition caused by failing to provide for the animal's welfare as described in this section.

(2) An injury or illness suffered by the animal causing the animal to suffer prolonged pain and suffering.

2. This section does not apply to any of the following:

A. A person operating a commercial establishment under a valid authorization issued or renewed under Section 162.2A of the *Code of Iowa*, or a person acting under the direction or supervision of that person, if all of the following apply:

(1) The animal, as described in Subsection 1, was maintained as part of the commercial establishment's operation.

(2) In providing conditions for the welfare of the animal, as described in Subsection 1, the person complied with the standard of care requirements provided in Section 162.10A[1] of the *Code of Iowa*, including any applicable rules adopted by the Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship applying to: (i) a State licensee or registrant operating pursuant to Section 162.10A[2a] or [2b] of the *Code of Iowa*; or (ii) a permittee operating pursuant to Section 162.10A[2c] of the *Code of Iowa*.

B. A research facility if the research facility has been issued or renewed a valid authorization by the Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship pursuant to Chapter 162 of the *Code of Iowa*, and performs functions within the scope of accepted practices and disciplines associated with the research facility.  
(*Section 55.02 – Ord. 196 – Nov. 21 Supp.*)

**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 that 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.** It is unlawful for a person who owns or has custody of a cat or dog to relinquish all rights in and duties to care for the cat or dog. This section does not apply to any of the following:

(*Code of Iowa, Sec. 717B.8*)

1. The delivery of a cat or dog to another person who will accept ownership and custody of the cat or dog.
2. The delivery of a cat or dog to an animal shelter or that has been issued or renewed a valid authorization by the Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship under Chapter 162 of the *Code of Iowa*.
3. A person who relinquishes custody of a cat at a location in which the person does not hold a legal or equitable interest, if previously the person had taken custody of the cat at the same location and provided for the cat's sterilization by a veterinarian.

(*Section 55.04 – Ord. 196 – Nov. 21 Supp.*)

**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 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.

**55.08 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 by frequent and habitual howling, yelping, barking, or otherwise, or by running after or chasing persons, bicycles, automobiles or other vehicles.

**55.09 RABIES VACCINATION.** Every owner of a dog shall obtain a rabies vaccination for such animal. It is unlawful for any person to own or have a dog in said person's possession, six months of age or over, which has not been vaccinated against rabies. Dogs kept in State or federally licensed kennels and not allowed to run at large are not subject to these vaccination requirements:

(*Code of Iowa, Sec. 351.33*)

**55.10 OWNER'S DUTY.** It is the duty of the owner of any dog, cat, or other animal that 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)*

**55.11 CONFINEMENT.** If a local board of health receives information that an animal has bitten a person or that a dog or animal is suspected of having rabies, the board 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 10 days the board may humanely destroy the animal. If such animal is returned to its owner, the owner shall pay the cost of impoundment. This section does not apply if a police service dog or a horse used by a law enforcement agency and acting in the performance of its duties has bitten a person.

*(Code of Iowa, Sec. 351.39)*

**55.12 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.

**55.13 DISPOSITION OF ANIMALS.** When an animal has been apprehended and impounded, written notice shall be provided to the owner within two days after impoundment, if the owner's name and current address can reasonably be determined by accessing a tag or other device that is on or part of the animal. 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 fails to redeem the animal within seven days from the date that the notice is mailed, or if the owner cannot be located within seven days, the animal shall be disposed of in accordance with law or destroyed by euthanasia.

*(Code of Iowa, Sec. 351.37, 351.41)*

**55.14 IMPOUNDING COSTS.** Impounding costs are \$35.00 for pickup fee plus fees of impoundment facility.

*(Code of Iowa, Sec. 351.37)*

**55.15 PET AWARDS PROHIBITED.**

*(Code of Iowa, Ch. 717E)*

1. Prohibition. It is unlawful for any person to award a pet or advertise that a pet may be awarded as any of the following:
  - A. A prize for participating in a game.
  - B. A prize for participating in a fair.
  - C. An inducement or condition for visiting a place of business or attending an event sponsored by a business.
  - D. An inducement or condition for executing a contract that includes provisions unrelated to the ownership, care or disposition of the pet.

2. Exceptions. This section does not apply to any of the following:
  - A. A pet shop licensed pursuant to Section 162.5 of the *Code of Iowa* if the award of a pet is provided in connection with the sale of a pet on the premises of the pet shop.
  - B. Youth programs associated with 4-H Clubs; Future Farmers of America; the Izaak Walton League of America; or organizations associated with outdoor recreation, hunting or fishing, including but not limited to the Iowa Sportsmen's Federation.

**55.16 UNHEALTHFUL OR UNSANITARY CONDITIONS.**

1. An owner shall keep all structures, pens, coops or yards wherein animals are confined clean, devoid of vermin and free of odors arising from feces.
2. No owner or walker of any animal shall permit the animal to discharge feces upon any public or private property, other than the property of the owner of the animal. The owner or walker shall not be deemed to permit the animal's discharge of feces if the owner immediately thereafter takes steps to remove and clean up the feces from the property.
3. All feces removed as aforesaid shall be placed in an airtight container and shall be stored in a sanitary manner in an appropriate refuse container until it is removed pursuant to refuse collection procedures or otherwise disposed of in a sanitary manner.

**55.17 TETHERING OF ANIMALS.** No person shall stake or otherwise tie or fasten an animal in a way that permits the animal to pass onto, over or across any public sidewalk, street or alley or private property other than the owner's.

**55.18 CONFINEMENT OF FEMALE DOGS IN HEAT.** The owner of any female dog in heat shall confine said animal inside the house or building on the owner's premises during the heat period. The owner may remove the dog in heat from his or her premises for purposes of breeding and/or exercise, provided the animal is on a leash, cord, chain or similar restraint not more than six feet in length and is under the control of the owner. No female dog in heat shall be allowed at heel.

**55.19 BEE KEEPING.** It is unlawful for any person to keep or harbor bees unless the same is specifically authorized under the City's Zoning Ordinance as an agricultural or commercial use.

**55.20 REMOVING ANIMALS FROM ANIMAL SHELTER.** It is unlawful for any person to open any gate, bars, door, fence, partition, shed, coop or any portion of the animal shelter with the intent to allow the animals to escape. This section does not apply to any peace officer or the Animal Control Officer who removes an animal for return to an owner after the proper redemption of the animal, or other officials in the performance of their duties.

**55.21 EXEMPTION OF POLICE SERVICE DOGS.** The provisions set forth in this chapter do not apply to police service dogs.

**55.22 TAMPERING WITH A RABIES VACCINATION TAG.** It is unlawful to tamper with a rabies vaccination tag.

*(Code of Iowa, Sec. 351.45)*

1. A person commits the offense of tampering with a rabies vaccination tag if all of the following apply:
  - A. The person knowingly removes, damages, or destroys a rabies vaccination tag as described in Section 351.35 of the *Code of Iowa*.
  - B. The rabies vaccination tag is attached to a collar worn by a dog, including as provided in Sections 351.25 and 351.26 of the *Code of Iowa*.
2. This section shall not apply to an act taken by any of the following:
  - A. The owner of the dog, an agent of the owner, or a person authorized to take action by the owner.
  - B. A peace officer.
  - C. A veterinarian.
  - D. An animal shelter or pound.

*(Section 55.22 – Ord. 196 – Nov. 21 Supp.)*

**55.23 TAMPERING WITH AN ELECTRONIC HANDLING DEVICE.** It is unlawful to tamper with an electronic handling device.

*(Code of Iowa, Sec. 351.46)*

1. A person commits the offense of tampering with an electronic handling device if all of the following apply:
  - A. The person knowingly removes, disables, or destroys an electronic device designed and used to maintain custody or control of the dog or modify the dog's behavior.
  - B. The electronic device is attached to or worn by the dog or attached to an item worn by the dog, including (but not limited to) a collar, harness, or vest.
2. This section shall not apply to an act taken by any of the following:
  - A. The owner of the dog, an agent of the owner, or a person authorized to take action by the owner.
  - B. A peace officer.
  - C. A veterinarian.
  - D. An animal shelter or pound.

*(Section 55.23 – Ord. 196 – Nov. 21 Supp.)*

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## CHAPTER 56

### DOG LICENSE REQUIRED

56.01 Annual License Required  
56.02 License Fees  
56.03 Delinquency  
56.04 License Tags  
56.05 License Records

56.06 Immunization  
56.07 Duplicate Tags  
56.08 Transfers of Licensed Dogs or Cats  
56.09 Kennel Dogs or Cats

#### **56.01 ANNUAL LICENSE REQUIRED.**

1. Every owner of a dog or cat over the age of six months shall procure a dog or cat license from the Clerk on or before January 1 of each year.
2. Such license may be procured after January 1 and at any time for a dog or cat which has come into the possession or ownership of the applicant or which has reached the age of six months after said date.
3. The owner of a dog or cat for which a license is required shall apply to the Clerk on forms provided by the City.
4. The form of the application shall state the breed, sex, age, color, markings, and name, if any, of the dog or cat, and the address of the owner and shall be signed by the owner. The application shall also state the date of the most recent rabies vaccination, the type of vaccine administered and the date the dog or cat shall be revaccinated.
5. All licenses shall expire on January 1 of the year following the date of issuance.

**56.02 LICENSE FEES.** The annual license fee shall be as established by resolution of the Council.

**56.03 DELINQUENCY.** All license fees shall become delinquent on January 1 of the year in which they are due and a delinquent penalty of \$1.00 shall be added to each unpaid license on and after said date.

**56.04 LICENSE TAGS.** Upon receipt of the application and fee, the Clerk shall deliver or mail to the owner a license that shall be in the form of a metal tag stamped with the serial number of the license as shown on the record book of the Clerk, the year in which it is issued, and the name of the City. The license tag shall be securely fastened by the owner to a collar or harness that shall be worn at all times by the dog for which issued. A license issued for one dog or cat shall not be transferable to another dog or cat. Upon the expiration of the license, the owner shall remove said tag from the dog or cat.

**56.05 LICENSE RECORDS.** The Clerk shall keep a book to be known as the record of licenses; such record shall show:

1. The serial number and date of each application for a license.
2. The description of the dog or cat as specified in the application, together with the name of the owner of the dog or cat.

3. The date when each license tag is issued and the serial number of each tag, the date of the most recent rabies vaccination, the type of vaccine administered, and the date the dog shall be revaccinated.
4. The amount of all fees paid.
5. Such other data as may be required by law.

**56.06 IMMUNIZATION.** Before a license is issued, the owner shall furnish a veterinarian's certificate showing that the dog or cat for which the license is sought has been vaccinated against rabies, and that the vaccination does not expire within six months from the effective date of the dog or cat license. A tag showing evidence of proper vaccination shall at all times be attached to the collar of the dog or cat.

**56.07 DUPLICATE TAGS.** Upon the filing of an affidavit that the license tag has been lost or destroyed, the owner may obtain another tag on the payment as set by the City Council by resolution and the Clerk shall enter in the license record the new number assigned.

**56.08 TRANSFERS OF LICENSED DOGS OR CATS.** Upon transfer of a licensed dog or cat into the City, the owner shall surrender the original license tag to the Clerk. The Clerk shall preserve the surrendered tag and, without a license fee, issue a new license tag.

**56.09 KENNEL DOGS OR CATS.** Dogs kept in State or federally licensed kennels, which are kept or raised solely for the bona fide purpose of sale and which are kept under constant restraint, are not subject to the provisions of this chapter.

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## CHAPTER 57

# DANGEROUS AND VICIOUS ANIMALS

57.01 Definitions

57.02 Keeping of Dangerous Animals Prohibited

57.03 Keeping of Vicious Animals Prohibited

57.04 Seizure, Impoundment and Disposition

57.05 Exceptions

**57.01 DEFINITIONS.** For use in this chapter, the following terms are defined:

1. "Dangerous animal" means the following animals: †
  - A. Badgers, wolverines, weasels, skunk and mink.
  - B. Raccoons.
  - C. Bats.
  - D. Scorpions.
  - E. Opossums.
  - F. Piranhas.
  - G. Pit bulls. A "pit bull" is defined as any dog that is an American Pit Bull Terrier, American Staffordshire Terrier, Staffordshire Bull Terrier, or any dog displaying the majority of physical traits of one or more of the above breeds (more so than any other breed), or any dog exhibiting those distinguishing characteristics which substantially conform to the standards established by the American Kennel Club or United Kennel Club for any of the aforementioned breeds, as from time to time may be modified. The final determination of the classification of any dog lies with the City Council.

Any owner disputing whether or not the animal in question qualified as a "pit bull" as defined herein, shall bear the burden of proof. Any facts that the owner wishes to be considered shall be submitted under oath or affirmation, either in writing or orally at a hearing in front of the City Council.
2. "Vicious animal" means any animal, except for a dangerous animal as listed above, that has attacked, bitten or clawed a person while running at large and the attack was unprovoked, or any animal that has exhibited vicious tendencies in present or past conduct, including such that said animal: (i) has bitten or clawed a person or persons on two separate occasions within a 12-month period; or (ii) did bite or claw once causing injuries above the shoulders of a person; or (iii) could not be controlled or restrained by the owner at the time of the attack to prevent the occurrence; or (iv) has attacked any domestic animal or fowl on three separate occasions within a 12-month period.

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† **EDITOR'S NOTE:** Certain other dangerous animals, listed in Chapter 717F.1, paragraph 5a, of the *Code of Iowa*, are specifically prohibited and regulated by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship.

**57.02 KEEPING OF DANGEROUS ANIMALS PROHIBITED.** No person shall keep, shelter, or harbor any dangerous animal as a pet, or act as a temporary custodian for such animal, or keep, shelter or harbor such animal for any purpose or in any capacity within the City.

**57.03 KEEPING OF VICIOUS ANIMALS PROHIBITED.** No person shall keep, shelter, or harbor for any reason within the City a vicious animal except in the following circumstances:

1. Animals under the control of a law enforcement or military agency.
2. The keeping of guard dogs; however, guard dogs must be kept within a structure or fixed enclosure at all times, and any guard dog found at large may be processed as a vicious animal pursuant to the provisions of this chapter. Any premises guarded by a guard dog shall be prominently posted with a sign containing the wording "Guard Dog," "Vicious Dog" or words of similar import, and the owner of such premises shall inform the Mayor or peace officer that a guard dog is on duty at said premises.

**57.04 SEIZURE, IMPOUNDMENT AND DISPOSITION.**

1. In the event that a dangerous animal or vicious animal is found at large and unattended upon public property, park property, public right-of-way or the property of someone other than its owner, thereby creating a hazard to persons or property, such animal may, in the discretion of the Mayor or peace officer, be destroyed if it cannot be confined or captured. The City shall be under no duty to attempt the confinement or capture of a dangerous animal or vicious animal found at large, nor shall it have a duty to notify the owner of such animal prior to its destruction.
2. Upon the complaint of any individual that a person is keeping, sheltering or harboring a dangerous animal or vicious animal on premises in the City, the Mayor or peace officer shall cause the matter to be investigated and if after investigation, the facts indicate that the person named in the complaint is keeping, sheltering or harboring a dangerous or vicious animal in the City, the Mayor or peace officer shall order the person named in the complaint to safely remove such animal from the City or destroy the animal within three days of the receipt of such an order. Such order shall be contained in a notice to remove the dangerous or vicious animal, which notice shall be given in writing to the person keeping, sheltering, or harboring the dangerous animal or vicious animal, and shall be served personally or by certified mail. Such order and notice to remove the dangerous animal or vicious animal shall not be required where such animal has previously caused serious physical harm or death to any person, in which case the Mayor or peace officer shall cause the animal to be immediately seized and impounded or killed if seizure and impoundment are not possible without risk of serious physical harm or death to any person.
3. The order to remove a dangerous animal or vicious animal issued by the Mayor or peace officer may be appealed to the Council. In order to appeal such order, written notice of appeal must be filed with the Clerk within three days after receipt of the order contained in the notice to remove the dangerous or vicious animal. Failure to file such written notice of appeal shall constitute a waiver of the right to appeal the order of the Mayor or peace officer.
4. The notice of appeal shall state the grounds for such appeal and shall be delivered personally or by certified mail to the Clerk. The hearing of such appeal shall be scheduled within seven days of the receipt of the notice of appeal. The hearing may be continued for good cause. After such hearing, the Council may affirm or reverse the order of the Mayor or peace officer. Such determination shall be contained in a written

decision and shall be filed with the Clerk within three days after the hearing or any continued session thereof.

5. If the Council affirms the action of the Mayor or peace officer, the Council shall order in its written decision that the person owning, sheltering, harboring or keeping such dangerous or vicious animal remove such animal from the City or destroy it. The decision and order shall immediately be served upon the person against whom rendered in the same manner as the notice of removal. If the original order of the Mayor or peace officer is not appealed and is not complied with within three days or the order of the Council after appeal is not complied with within three days of its issuance, the Mayor or peace officer is authorized to seize, impound or destroy such dangerous or vicious animal. Failure to comply with an order of the Mayor or peace officer issued pursuant to this chapter and not appealed (or of the Council after appeal) constitutes a simple misdemeanor.

**57.05 EXCEPTIONS.** The keeping of dangerous animals shall not be prohibited in the following circumstances:

1. The keeping of dangerous animals in a public zoo, bona fide educational or medical institution, humane society, or museum where they are kept as live specimens for the public to view, or for the purpose of instruction, research or study, and has obtained the written approval of the City Council.
2. The keeping of dangerous animals for exhibition to the public by a bona fide traveling circus, carnival, exhibit, or show.

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