

Part 1.

***KNOX COUNTY ANIMAL
AND RABIES CONTROL ORDINANCE***

An ordinance relating to animal and rabies control.

Be it enacted by the People of the County of Knox represented in the Knox County Board.

SECTION I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Ordinance is to provide harmonious relationships in the interaction between man and animal by:

- A. Protecting the citizens of Knox County from rabies by specifying such preventive and control measures as may be necessary;
- B. Providing security to residents from annoyance, intimidation, and injury from cats, dogs and other animals;
- C. Encouraging responsible pet ownership;
- D. Providing for the assessment of penalties for violators and for the enforcement and administration of this Ordinance.

SECTION II. DEFINITIONS

As used in this Ordinance the following words are defined:

- A. *ADMINISTRATOR* means the licensed veterinarian appointed by the Board of Commissioners of Knox County, pursuant to the Illinois Animal Control Act or his authorized representative.
- B. *ANIMAL CAPABLE OF TRANSMITTING RABIES* means all animals classified as mammals.
- C. *ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER* means an employee of Knox County appointed by the Administrator to exercise police powers in the enforcement of this Ordinance.
- D. *BITE* means seizure of a person with the jaws or teeth of any cat, dog or other animal capable of transmitting rabies so that the person so seized has been wounded or pierced and further includes contact of the saliva of such cat, dog or other animal with any break or abrasion of the skin.
- E. *CAT* means all members of the classification, *Felis catus* whether male or female
- F. *CONFINED* means the restriction of the cat, dog or other animal at all times by the owner in a manner that will isolate the cat, dog or other animal from the public and other cats, dogs or other animals.
- G. *CONTROL* means any owned animal that is either secured by a leash or lead, or under voice control or within the premises of its owner, or confined within a crate or cage, or confined within a vehicle, or on the premises of another person with the consent of that person.
- H. *COUNTY BOARD* means the County Board of the County of Knox, State of Illinois
- I. *DANGEROUS OR VICIOUS ANIMAL* means any animal which has known vicious propensities or which has been known to attack or injure any person who was peacefully conducting himself in any place where he may lawfully be.
- J. *DOG* means all members of the classification, *Canis familiars* whether male or female.
- K. *GUARD DOG* means a dog used in a commercial business or by a municipal or police department for the purposes of patrol and protection.

- L. *GUIDE DOG* means a dog trained by a recognized organization to lead the legally blind.
- M. *INOCULATION AGAINST RABIES* means the injection of a rabies vaccine approved by the Illinois Department of Agriculture and administered by a licensed veterinarian in accordance with the company's recommendations for the vaccine used.
- N. *OWNER* means any person having the right of property in an animal, who keeps or harbors an animal, who has it in his care, acts as its custodian or who knowingly permits an animal to remain on or about any premises occupied by him unless possession is prohibited by Federal or State Laws. Native wildlife remaining on or about any premises shall not be included in this definition.
- O. *PERSON* means any individual, firm, corporation, partnership, society, association or other legal entity, any public or private institution, municipal corporation, unit of government or any other business unit.
- P. *REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE* means a printed form prescribed by the department for the purpose of recording pertinent information as required by the DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.
- Q. *STRAY ANIMAL* means any owned animal that is not controlled.
- R. *STRAYING* means a dog or other animal not on the premises of the owner or not confined or under control by a leash or other recognized control methods as set forth in 1, 2 and 3 under (b) in 8 Ill Adm. Code 30.140.S
- S. *TRAP* means any device that holds or contains an animal..
- T. *VOICE CONTROL* means the immediate recall of a dog at the sound of the voice of the owner.

SECTION III. RABIES VACCINATION AND REGISTRATION

- A. Every owner of a cat or dog four months or more of age shall cause such cat or dog to be inoculated with rabies vaccine by a licensed veterinarian at such intervals as approved by the Illinois Department of Agriculture. The rabies vaccine shall be licensed by the United States Department of Agriculture and approved by the Illinois Department of Agriculture.
- B. Evidence of such rabies inoculation shall be entered on a certificate approved by the Knox County Board. Veterinarians who inoculate a cat or dog shall procure from the Knox County Department of Animal Control serially number tags, one to be issued with each inoculation certificate. Only one cat or dog shall be included on each certificate. Upon change of ownership application shall be made for a new inoculation certificate. Such tags shall be attached to the collar or harness worn by the cat or dog for which the tag was issued when the cat or dog is off the property of the owner. The tag fee shall be determined by the County Board.

SECTION IV. RABIES VACCINATION CERTIFICATES

- A. Veterinarians shall deliver to the Knox County Animal Control Department certificates of Knox County animals inoculated with rabies vaccine by the tenth of each month following the month of inoculation.
- B. Veterinarians shall maintain their own rabies vaccination files at least as long as the legal effectiveness of the vaccine used.

SECTION V. ANIMAL BITE QUARANTINE

All bite cases occurring in Knox County shall be reported to the Knox County Animal Control Department within 24 hours.

- 1. An animal causing a bite wound to a person in Knox County and is not currently inoculated for rabies, shall be confined by a veterinarian for a period of ten days in the hospital or clinic and released only following proper inoculation.
- 2. An animal causing a bite wound to a person in Knox County and is currently inoculated but inflicts the wound to the neck or head of the victim shall be examined for signs of rabies on the first, fifth and tenth day of the quarantine period by a licensed veterinarian.
- 3. An animal causing a bite wound to a person in Knox County and is currently inoculated and the wound is below the neck shall be examined for signs of rabies by a licensed veterinarian on the first and tenth day of the quarantine period.
- 4. The owner of any biting animal has the option of humanely dispatching the animal by a licensed veterinarian and submitting the head to the State Lab for rabies examination.
- 5. All bite reports will be recorded on the official Knox County Department of Animal Control Rabies Observation forms by the attending veterinarian and mailed to the department.

SECTION VI. THE HANDLING OF STRAY ANIMALS

1. Any cat or dog not residing on it's real property will be regarded as stray or straying.
2. Stray or straying animals identifiable (ie: Rabies tag, ID tag, Microchip &/ or Tattoo etc) will be considered owned and all efforts will be made to contact said owner. If unsuccessful after 1 week the stray or straying animal shall be put up for adoption or humanely dispatched.
3. Stray or straying animals not wearing any identification shall be considered unowned and unwanted. They will be put up for adoption or humanely dispatched at the discretion of the Administrator or the Animal Control Officer.
4. Any animal that has bitten or is attempting to bite a human being and cannot be safely captured, may be slain by the Animal Control Officer or by any officer of the law.
5. It shall be unlawful for anyone to touch, move or disturb any trap set by the Animal Control Officer or his or her designated representative. It shall be unlawful to harass, remove or release any animal caught in a trap.

SECTION VII. HUMANE CARE OF ANIMALS

No owner shall fail to provide his animal with sufficient food, water, clean proper shelter, protection from the weather and sufficient veterinary care when necessary to prevent suffering and/or maintain health.

No person shall be permitted to keep animals in violation of the "Illinois Humane Care for Animals Act" or the "Illinois Animal Welfare Act".

SECTION VIII. ABANDONMENT PROHIBITED

No person shall abandon any animal within the legal boundaries of Knox County.

SECTION IX. DOGS IN HEAT

The owner of any female dog, shall during the period when the female is in heat, keep the female confined in an enclosure in such a manner so that the female cannot come into contact with male dogs, except for the purpose of planned breeding.

SECTION X. PROPERTY LINE RESTRICTIONS AND YARD REQUIREMENTS

1. Pet owners who allow their animals to be chained, cabled, staked, or otherwise tied outside shall restrict the pet's approach the adjoining property line to ten (10) feet or more.
2. No doghouse, shelter kennel, dog run or other structure used to house dogs shall be so located to that any portion of any such doghouse, shelter, kennel, dog run or other structure that houses dogs is closer than ten (10) feet from the line of the adjoining property.
3. No person shall allow cat or dog feces to accumulate in any yard, pen or premises in or upon which cat or dog shall be confined or kept so that it becomes offensive to those residing in the vicinity or a health hazard to the residing cat or dog.

SECTION XI. INTERFERENCE WITH ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

It shall be unlawful for any person to obstruct, impede or interfere with the Animal Control Officer or any of his delegates or any law officer in the performance of their duties, or to prevent or attempt to prevent the Animal Control Officer or any of his delegates or any law officer from capturing or impounding any animal in the county.

SECTION XII. ANIMAL CONSIDERED A NUISANCE

No person owning, possessing or harboring any animal within the county shall permit such animal to become a nuisance. An animal, other than a dog trained for law enforcement in the performance of its duty, shall be considered a nuisance if such animal:

- {1} Substantially damages property other than the owner's
- {2} Causes unsanitary, dangerous or unreasonably offensive conditions.
- {3} Causes a disturbance by excessive barking, caterwauling or other noisemaking.
- {4} Chases vehicles
- {5} Chases, molests, attacks, bites, interferes with or physically intimidates any person while on or off the premises of the owner.
- {6} Chases, molests, attacks, bites or interferes with other animals while off the premises of the owner.

SECTION XIII. LIABILITY OF ANIMAL OWNERS

Owner of animals shall be liable for any damage done by their animals to persons, other domestic animals or other person's property.

Chases, molests, attacks, bites or interferes with other animals while off the premises of the owner.

SECTION XIV. COLLAR OR HARNESS REQUIRED

No person shall own, possess, keep, maintain or harbor any dog or cat over four months of age within the county without providing such dog or cat with a collar or harness to be worn when said animal is off said owners property. Collars or harnesses for dogs shall be of sufficient strength to control and restrain the animal without injury to the animal. Animals restrained by rope or chains must have collars or harnesses to attach such rope or chain.

SECTION XV. ATTACHMENT OF REGISTRATION TAGS

The registration tag, issued pursuant to regulations of Knox County requiring rabies inoculation by a licensed veterinarian, shall be attached to the collar or harness required by section XIV.

SECTION XVI. REMOVAL OF COLLAR, HARNESS OR TAGS RESTRICTED

No person shall, without the consent of the owner or keeper of any dog or cat, take away or otherwise remove the registration tag, identification tag or collar or harness from any dog or cat.

SECTION XVII. PENALTIES

Any person violating, disobeying, neglecting or refusing to comply with, or resisting enforcement of any of these sections shall be fined not less than fifty dollars ~~{ \$50.00 }~~^{75.00} for each offense. Each day a person fails to comply constitutes a separate offense.

SECTION XVIII. ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS NOT RESPONSIBLE

The Rabies Control Administrator, the Animal Control Officer, Peace Officers, or other persons authorized to enforce the provisions of this ordinance shall not be held liable for the injury, death or disease which may occur to any cat or dog or other animal as a consequence of the enforcement of the provisions of this ordinance.