

Chapter 11 DOGS and OTHER ANIMALS

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11.1 DEFINITIONS

In addition to the definitions found in Appendix A of this Code, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings, and are hereby defined, as follows:

Animal: Every living creature, domestic or wild, not including man.

Dangerous animal: Any lion, tiger, leopard, ocelot, jaguar, cheetah, margay, mountain lion, lynx, bobcat, jaguarundi, bear, hyena, wolf, coyote or life-threatening snake or reptile.

Domestic animal: Any animal, except birds or fish, the ownership of which is not prohibited under the definition of “prohibited animal” set forth herein.

Owner: Any person who:

1. Has a right of property in an animal;
2. Keeps an animal;
3. Has an animal in his care of custody; or
4. Knowingly permits an animal to remain on or about any premises occupied by him.

Run at large: To be free of restraints off the premises of the owner.

Prohibited animal: Pigs, swine, sheep, chickens or other fowl, cattle, horses, goats or similar animals, or any naturally wild animal, except birds or fish, whether or not bred for domestic purposes. Such animals shall, however, be permitted in zoological parks, performing animal exhibitions, educational institutions, veterinary hospitals and Farming District (F) and Estate District (E-5) zoning districts.

Vicious animal: Any animal which bites, or in any other manner, attacks or attempts to attack, except that any animal that bites, attacks or attempts to attack any person unlawfully entering

upon its owner's premises, or which is provoked to attack, shall not be deemed a vicious animal.

11.2 CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

No person shall cruelly treat any animal. Any person who inhumanely beats, under feeds, overloads or abandons any animal is guilty of a violation of this Section.

11.3 DANGEROUS ANIMALS

All persons owning or in possession of any dangerous or vicious animal shall restrain said animal from running at large within the Village. Exhibitions or parades of dangerous or otherwise prohibited animals as defined herein may be conducted upon securing a permit from the Chief of Police.

11.4 NOISY ANIMALS

No person shall harbor or keep any animal which disturbs the peace by loud noises.

11.5 ANIMALS PROHIBITED

No person shall stable, keep or maintain any prohibited animals, as defined herein, in the Village, nor shall any person ride, walk or lead such prohibited animals in the Village, except by special permission granted by the Village Board; provided that horses may be led through the Village on a public roadway when safe to do so without disrupting traffic. And except also that the Village may issue a permit for the use of any horse-drawn carriage for a particular event or ceremony.

Nor shall any person keep, harbor, care for, act as custodian of or maintain in his possession, any dangerous animal.

11.6 DISEASED ANIMALS

A. All persons owning or in possession of any animal afflicted with a contagious or infectious disease shall restrain said animal from running at large within the Village where the public health may be affected. No diseased animal shall be shipped or removed from the premises of the owner except under the supervision of an animal control officer or the state veterinarian. No diseased animal shall be brought into the Village.

B. The animal control officer shall secure the disposition of any diseased animal and the treatment of affected premises so as to prevent the communication and spread of the contagion or infection, except in cases where the state veterinarian is empowered to act.

11.7 DOG LICENSES

No person shall permit a dog to be or remain in the Village without being registered and licensed by the McHenry County Health Department. The registrations and licensing rules of the county shall prevail. In no case shall a dog that has not been inoculated against rabies be allowed to be or remain in the Village.

11.8 DOGS AND CATS RUNNING AT LARGE

A. It shall be unlawful to permit any dog or cat to run at large in the Village at any time. Dogs and cats which are on any street or walkway or other public place without being held securely on a leash shall be deemed to be running at large.

B. It shall be unlawful to permit any dog or cat to run at large on the property of anyone but the owner thereof without the permission of the property owner.

C. Dogs or cats which are running at large shall be taken up and impounded by the Police Department or the McHenry County Animal Control personnel.

11.9 ANIMAL BITES

Whenever a dog or other animal bites a person, the owner of the animal shall immediately notify the Chief, who shall order the animal held on the owner's premises or shall have it impounded for a period of 2 weeks.

The animal shall be examined immediately after it has bitten any person. When the animal's owner is known, the Chief shall deliver written notice to the owner, who shall give up the animal to the Police Department for confinement or the owner shall confine the animal with the written consent of the Police Department.

11.10 DOG LITTER

It shall be unlawful for any person owning, keeping or otherwise having possession or control of a dog to walk the dog in or upon any public way or other public place in the Village without having sufficient equipment to remove from the public way or other public place any dog litter which may be deposited by the dog.

It shall be unlawful for any person owning, keeping or otherwise having possession or control of a dog to allow the dog to deposit any litter upon any private property not owned by that person unless that person has the permission of the property owner or immediately removes the dog litter from the private property.

11.11 LIMIT

A. **SINGLE FAMILY DWELLING:** It shall be unlawful for any person to keep on any lot or premises or portion thereof more than 4 dogs, cats or domestic animals as defined herein over 4 months of age or more than 2 such animals boarded for compensation or sale. If more than 1 person resides on any lot or premises or portion thereof, then the person who owns, leases, possesses or controls said premises shall be presumed, for purposes of this Chapter, to be the keeper of all animals kept thereon, regardless of the legal ownership thereof. However, in no event shall a non-resident owner of property be held liable hereunder, where there is a person on the premises.

B. **MULTIPLE FAMILY DWELLING:** No more than 2 domestic animals shall be

permitted in a multiple family dwelling unit.

C. EXCEPTIONS: This Section shall not apply to pet shops, zoological parks, performing animal exhibitions, educational institutions, veterinary hospitals or duly organized animal shelters and within Farming District (F) and Estate District (E-5) zoning districts.

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