

# Knox County Animal Control Ordinances

Revised October 2024

## Section 1 – General Provisions

### 1.1 Short Title

This article shall be known and cited as the Knox County Animal Control Ordinances.

### 1.2 Purpose

- A. The purpose of these ordinances is to provide a harmonious relationship between person and animal.
- B. Encourage responsible pet ownership through education.
- C. Protecting animals from abuse, neglect, inhumane care, injury, rabies and death.
- D. Protecting the citizens of Knox County from rabies by specifying such preventive and control measures and may be necessary;
- E. Providing security to residents from annoyance, intimidation and injury from animals.
- F. Providing for the assessment of penalties for violations of this ordinance and Illinois state statutes relating to animals.
- G. Enforcing and Administering adherence to this ordinance, the Illinois Animal Control Humane care for Animals Act and the Animal Welfare Act.

### 1.3 Scope

This article shall include the following provisions:

- A. Duties of the owners to vaccinate dogs and cats in their custody against rabies and to register said dogs and cats with the Knox County Animal Control.
- B. Provisions for impoundment or confinement of biting or nuisance animals.
- C. Duties of owners to responsibly care for all domesticated animals in their custody.
- D. Duties of owners to humanely treat all domestic animals in their custody.
- E. Provisions for penalties for persons who violate this ordinance, the Illinois Animal Control Act, the Illinois State Humane Care Act, Illinois state Animal Welfare Act or the Illinois state or Federal Wildlife Code.

## Section 2 – Definitions

As used in this article the following terms shall mean as indicated below:

**Administrator** – Means the licensed veterinarian who is appointed by the Knox County Sheriff, pursuant to this act. In the event a Licensed Veterinarian cannot be found and appointed pursuant to this Act, a non-veterinarian may serve as administrator under this act. In the event an administrator is not a veterinarian, the administrator shall defer to a veterinarian regarding all medical decisions. See 510ILCS5/2.01

**Animal** – Any animal both domestic and wild, other than a human, which may be affected by rabies. See 510 ILCS 5/2.03

**Animal Control Deputy** – Means an employee of the Knox County Sheriffs Office that was appointed by the Knox County Sheriff, to perform the duties set forth in this act.

**Animal Shelter** – Means an animal shelter owned by or under contract with Knox County.

**At Large** -Any dog or cat shall be deemed to be at large where it is off the premises of its owner's real property and not restrained by the competent person.

**Breed-able females** -Any dog or cat that is six (6) months or older and is not spayed.

**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 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.

**Cat** – Means all members of the classification, *Felis Catus* whether male or female.

**Competent Person** – Means a human being over the age of fifteen (15) years that is capable of controlling and governing the dog, cat or other animal in question, and to whose commands the dog, cat or other animal is obedient.

**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 and other animals.

**Companion Animal** – An animal that is commonly considered to be, or is considered by the owner, to be a pet. Companion animal includes but not limited to, canines, felines and equine.

**Companion Animal Hoarder** – A person who (A) possesses a large number of companion animals; (B) fails to or is unable to provide what he or she is required under ..... of this act; (C) keeps the companion animal in a severely overcrowded environment; and (D) displays an inability to recognize or understand the nature of or has a reckless disregard for the conditions under which the companion animals are living and the deleterious impact they have on the companion animals' and owner's health and well-being.

**Dangerous Dog** – Any individual dog anywhere other than upon the property of the owner or custodian of the dog and unmuzzled, unleashed, or unattended by its owner or custodian that behaves in a manner that a reasonable person would believe poses a serious threat of serious and unjustified imminent threat of serious physical injury or death to a person or a companion animal or (ii) a dog that, without justification, bite a person and does not cause serious physical injury.

**Dog** – Means all domestic members of the family *Canis Familiaris*, whether male or female.

**Enclosure** – A fence or structure of at least six (6) feet in height, forming or causing an enclosure to prevent the entry of other domestic animals or young children, and suitable to confine a vicious dog in conjunction with other measures which may be taken by the owner or keeper, such as tethering of the vicious dog within the enclosure. Such enclosure shall be securely enclosed and locked and designed with secure sides, top and bottom and shall be designed to prevent the animal from escaping from the enclosure. If the enclosure is a room within a residence it cannot have direct ingress from or egress to the outdoors unless it leads directly to an enclosed pen and the door must be locked. A vicious dog may be allowed to move about freely within the entire residence if it is muzzled at all times.

**Feral cat** – Means a cat that is born in the wild or is an offspring of an owned or feral cat that is not socialized is formally owned that has been abandoned is no longer socialized or lives on a farm.

**Foster Entity** -That accepts the responsibility for Stewart ship of an animal that are the obligation of an animal, shelter or animal control not to exceed for foster animals are two litters under eight weeks of age at any given time a written agreement to operate as a foster home, Shelby contracted with the animal shelter animal control field facility.

**Guard dog** – Means a dog used in a commercial business or buy a municipal or police department for the purposes of patrol and protection.

**Has been bitten** -Has been seized with the teeth or jaws so that the person or animal seized has been nipped, gripped, wounded, or pierced. The phrase further includes contact of saliva with any break or abrasion of the skin.

**Humanely dispatched** – Means the painless administration of a lethal dose of an agent which shall cause the painless death of an animal as prescribed in the journal of the American veterinary medical Association, January 15, 1993. Said message shall not destroy brain tissue necessary for laboratory examination for rabies, animals shall be managed prior to administration of the agent in such a manner as to avoid undue apprehension by the animal.

**Impounded** – Means an animal apprehended and taken into custody of the Animal Control deputy in the Animal Control facility.

**Inoculation against rabies** – Means the injection of rabies vaccine approved by the Illinois department of agriculture and Administered by a licensed veterinarian in accordance with the company's recommendation for the vaccine used.

**Intact Animal** -Means an animal that has not been spayed or neutered.

**Kittens** -All domesticated members of the family *Felis catus domesticus*, male or female, under the age of four (4) months.

**Leash** - A cord, rope, strap or chain, which Shall be securely fasten to the collar or harness of a dog or other animal and Shall be of sufficient length to keep such dog or other animal under control.

**Licensed veterinarian** – A veterinarian licensed by the state and which he engages in the practice of veterinary medicine.

**Livestock** – Bison, cattle, swine, sheep, goats, Equidae, camelids, ratities, or fowl.

**Multiple pet owner** – Means any person who harbors more than five dogs or cats or any combination thereof over four months of age on their property or in their dwelling unit.

**Owner** – Any person having a right of property in an animal or who keeps or harbors an animal or who has in his care or acts is it custodian or her knowingly permits, a domestic animal to remain on or about any premises occupied by him or her.

**Person** – Any individual firm corporation, partnership, society, association, or other legal instate any public or private institution the state of Illinois municipal corporation or political subdivision of the state or any other business unit.

**Physical injury** - Impairment of physical condition.

**Puppy** -All members of the family *Canis Familiaris*, whether male or female, under four (4) months of age.

**Registration Certificate** – Means a printed form prescribed by the department for the purposes of recording pertinent information as required by the Department of Agriculture.

**Rural**– The unincorporated area of the county, which has not been subdivided for residential purposes.

**Serious physical injury** – A physical injury that creates a substantial risk of death or that causes death, serious or protracted, disfigurement, protracted impairment of health, impairment of function of any bodily organ or plastic.

**Service Dog** -Means a dog that are individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities. Emotional support animals do not qualify under the ADA. (Americans Disability Act)

**Shelter** -A structure, which has four sides, a floor, bedding. The shelter shall be sufficient to permit such an animal to stand up and turn around inside when fully grown and allow retention of body heat. The shelter shall be placed to provide shade from the sun and protection from the weather.

**Sterilize** - The surgical spay of a female animal, or a male animal that has to render such animal and capable of reproducing.

**Stray** - Means an animal which shall be considered stray according to the ordinances that exist in the county in which an animal is found.

**Straying**- A dog or other animal, not on the premises of owner or confined under the control of a leash or other recognized control methods as set forth in.

**Tag** -A serially numbered medallion approved by the department to be issued, at a fee set by the county board, as evidence of inoculation against rabies.

**Vicious dog** - Means a dog that without justification attacks a person and causes serious Physical injury or death, or any individual dog that has been found to be a dangerous dog upon three separate occasions.

**Wildlife** – Means any bird or mammal that is by nature, wild by the way of distinction from a bird or a mammal that is naturally tamed, and is ordinarily living unconfined in the state of nature without a care of man.

## **Section 3 – Vaccination of Dogs and Cats**

### **3.1 Requirement of Vaccination**

**A.** Every owner of a dog or cat four months of age and older within Knox County ILL shall cause the dog or cat to be vaccinated against rabies by a Licensed Veterinarian as established by regulations set forth in 510 ILCS 5/8.

**B.** Every dog or cat shall have a second rabies vaccination within one year of the first vaccination and annually thereafter unless a three-year rabies vaccination is given.

### **3.2 Certificate of Vaccination**

**A.** Evidence of vaccination under this ordinance shall be entered upon a certificate which shall be signed by the veterinarian administering the vaccine and name the clinic hospital or facility with which said veterinarian is affiliated.

**B.** Only one dog or cat shall be included on each certificate. The veterinarian immunizing or microchipping an animal shall provide the Administrator with a certificate of

immunization and a microchip number if it is established by the board for each dog or cat inoculated against rabies.

### **3.3 Vaccination Exemption**

If a licensed veterinarian determines annually in writing that a rabies inoculation would compromise an animal's health, then the animal shall be exempt from the rabies shot requirement, however the owner is still responsible for registration fees. The owner shall present the Veterinarians' determination the Knox County Sheriff's Office Animal Control Division.

### **3.4 Impoundment of Non-vaccinated Animals**

If an animal is not inoculated and registered, said animals may be impounded by the Knox County Sheriff's Office Animal Control Deputy, Knox County Animal Control Administrator and or their designee, and may be redeemed or disposed of in accordance with the provisions of this ordinance.

## **Section 4- Registration of Dogs and Cats**

### **4.1 Time Requirement for Registration**

Every owner of a dog or cat four months of age or older, shall register such animal and pay an annual registration, unless a three (3) year vaccine is given, for said dog or cat to the Knox County Sheriff's office Animal Control Division within 30 days of rabies vaccination. To register said animal, the current rabies vaccination certificate shall be produced. One-year rabies registration tag can be purchased at that said veterinarian's office or clinic if the office or clinic is in Knox County, IL. If the Veterinary's office or clinic is outside of Knox County, then a registration tag needs to be purchased at the Knox County Sheriff's Office Animal Control Division. If the tag is not purchased within 30 days, late fee's will be applied to the cost of the tag. Only one dog or cat per registration certificate issued.

### **4.2 Multi-Year Registration**

If a dog or cat owner gets their pet a 3-year rabies vaccination, that owner will be responsible for obtaining the 3-year rabies tag at the Knox County Sheriff's Office Animal Control Division within 30 days of the rabies vaccination. If a 3-year registration tag is not purchased within 30 days of the rabies vaccination, late fee's will be applied to the cost of the tag. Only one dog or cat should be list on each registration.

### **4.3 Change of Ownership and Pet Status**

Pet owners should promptly report changes in ownership information to the Knox County Sheriff's Office Animal Control Division regarding pets registered within Knox County and to report if a pet is deceased.

## **Section 5 – Biting Animals**

### **5.1 Reporting A Bite**

**A.** It shall be unlawful for any person knowing that an individual has been bitten by an animal, to refuse to notify, within 24 hours of the bite, the Knox County Sheriff's Office Animal Control or the local Police Department, or another authorized law enforcement with authority where the bite occurred.

**B.** A bite report shall be completed and forwarded to the Knox County Sheriff's Animal Control Division within 24 hours. Bite reports shall be furnished by the Knox County Sheriff's Animal Control which identifies the required information under state regulations.

**C.** The owners of a biting animal, regardless of the reason for the bite, must recognize that all bites must be reported to protect the bite victim's health. All bite report forms are forwarded to the Knox County Animal Control Division.

### **5.2 Confinement of Biting Animal**

When the Knox County Sheriff's Office Animal Control receives information that a human being or other animal has been bitten by a dog, cat or other animal; the Animal Control Deputy, the Administrator or their authorized representative shall have such dog, cat or other animal confined under the observation of a veterinarian for a period of ten (10) days.

- A.** When evidence is presented that such dog, cat or other animal was vaccinated within the time prescribed by law, it may be confined in the house of its owner, or in a manner which will prohibit it from biting any human being or animal for a period of ten (10) days, if the Administrator, other licensed veterinarian or animal control deputy declares the confinement satisfactory. At the end of the confinement period, such dog, cat or other animal shall be examined by the Administrator or other licensed veterinarian.
- B.** The owner of the biting animal shall be provided a form, Veterinarian release, which must be presented to and signed/dated by the examining veterinarian. This signed release must be returned to the Knox County Sheriff's Office Animal Control Division within 24 hours of release.
- C.** When the owner of a biting dog is unknown, such dog shall be taken to the Knox County Humane Society or a Veterinarian clinic or service and placed under observation for the period of ten (10) days or until an owner may be located.
- D.** Further enforcement of Biting Animals and Confinement may be carried out as established under the Animal Control Act. (ILCS 510 5/13)

### **5.3 Liability of Owner**

If a dog or other animal, without provocation, attacks, bites or injures any person or domesticated animal who is peacefully conducting themselves in a place where they may lawfully be, the owner of such dog or other animal is liable for the full amount of injury and damages sustained. (510ILCS 5/16) This liability to include death or injury to wildlife animals and birds kept under state or federal license permit.

### **5.4 Special Procedure; Biting Animals, Unusual Circumstances**

**A.** If a family member is bitten. Owners of animals that have bitten member of immediate family residing at the same address, are encouraged to submit biting animal for veterinary examination. The biting animal shall be confined in a manner which will prohibit it from biting other people or animals.

**B.** Multiple bite reports of same family members may show need for investigation under the Humane Care Act for possible abuse or neglect.

### **5.5 Caged Animals**

Owners of caged rabbits, ferrets, guinea pigs, hamsters, gerbils, rats, mice that have been owned over thirty days shall not be required to obtain a veterinary examination when their caged animal has bitten a human being or other animal, but shall report the health of the biting animal by telephone or in person to the Knox County Sheriff's Office Animal Control Division on the first and tenth days following the bite.

### **5.6 Large Animals.**

Cattle, sheep, goats, swine, horses or any other livestock that have bitten a human being or other animal shall be confined to the owner's property and examined by a veterinarian on the first and tenth days after the bite.

## **Section 6- Dangerous Dogs**

**6.1** After a thorough investigation including:

**A.** Sending, within ten (10) business days of the Administrator or Animal Control Deputy becoming aware of the alleged infraction

**B.** Notification to the owners of the alleged infractions investigation

**C.** The fact of the initiation of an investigation

**D.** Affording the owner, the opportunity to meet with the Administrator or Animal Control Deputy prior to the making of a determination

**E.** Gathering of any medical or veterinary evidence

**F.** Interviewing witnesses and making a detailed written report



No dog shall be deemed a “dangerous dog” unless shown by a preponderance of evidence. The owners shall be sent immediate notification of the of the determination by registered or certified mail that includes a complete description of the appeal process.

**6.2** A dog shall not be declared dangerous if the Administrator or Animal Control Deputy determines the conduct of the dog was justified because:

**A.** The threat was sustained by a person who at the time was committing a crime or offense upon the owner or custodian of the dog or was committing a willful trespass or other tort upon the premises or property occupied by the owner of the animal.

**B.** The threatened person was abusing, assaulting, or physically threatening the dog or its offspring.

**C.** The injured, threatened, or killed companion animal was attacking or threatening to attack the dog or its offspring

**D.** The dog was responding to pain or injury or was protecting itself, its owner, custodian, or a member of its household, kennel or offspring.

**6.3** If deemed dangerous, the Administrator or the Animal Control Deputy or Designee shall order;

**A.** The dog’s owner to pay a \$50.00 public safety fine to be deposited into the pet population control fund.

**B.** The dog to be spayed or neutered within 14 days at the owner’s expense and microchipped if not already done.

**C.** One or more of the following as deemed appropriate under the circumstances and necessary for the protection of the public:

**1.** Evaluation of the dog by a certified applied behaviorist, a board-certified veterinary behaviorist or another recognized expert in the field and completion of training or other treatment as deemed appropriate by the expert. The owner of the dog shall be responsible for all costs associated with evaluations and training ordered under this subsection.

**2.** Direct Supervision by an adult 18 years of age or older whenever the animal is on public premises.

**3.** The Administrator or Animal Control Deputy may order a dangerous dog be muzzled whenever it is on the public premise in a manner that will prevent it from biting any person or animal, but that shall not injure the dog or interfere with its vision or respiration.

**4.** Guide dogs for the blind or hearing impaired, support dogs for the physically handicapped, and sentry, guard, or police-owned dogs are exempt from this section; provided, an attack or injury to a person occurs while the dog is performing duties as expected. To qualify for exemption under this section, each dog shall be currently inoculated against rabies in accordance with section 12 of this act and performing duties as expected. It shall be the duty of the owner of such exempt dog to notify the administrator of changes of address. In the case of a sentry or guard dog, the owner shall keep the Administrator or Animal Control Deputy

advised of the location where such dog will be stationed. The Administrator or Animal Control Deputy shall provide police and fire departments with a categorized list of such exempted dogs, and shall promptly notify such departments of any address changes reported to them.

5. The Administrator or Animal Control Deputy has the right to impound a dangerous dog if the owner fails to comply with the requirements of this ordinance.

6.4 An owner or custodian who wishes to appeal a determination may submit in writing by certified mail or in person, their intent to do so to the Knox County Animal Control Deputy or the Administrator within 10 days of notification that the dog has been deemed dangerous.

A. The Administrator or Animal Control Deputy will schedule a hearing before a hearing officer appointed by the County Board.

B. Notification will be sent to the owner or custodian by certified mail or in person indicating the date, time and location of the hearing.

C. An owner or custodian may present evidence or testimony at the hearing on their behalf to support a determination that the dog will not be deemed dangerous. The county Administrator or the Animal Control Deputy may present evidence or testimony before the hearing officer to support a determination that the dog be deemed dangerous.

D. A determination will be provided by the hearing officer at the conclusion of all testimony.

E. An owner or custodian of a dog deemed dangerous must comply with any current city and county ordinances and any applicable state statutes that address dangerous dogs.

## **Section 7 -Vicious Dogs**

7.1 In order to have a dog deemed “vicious”, the Animal Control Deputy, Administrator or other law enforcement officer must give notice of the infraction that is the basis of the investigation to the owner, conduct a thorough investigation, interview any witnesses, including the owner, gather any existing medical records, veterinary medical records, or behavioral evidence, and make a detailed report of recommending a finding that the dog is a vicious dog and give the report to the States Attorney’s office and the owner. Testimony of a certified applied behaviorist, a board-certified veterinary behaviorist, or another recognized expert may be relevant to the court’s determination of whether the dog’s behavior was justified. The petitioner must prove the dog is a vicious dog by clear and convincing evidence. The Administrator or Animal Control Deputy shall determine where the animal shall be confined during the pendency of the case.

7.2 A dog may NOT be declared vicious if the court determines the conduct of the dog was justified because:

**A.** The threat, injury, or death was sustained by a person who at the time was committing a crime or offense upon the owner or custodian of the dog, or was committing a willful trespass or other tort upon the premises or property owned or occupied by the owner of the animal.

**B.** The injured, threatened, or killed person was abusing, assaulting, or physically threatening the dog or its offspring, or has in the past abused, assaulted, or physically threatened the dog or its offspring.

**C.** The Dog was responding to pain or injury, or was protecting itself, its owner, custodian, or member of its household, kennel or offspring.

**D.** No dog shall be deemed “vicious” if it is a professionally trained dog for Law Enforcement or guard duties. Vicious dogs shall not be classified in the manner that is specific as to the breed.

**7.3** If the burden of proof has been met, the court shall deem the dog to be vicious.

**7.4** If the dog is found to be vicious dog, the dog shall be spayed or neutered within 10 days of the findings at the expense of the owner, if not already, be microchipped. The owner of the dog shall pay \$100.00 public safety fine to the Pet Population control fund.

**7.5** If the owner of the vicious dog fails to comply with these requirements, the Knox County Sheriff’s Office Animal Control Deputy shall impound the dog and the owner shall pay a \$500.00 fine plus impoundment fees to the agency that is holding the impounded dog. The judge had the discretion to order a vicious dog be euthanized.

**7.6** A dog found to be vicious shall not be released to the owner until the Animal Control Deputy or Administrator approves the enclosure. No owner or keeper of a vicious dog shall give away, or sell the dog without prior approval from the Knox County Sheriffs office Animal control Deputy, the Administrator, or the court. Whenever an owner of a vicious dog relocated, he or she shall notify both the Administrator of the county Animal Control where he or she has relocated and the Knox County Sheriff’s Animal Control Deputy, Administrator where he or she formerly resided.

**7.7** If the owner of the dog had not appealed the impoundment order to the circuit court in the county in which the animal was impounded within 15 working days, the dog maybe euthanized.

**7.8** Upon Filing a notice of appeal, the order for euthanasia shall be automatically stayed pending the outcome of the appeal. The owner shall bear the burden of timely notification to the Knox County Sheriff’s Office Animal Control Deputy in writing.

**7.9** Guide dogs for the blind or hearing impaired, sentry or guard dogs, police K-9 dogs or any other dogs considered by the ADA, are exempt from this act.

## **Section 8 – At Large or Public Nuisance**

### **8.1 Running at Large**

The owner of any dog, cat or other animal shall not permit such animal to run at large within Knox County, Illinois. No person shall cause or permit any animal owned by him or her to run at large on any public place or privately-owned premises, other than the owners. Any animal found running at large, the animal's owner is subject to fines or to have the animal impounded.

- A.** All stray/at large animals impounded shall be scanned for the presence of a microchip upon arrival or at the animal shelter or vet's office.
- B.** The owner of the stray/animal at large is responsible for all costs relating to the apprehension and impoundment of the animal.
- C.** If all reasonable efforts have been made and the animal's owner can't be located and the animal has not been claimed for a period of 7 days or more, than the animal shall be put up for adoption or can be sent to a rescue or another shelter.
- D.** The provisions in this section shall not apply to:
  - 1.** Dogs being used for hunting or field trials
  - 2.** Dog shows while on public land
  - 3.** While on private property of others with the actual, implied, customary, or constructive consent of the owner of such private premises.
  - 4.** While dogs are going to or from hunting field trials or a dog show site.
  - 5.** Dogs used in conjunction with police activities.
  - 6.** Dogs of any law enforcement agency or Armed Forces while being used to conduct official business.

### **8.2 Public Nuisance**

It is unlawful for any person to create a nuisance by allowing or permitting any of the following:

- A.** To allow any dog, cat or domestic animal to pass, without permission, upon the premises of another, thereby causing substantial damages to or interference with the premises.
- B.** To allow any dog, cat or domestic animal to cause serious annoyance or disturbance to any person or persons by frequent, habitual, excessive howling; barking; meowing; caterwauling or other noise making.
- C.** To allow or cause unsanitary, dangerous, or unreasonably offensive conditions. Every owner maintaining an animal run or yard shall keep the same clean and sanitary, and free from refuse.
- D.** Chases, molests, attacks, bites or interferes with, or physically intimidates any person while on or off the premises of the owner.
- E.** Chases, molests, attacks, bites, or interferes with other domestic animals while off the premises of the owner.

- F. Persons who utilizes invisible fencing to contain their animals must display a sign that indicates there is invisible fencing.

### **8.3 Provoking Animals**

It shall be unlawful for any person to intentionally provoke any animal so as to create a nuisance to the neighborhood or cause violation of any provisions in this ordinance.

### **8.4 Dead Animals**

The owner of an animal shall be responsible for the disposal of such animal's remains upon its death, from whatever cause, and regardless of the location of the remains. No person shall allow the body of, or any part thereof, of any dead animal to decompose and putrefy by remaining on his property. No person shall skin, dismember, butcher, dress, or exhibit dead animals in the view of the public in residentially used areas of Knox County.

### **8.5 Dog or Cat in Heat**

The owner of every female dog or cat in heat shall confine such animal in a building or secure enclosure in such a manner that it cannot come into contact with another animal except for planned breeding. The owner of any male dog or cat running at large shall be held financially responsible for care and cost of adoption of resulting litter.

### **8.6 Collars or Harness to Include Choke Chains and Prong Collars**

Every pet owner within Knox County, Illinois shall provide such pet with a collar or harness to be worn when said animal is outside a secure enclosure. Collars shall be of sufficient strength to control and restrain the animal without causing injury to the animal. Animals restrained by rope or chains MUST have collars or harnesses. No person shall, without the consent of the owner or keeper of any animal, take away or otherwise remove the registration tag, identification tag, or collar/harness from any dog or cat except in an emergency or for the welfare of the animal.

### **8.7 Restrictions on Tethering an Animal**

It shall be unlawful to tether an animal unless the following conditions have been met;

**A.** No person shall tether an animal unattended outside unless on their property or on a property where consent is given.

**B.** No person shall tether an animal outside unless the tether is at least twelve (12) feet long so as to allow for adequate exercise and freedom of movement and the period of confinement is six (6) hours or less in a twenty-four (24) hour period.

**C.** A tethered an animal must have access, at all times, to fresh clean water free from debris, adequate shelter to protect from Sun, rain, snow or other extreme weather conditions, dry ground.

**D.** No dog is to be tethered using a choke chain, prong or pinch collar at any time.

**E.** The Animal does not suffer from a condition that is known to be exacerbated by tethering.

**F.** If there are multiple animals being tethered, each animal must have its own tether and be tethered in a manner to not become entangled with another animal being tethered.

**G.** The Animal cannot be tethered with a lead that exceeds one-eighth (1/8) of the animal's body weight, must NOT be a tow chain or log chain.

**H.** The animal is not tethered for more than three (3) hours in a twenty-four (24) hour period, during extreme weather conditions.

**I.** The Animal is not tethered in such a manner that it will allow it to reach within the property of another person, public road way or side walk.

## **8.8 Rules and Restrictions**

**A.** When a pet owner has three (3) or more violations of the same offense or violations in combination regarding one or more pets, the Knox County Sheriff Office Animal Control Deputy or the Administrator may have one or more such pets removed from an owner or custodian and placed up for adoption or otherwise dispose of such animals in a humane manner.

**B.** When the violation is regarding inhumane treatment of animals, the Administrator or the Knox County Sheriff's Office Animal Control Deputy may deem the owner unfit and ban from owning or having pets in his/her care for a set period of time. After that time has elapsed, he/she will again be allowed to own and care for animals after a thorough investigation by the Knox County Sheriff's Office Animal Control or Humane Investigator.

**C.** When an owner has been barred from owning or having animals in his/her care; information shall be provided to all the other shelters, humane investigators and veterinarians in the area.

**D.** An owner or custodian may appeal a decision to the Administrator or the Knox County Sheriff's Office Animal Control Deputy.

## **Section 9 - Humane Care for Animals**

### **9.1 Humane Care**

**A.** It shall be unlawful for any person to abuse or neglect or in any way treat inhumanely any animal within Knox County, Illinois. This Knox County Animal Control ordinance shall cause all persons within Knox County, Illinois to abide by the Humane Care for Animals Act as established in 510 ILCS 70/1

**B.** No owner shall fail to provide his/her animal(s) with:

1. Sufficient, Nutritious Food.
2. Fresh clean water, free of debris at all times
3. A shelter that has four (4) side, a roof, and bedding. The Shelter shall be sufficient size to permit such animals to stand up and turn around inside when fully grown and allow for retention of body heat. The living environment of the animal(s) must provide areas for shade from sun and protection from the weather.
4. Proper air ventilation and circulation.
5. Regular and sufficient veterinary care to prevent suffering and maintain health.
6. Medical attention and or necessary veterinary care when the animal(s) is sick, diseased or injured.
7. No person shall let animal feces to accumulate in any yard, pen or premises in or upon which an animal shall be confined or kept so that it becomes offensive to those residing in the vicinity or a health hazard to the residing animals or occupants therein.

## **9.2 Abandonment**

No person shall abandon any animal on any public or private property or roadway within Knox County, Illinois.

## **9.3 Acts of Animal Cruelty**

**A.** No person shall promote, conduct, carry on, advertise, permit, instigate or attend any dogfight, cockfight, bullfight or other combat between animals and or humans on any premises in Knox County, Illinois.

**B.** No person shall kill, wound, attempt to kill, or poison any domestic animals unless justifiable in defense of a person or property.

**C.** No person shall beat, cruelly ill-treat, torment, overload, overwork or otherwise abuse a domestic animal.

**D.** No person shall put to death any domestic animal except by euthanasia under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian of the State of Illinois.

**E.** No owner or person shall confine any animal in a motor vehicle or enclosed trailer, kennel, dog house, or any type of container or structure used for confinement in such a manner that places it in a life or health threatening situation by exposure to a prolonged period of heat or cold. In order to protect the health and safety of an animal, the Animal Control officer/ Deputy, Law Enforcement Officer, Department Investigator who has probable cause to believe that this section is being violated shall have authority to enter such motor vehicle by any reasonable means under the circumstances after making a reasonable effort to locate the owner or person.

**F.** No person shall abandon any animal on any public or private property or roadway within Knox County, Illinois.

**G.** Any person striking, injuring, or killing any dog, cat or domestic animal with a vehicle shall render assistance when possible and/or notify the owner, police, or Animal Control Officer.

**H.** Owners duties as listed in the Illinois Humane Care Act (510 ILCS 70/3) as it pertains to Knox County Animal Control Ordinances, under “adequate shelter and protection for weather” shall include:

**1.** Shelter from Sunlight. When sunlight is likely to cause overheating and or discomfort, sufficient shade shall be provided to allow all animals/ pets kept outdoors to protect themselves from the direct rays of the sun.

**2.** Shelter from rain or snow. Animals/ pets kept outdoors shall be provided with access to shelter to allow them to remain dry during rain or snow.

**3.** Shelter form cold weather. Shelter shall be provided for all animals/pets kept outdoors to afford comfort and protection to such animals appropriate for the local climatic conditions and the animal/pet species concerned.

**4.** Shelter from extreme heat or cold. Shelter that is provided in an enclosed area such as enclosed porch or vehicle, shall not cause danger, distress or discomfort to the animal.

**5.** Drainage. A suitable method shall be provided to rapidly eliminate excess water to prevent a damp, wet or muddy environment.

**6.** Proper Shelter. Shall be defined as protection form weather for an animal as a moisture proof building, with a dry floor and adequate clean bedding material. A horse shall have a building of at least three (3) walls and a roof. It shall have a dry floor with clean and adequate bedding of straw, chips or other suitable material.

**7.** Sufficient Room. A pen or kennel shall be of sufficient room to provide adequate exercise. Cable, lead line, tie line or any line used to secure animal in a yard or pen shall be twelve (12) feet in length and placement to provide a tangle free exercise.

#### **9.4 Barking**

**A.** No owner shall allow a dog to bark, howl or whine in an excessively or continuous manner.

**B.** It is unlawful for an owned dog to make excessive noise in violation of this section within Knox County. An owned animal cannot make excessive noise outside for more than 30 consecutive minutes between the hours of 10:01 pm and 6:59am.

#### **9.5 Livestock**

**A.** It shall be unlawful for any person to keep Livestock in Knox County unless livestock is being kept in accordance with the following restrictions:



1. No livestock shall be permitted to graze, forage, or otherwise roam within fifty feet of any dwelling, residence, or structure used for human occupancy (other than the livestock owner's dwelling or residence).
2. Livestock shall be enclosed with adequate fences or barriers that will prevent such livestock from damaging shrubbery or other property situated on adjacent property. Such fences or barriers shall be sufficient to prevent the livestock from escaping the enclosure.
3. It shall be a violation for any livestock to be at large off the property of the owner of the livestock or the property being used to confine the livestock.
4. Each animal that is off the property of the owner constitutes a separate offense.
5. Each day an animal is off the property of the owner constitutes a separate offense.

**B.** Animal control officers are authorized to impound all livestock in violation of section A and are subject to terms and conditions established throughout this ordinance. Livestock is/are to be held by a private contractor with the owner of the livestock being responsible for all expenses related to the impounding, transportation, boarding feeding and any other expenses that are incurred in impounding the livestock. All fees and charges must be paid prior to releasing of the livestock and the Knox County Sheriff's Office Animal Control Deputy must be informed of such releasing of the livestock.

**C.** To ensure the safety of the public, any Livestock found or in danger of being on a public roadway, highway or interstate, will be tranquilized if necessary or in extreme cases be dispatched by the police or Animal Control Officer. If it is necessary to tranquilize or dispatch any livestock to prevent property damage or injuries to the public or the livestock, the county will not be liable for damages to the owners of said livestock.

## **Section 10- Violations and Penalties**

Any person violating or aiding in the violation of any provisions of the Knox County, Il ordinance, or resisting, obstructing, impeding the Knox County Sheriff' Animal Control or any authorized office in enforcing this ordinance, shall be fined no less than seventy-five dollars (75.00) or no more than five hundred dollars (500.00). For the first offense, a warning or citation may be issued. Each day a person fails to comply constitutes a separate offense.

## Fee Schedule

ORDINANCE VIOLATION	FINE/TICKET FEE	
<b>Dog Registration Fees</b>		
1 yr Altered Effective 10/01/24		15.00
	After 30 days	25.00
	After 60 days	35.00
1 yr Un-altered Effective 10/01/24		25.00
	After 30 days	35.00
	After 60 days	45.00
3 yr Altered Effective 10/01/24		45.00
	After 30 days	55.00
	After 60 days	65.00
3 yr Un-altered Effective 10/01/24		75.00
	After 30 days	85.00
	After 60 days	95.00
<b>Cat Registration Fees</b>		
1 yr Altered Cat Effective 10/01/24		10.00
	After 30 days	20.00
	After 60 days	30.00
1 yr Un-altered Effective 10/01/24		20.00
	After 30 days	30.00
	After 60 days	40.00
3 yr Altered Effective 10/01/2024		30.00
	After 30 days	40.00
	After 60 Days	50.00
3 yr Un-altered Effective 10/01/24		60.00
	After 30 days	70.00
	After 60 days	80.00
<b>Dog at large</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense	150.00
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense	300.00
	Subsequent offenses	300.00
<b>Failure to Inoculation Dog or Cat against rabies</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense	150.00
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense	300.00
	Subsequent offenses	300.00
<b>Failure to Register Dog or Cat for rabies</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense	150.00
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense	300.00
	Subsequent offenses	300.00
<b>Failure to Comply with Bite Quarantine</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense	150.00
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense	300.00

	Subsequent offenses	300.00
<b>Nuisance Violation Fees</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense	150.00
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense	300.00
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Offense	500.00
	Subsequent offense	Court Appearance
<b>Livestock Violation Fees</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense	150.00
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense	300.00
	Subsequent offenses	300.00
<b>General/ other Animal Control Violations</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense	150.00
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense	300.00
	Subsequent offenses	300.00

