

TITLE 10

ANIMAL CONTROL

CHAPTER

1. IN GENERAL.
2. DOGS.

CHAPTER 1

IN GENERAL

SECTION

- 10-101. Running at large prohibited.
- 10-102. Permit required for keeping.
- 10-103. Pen or enclosure to be kept clean.
- 10-104. Adequate food, water, and shelter, etc., to be provided.
- 10-105. Keeping in such manner as to become a nuisance prohibited.
- 10-106. Cruel treatment prohibited.
- 10-107. Seizure and disposition of animals.
- 10-108. Inspections of premises.
- 10-109. Revocation of permits.

10-101. Running at large prohibited. It shall be unlawful for any person owning or being in charge of any cows, swine, sheep, horses, mules, goats, or any chickens, ducks, geese, turkeys, or other domestic fowl, cattle, or livestock, knowingly or negligently to permit any of them to run at large in any street, alley, or unenclosed lot within the corporate limits. (1976 Code, § 3-101)

10-102. Permit required for keeping. No person shall keep any animals or fowls enumerated in the preceding section without a permit from the recorder. The recorder shall issue a permit only when the health officer, after an inspection, finds that the keeping of such animals or fowls, under the circumstances as set forth in the application for the permit, will not injuriously affect the public health. (1976 Code, § 3-102)

10-103. Pen or enclosure to be kept clean. When animals or fowls are kept within the corporate limits, the building, structure, corral, pen, or enclosure in which they are kept shall at all times be maintained in a clean and sanitary condition. (1976 Code, § 3-103)

10-104. Adequate food, water, and shelter, etc., to be provided. No animal or fowl shall be kept or confined in any place where the food, water,

shelter, and ventilation are not adequate and sufficient for the preservation of its health and safety.

All feed shall be stored and kept in a rat-proof and fly-tight building, box, or receptacle. (1976 Code, § 3-104)

10-105. Keeping in such manner as to become a nuisance prohibited. No animal or fowl shall be kept in such a place or condition as to become a nuisance because of noise, odor, contagious disease, or other reason. (1976 Code, § 3-105)

10-106. Cruel treatment prohibited. It shall be unlawful for any person to unnecessarily beat or otherwise abuse or injure any dumb animal or fowl. (1976 Code, § 3-106)

10-107. Seizure and disposition of animals. Any animal or fowl found running at large or otherwise being kept in violation of this chapter may be seized by the health officer or by any police officer and confined in a pound provided or designated by the board of mayor and aldermen. If the owner is known he shall be given notice in person, by telephone, or by a postcard addressed to his last-known mailing address. If the owner is not known or cannot be located, a notice describing the impounded animal or fowl will be posted in at least three (3) public places within the corporate limits. In either case the notice shall state that the impounded animal or fowl must be claimed within five (5) days by paying the pound costs or the same will be humanely destroyed or sold. If not claimed by the owner, the animal or fowl shall be sold or humanely destroyed, or it may otherwise be disposed of as authorized by the board of mayor and aldermen.

The pound keeper shall be entitled to collect from each person claiming an impounded animal or fowl reasonable fees, in accordance with a schedule approved by the board of mayor and aldermen, to cover the costs of impoundment and maintenance. (1976 Code, § 3-107)

10-108. Inspections of premises. For the purpose of making inspections to insure compliance with the provisions of this title, the health officer, or his authorized representative, shall be authorized to enter, at any reasonable time, any premises where he has reasonable cause to believe an animal or fowl is being kept in violation of this chapter. (1976 Code, § 3-108)

10-109. Revocation of permits. When any permittee is convicted of violating any provision of this chapter and fails to correct the offending situation within a reasonable period of time the recorder shall revoke his permit and promptly notify him of such revocation. (1976 Code, § 3-109)

CHAPTER 2

DOGS

SECTION

- 10-201. Rabies vaccination and registration required.
- 10-202. Dogs to wear tags.
- 10-203. Running at large prohibited.
- 10-204. Vicious dogs to be securely restrained.
- 10-205. Noisy dogs prohibited.
- 10-206. Confinement of dogs suspected of being rabid.
- 10-207. Seizure and disposition of dogs.
- 10-208. Establishment and duties of rabies control officer.

10-201. Rabies vaccination and registration required. It shall be unlawful for any person to own, keep, or harbor any dog without having the same duly vaccinated against rabies and registered in accordance with the provisions of the "Tennessee Anti-Rabies Law" (Tennessee Code Annotated, §§ 68-8-101 through 68-8-114) or other applicable law. (1976 Code, § 3-201)

10-202. Dogs to wear tags. It shall be unlawful for any person to own, keep, or harbor any dog which does not wear a tag evidencing the vaccination and registration required by the preceding section. (1976 Code, § 3-202)

10-203. Running at large prohibited.¹ It shall be unlawful for any person knowingly to permit any dog owned by him or under his control to run at large within the corporate limits. (1976 Code, § 3-203)

10-204. Vicious dogs to be securely restrained. It shall be unlawful for any person to own or keep any dog known to be vicious or dangerous unless such dog is so confined and/or otherwise securely restrained as to provide reasonably for the protection of other animals and persons. (1976 Code, § 3-204)

10-205. Noisy dogs prohibited. No person shall own, keep, or harbor any dog which, by loud and frequent barking, whining, or howling, annoys, or disturbs the peace and quiet of any neighborhood. (1976 Code, § 3-205)

10-206. Confinement of dogs suspected of being rabid. If any dog has bitten any person or is suspected of having bitten any person or is for any reason suspected of being infected with rabies, the rabies control officer, health officer

¹State law reference

Tennessee Code Annotated, §§ 68-8-108 and 68-8-109.

or chief of police may cause such dog to be confined or isolated, at the owner's expense, for such time as the officer deems reasonably necessary to determine if such dog is rabid. (1976 Code, § 3-206, as amended by Ord. #496, July 1987)

10-207. Seizure and disposition of dogs. Any dog found running at large may be seized by the rabies control officer, the health officer, or any similarly appointed officer or any police officer and placed in a pound provided or designated by the board of mayor and aldermen. If said dog is wearing a tag the owner shall be notified in person, by telephone, or by a postcard addressed to his last-known mailing address to appear within five (5) days and redeem his dog by paying a reasonable pound fee, in accordance with a schedule approved by the board of mayor and aldermen, or the dog will be humanely destroyed or sold. If said dog is not wearing a tag it shall be humanely destroyed or sold unless legally claimed by the owner within two (2) days. No dog shall be released in any event from the pound unless or until such dog has been vaccinated and had a tag evidencing such vaccination placed on its collar.

When reasonably necessary in order to retrieve or capture a dog running at large, the impounding officer may use any humane means such as a "snare," "dart gun," or other similar equipment. Neither the officer nor the Town of Erwin shall be held liable if a dog running at large is accidentally injured or destroyed in the process of being impounded. (Ord. #496, July 1987)

10-208. Establishment and duties of rabies control officer. There is hereby created in the Town of Erwin the position of rabies control officer. Said rabies control officer shall have all authority and powers given to "health officers," under "The Tennessee Anti-Rabies Law," Tennessee Code Annotated, §§ 68-8-101 through 68-8-114. (Ord. #496, July 1987)