

CHAPTER 4

ANIMALS

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Article A. General

Section 4.1 Owners and keepers of dogs and cats required to have dogs and cats inoculated annually for rabies

It is hereby declared to be unlawful for any person, whether as owner or keeper to harbor or have possession of, within the town, any dog or cat over the age of four (4) months unless it has, within the preceding year, been inoculated with an approved and recognized anti-rabies serum by, or under the direction of, a licensed veterinarian. Such inoculation shall be evidenced by a metal tag visibly displayed on said dog or cat.

(Ordinance 53 adopted 2/5/85; Ordinance 66 adopted 6/7/88)

Section 4.1.1 Owners and keepers of dogs required to have a collar and identifying tag

A. It is hereby declared to be unlawful for any person, whether as owner or keeper, to harbor or have possession of, within the town, a dog without a collar and identification tag. The tag shall visibly display the dog owner's name and telephone number.

B. No dog shall be released from impoundment without a collar and identification tag at the owner's expense.

(Ordinance 2010-193, adopted 6/15/10)

Section 4.2 Animal and fowl running at large prohibited

A. It shall be unlawful for any person who owns, or who has custody or control of, any animal or fowl to allow such animal or fowl to run at large within the town.

B. Owners wishing to take domestic animals (dogs or cats) on the public streets of the town shall at all times have their animals on a leash which leash shall not be longer than six (6') feet in length.

(Ordinance 53 adopted 2/5/85; Ordinance 66 adopted 6/7/88)

Section 4.3 Seizure of animals: impoundment.; redemption fees: and disposal of unclaimed animals

A. Any animal found in the town in violation of this Chapter shall be seized and impounded by any law enforcement officer. It shall be held in a humane manner at a facility designated by the town for a period of fourteen (14) days; during the first seven (7) days the owner or keeper of the animal shall have the exclusive right to claim it after the animal has been duly inoculated at the owners expense or by the owner or keeper furnishing proof of inoculation and paying the sum of twelve dollars and fifty cents (\$12.50) as a fee for picking up the animal, and the additional sum of two dollars and fifty cents (\$2.50) per day as an impoundment fee for the care of the animal. On the first offense, fees shall be waived and a warning shall be issued to the owner of the animal. If the animal is not claimed within seven (7) days after it has been seized and impounded; or the requirements of this Chapter are not fulfilled, the animal will then be available for adoption within seven (7) days after the animal has been duly inoculated at adopters' expense and furnishing proof of inoculation. If the animal is not claimed or adopted within the fourteen (14) day period as described herein, the animal shall then be humanely destroyed or sold at public or private sale.

B. The town, upon impounding any animal, shall make a record showing:

- (1) The date and time of impoundment.
- (2) A full description of the animal including breed, color, approximate age, and size.
- (3) Indicate if the animal has a vaccination tag and, if so, the expiration date and tag number.
- (4) The name of the owner if it appears on the tag, collar, or other identification that may have been on the animal.

C. If the animal is wearing a collar bearing a tag showing the name and address of the owner or keeper, the officer seizing or impounding the animal shall immediately notify the owner of the animal in writing of its impoundment. The notice shall state that unless the owner or keeper of the animal shall, within seven (7) days from the date of the notice, claim the animal and pay all fees due, the animal shall be disposed of as set forth herein.

D. Before an animal is released for adoption or sold at public or private sale, the adopter or purchaser must enter into a written agreement with the Town of Livonia guaranteeing that sterilization will be performed by a Louisiana licensed veterinarian to comply with R.S. 3:2472, on or before the sterilization date stated in the agreement.

(Ordinance 53 adopted 2/5/85; Ordinance 66 adopted 6/7/88; Ordinance 130 adopted 8/13/01; Ordinance 210-193, adopted 6/15/10; Ordinance 2015-228 adopted 11/10/15)

Section 4.4 Impoundment of animals suspected of rabies

Any dog, cat, or other animal, whether immunized or not, that has bitten a human being within the town, or has been bitten by any animal suspected of having rabies or any infection associated therewith, shall be impounded for a period of not less than ten (10) days nor more than twenty (20) days for observation. If it is determined that the animal has rabies, it shall be humanely destroyed. If it is determined that the animal does not have rabies, the owner or keeper may claim the animal upon compliance with Section 4.3.

(Ordinance 53 adopted 2/5/85; Ordinance 66 adopted 6/7/88)

Section 4.5 Vicious dogs

A. Any dog which has bitten or otherwise attacked any person is hereby declared to be a vicious dog and shall be kept effectively yarded and controlled at all times by its owner or keeper. If any vicious dog is found running at large in the town after being previously impounded, the dog shall be destroyed in a humane manner promptly after its second impoundment.

B. If a dog is maintained as a watchdog and is kept effectively yarded at all times, the dog shall not be deemed a vicious dog if it bites a trespasser upon the property where the dog is kept. Any owner or keeper who maintains a watchdog shall post a sign bearing the words "Bad Dog" at the entrance to such property.

(Ordinance 66 adopted 6/7/88; Ordinance 53 adopted 2/5/85)

Section 4.6 Destruction of dangerous animals: liability

Any town officer may destroy any dangerous or vicious animal found running at large and no officer shall be liable to damages or to prosecution by reason of killing such dangerous or vicious animals.

(Ordinance 53 adopted 2/5/85; Ordinance 66 adopted 6/7/88)

Section 4.7 Disposal of carcasses

It shall be unlawful for any person to place, throw, or otherwise leave the carcass of any dead animal on any street, alley, backyard, or vacant lot within the limits of the town. The fact that the carcass of a dead animal has not been buried or properly disposed of within twelve (12) hours after the death of the animal shall create a presumption of violation of this Section.

(Ordinance 66 adopted 6/7/88)

Section 4.5 Disposition of injured animals

Any animal which is seized and found to be mortally injured shall be destroyed in a humane manner.

(Ordinance 66 adopted 6/7/88)

Section 4.9 Animals in parked vehicles

Animals in vehicles shall be restrained to the premises of the vehicle in a humane manner.

(Ordinance 66 adopted 6/7/88)

Section 4.10 Unlawful release of impounded animals

It shall be unlawful for any person to take from the place of impoundment any impounded animal without the prior permission of the police department.

(Ordinance 66 adopted 6/7/88)

Section 4.11 Animals declared to be personal property

Animals owned or kept within the town are declared to be the personal property of such

owner or keeper.

(Ordinance 53 adopted 2/5/85; Ordinance 66 adopted 6/7/88)

Section 4.12 Keeping barking dogs prohibited

It shall be unlawful for any person or the owner or anyone that has charge, control, or custody thereof to keep any dog within the town which howls, yells, or barks excessively as to disturb the sleep, peace and quiet of any inhabitant of the town.

(Ordinance 66 adopted 6/7/88)

Section 4.12.1 Abandonment of animals prohibited

It shall be unlawful for any person who owns, or who has custody or control of, any animal or fowl, to abandon or leave such animal or fowl within the town.-

(Ordinance 112 adopted 2/11/99)

Section 4.13 Definitions

As used in the Article:

(1) "Animal" includes, but is not limited to, horses, mares, jacks, mules, colts, bulls, steers, oxen, calves, hogs, sheep, goats, dogs, or cats.

(2) "Inoculated" shall be understood to mean the administration of anti-rabies vaccine by or under the direction of a licensed veterinarian.

(3) "Running at large" means an animal unaccompanied by its owner or keeper and being off the premise of its owner or keeper.

(Ordinance 53 adopted 2/5/85; Ordinance 66 adopted 6/7/88)

Section 4.14 Penalties

Any person who violates this Article shall, upon conviction, be fined not less than twenty-five (\$25) dollars nor more than five hundred (\$500) dollars or imprisoned for not more than thirty (30) days, or both.

(Ordinance 53 adopted 2/5/85; Ordinance 66 adopted 6/7/88)

Article B. Swine

Section 4.21 Keeping swine; excessive odor prohibited

It shall be unlawful for an person to raise, produce, or keep on any private or public

premises any swine, hog, or pig within the town where the same results in the production of excessive order.

(Ordinance 136 adopted 2/13/02)

Section 4.22 Enclosure with concrete floor and drain system required

Any swine, hog, or pig raised, produced, or kept within the town shall at all times be confined within an enclosure with a concrete floor and proper drain system.

(Ordinance 136 adopted 2/13/02)

Section 4.23 Excessive odor defined

For the purposes of this Article, "excessive odor" means odor of such intensity and duration as to prevent or interfere with a person's ability to enjoy his property, including, but not limited to, situations where the odor continues in such a manner as to cause mental anguish and suffering or such as to disturb the comfort or repose of a person in his dwelling in the vicinity of where the swine, hog, or pig is kept.

(Ordinance 136 adopted 2/13/02)

Section 4.24 Penalties

Any person convicted of violating this Article shall be subject to a fine of not more than three hundred (\$300) dollars. Each day the violation continues shall be considered a separate violation.