

## DIVISION 2. DANGEROUS ANIMALS

### Sec. 3-131. Procedure for declaring animal dangerous.

(a) Upon conducting an investigation the humane or law enforcement officer may issue an order declaring an animal to be a dangerous animal. Whenever an owner or caretaker wishes to contest an order, he or she shall, within seventy-two (72) hours after receipt of the order, deliver to the Health Officer a written objection to the order stating specific reasons for contesting the order. Upon receipt of the written objection, the matter shall be placed on the Agenda for the Board of Health to be reviewed at the next regular meeting. The Board of Health shall act as a quasi-judicial body allowing the animal's owner or caretaker an opportunity to present evidence as to why the animal should not be declared dangerous.

(b) After the hearing, the owner or caretaker shall be notified in writing of the Board's determination. If the Board upholds the determination that the animal is dangerous, the owner or caretaker shall comply with the requirements of §3-132. If the owner or caretaker further contests the determination, he or she may, within five (5) days of receiving the panel's decision, seek review of the decision by the Circuit Court.

(c) Upon an animal being declared dangerous, the owner or caretaker shall immediately comply with leashing, muzzling and confinement requirements of §3-132 with all other requirements in that section being satisfied within thirty (30) days of the dangerous declaration or reaffirmation thereof, or within such time as established by the Board of Health.

(Code 1965, §23.06(4)(e); Ord 17-05, §1, 3-8-05 ; Ord 117-07, §1, 7-24-07)

### Sec. 3-132. Harboring dangerous animals.

#### (a) *Dangerous animals regulated.*

- (1) No person may harbor or keep a dangerous animal within the city unless all provisions of this section are complied with. Any animal that is determined to be a prohibited dangerous animal under this division shall not be kept or harbored in the city.
- (2) The issuance of a citation for a violation of this section need not be predicated on a determination that an animal is a dangerous animal.

(b) *Registration.* The owner of any animal declared dangerous, shall register it with the Police Department upon disposition, and annually thereafter on or before April 1 of each year, by providing a current color photograph of the animal and payment of a seventy-five dollar (\$75.00) registration fee.

#### (c) *Leash and muzzle.*

- (1) No owner or caretaker, harboring or having the care of a dangerous animal may permit such an animal to go outside its dwelling, kennel or pen unless the animal is securely restrained with a leash no longer than four (4) feet in length.
- (2) No person may permit a dangerous animal to be kept on a chain, rope or other type of leash outside its dwelling, kennel or pen unless a person who is sixteen (16) years of age or older, competent to govern the animal and capable of physically controlling and restraining the animal, is in physical control of the leash.
- (3) A dangerous animal may be securely leashed or chained to an immovable object, with the owner or caretaker being in the physical presence of the animal at all times when it is so leashed or chained.
- (4) A dangerous animal outside of the animal's dwelling, kennel or pen shall be muzzled in a humane way by a muzzling device sufficient to prevent the animal from biting persons or other animals.

#### (d) *Confinement.*

- (1) Except when leashed and muzzled, all dangerous animals shall be securely confined indoors or in a securely enclosed and locked pen or kennel that is located on the premises of the owner or caretaker and constructed in a manner that does not allow the animal to exit the pen or kennel on its own volition.
- (2) When constructed in a yard, the pen or kennel shall, at a minimum, be constructed to conform to the requirements of this paragraph. The pen or kennel shall be child-proof from the outside and animal-proof from the inside. A strong metal double fence with adequate space between fences (at least two (2) feet) shall be provided so that a child cannot reach into the animal enclosure. The pen, kennel or structure shall have secure sides and a secure top attached to all sides. A structure used to confine a dangerous animal shall be locked with a key or combination lock when the animal is within the structure. The structure shall either have a secure bottom or floor attached to the sides of the pen or the sides of the pen shall be embedded in the ground no less than two (2) feet. All structures erected to house dangerous animals shall comply with all city zoning and building regulations. All structures shall be adequately lighted and ventilated and kept in a clean and sanitary condition.
- (3) *Indoor Confinement.* No dangerous animal may be kept on a porch, patio or in any part of a house or structure on the premises of the owner or caretaker that would allow the animal to exit the building on its own volition. No dangerous animal may be kept in a house or structure when the windows are open or when screen windows or screen doors are the only obstacle preventing the animal from exiting the structure.

(e) *Signs.* The owner or caretaker of a dangerous animal shall display, in prominent places on his or her premises near all entrances to the premises, signs in letters of not less than two (2) inches high warning that there is a dangerous animal on the property. A similar sign is required to be posted on the kennel or pen of the animal. In addition, the owner or caretaker shall conspicuously display a sign with a symbol warning children of the presence of a dangerous animal.

(f) *Spay and neuter requirement.* Within thirty (30) days after an animal has been designated dangerous, the owner or caretaker of the animal shall provide written proof from a licensed veterinarian that the animal has been spayed or neutered.

(g) *Liability insurance.* The owner or caretaker of a dangerous animal shall present to the Health Officer or Humane Officer a certificate of insurance that the owner or caretaker has procured liability insurance in an amount not less than \$1,000,000 for any personal injuries inflicted by the dangerous animal. Whenever such policy is cancelled or not renewed, the insurer and animal's owner or caretaker shall notify the Health Officer or Humane Officer of such cancellation or non renewal in writing by certified mail.

(h) *Waiver by Board of Health.* Upon request, by the owner or caretaker, the Board of Health may waive any requirement specified in subsections (a) through (g) that is deemed to be inappropriate for a particular dangerous animal.

(i) *Notification.* The owner or caretaker shall notify the police department within twenty-four (24) hours if a dangerous animal is at large, is unconfined, has attacked another animal or has attacked a human being or has died. No person may sell or transfer possession of a dangerous animal to another person without first notifying the person to whom the dangerous animal is being sold or transferred of the fact that such animal is a dangerous animal and of any requirements imposed upon the selling or transferring party by this division. No person may sell or transfer possession of a dangerous animal to another person, agency, organization or the like without first notifying the Police Department in writing, at least three (3) days in advance of the sale or transfer of possession with the name, address and telephone number of the new owner of the dangerous animal. If the dangerous animal is sold or given away to a person residing outside the city, the owner or caretaker shall present evidence to the Police Department showing that he or she has notified the Police Department, or other law enforcement agency of the animal's new residence, including the name, address and telephone number of the new owner of the dangerous animal.

(j) *Euthanasia.* If the owner or caretaker of an animal that has been designated a dangerous animal is unwilling or unable to comply with the regulations for keeping the animal in accordance with this section, he or she may have the animal humanely euthanized by an animal shelter, the humane society or a licensed veterinarian.

(k) *Waiver.* The Health Officer may waive the provisions of subsections (b) to (g) for a law enforcement or military animal upon presentation by the animal's owner or handler of satisfactory arrangement for safe keeping of the animal.

(Ord 17-05, §1, 3-8-05)

### **Sec. 3-133. Certain animals not be declared dangerous.**

Notwithstanding the definition of a dangerous animal in §3-1:

(a) No animal may be declared dangerous if death, injury or damage is sustained by a person who, at the time such injury or damage was sustained, was committing a trespass on the land or criminal trespass on the dwelling upon premises occupied by the owner of the animal; was teasing, tormenting, abusing or assaulting the animal; or was committing or attempting to commit a crime or violating or attempting to violate an ordinance which protects persons or property.

(b) No animal may be declared dangerous if death, injury or damage was sustained by a domestic animal which, at the time such was sustained, was teasing, tormenting, abusing or assaulting the animal.

(c) No animal may be declared dangerous if the animal was protecting or defending a human being within the immediate vicinity of the animal from an unjustified attack or assault.

(d) No animal may be declared dangerous for acts committed by the animal while being utilized by a law enforcement agency for law enforcement purposes while under the control and direction of a law enforcement officer. (Code 1965, §23.02(p); Ord 17-05, §1, 3-8-05)

### **Sec. 3-134. Prohibited dangerous animals.**

(a) *Not allowed in city.* No person may bring into or keep in the city any animal that is a prohibited dangerous animal under this section.

(b) Determination of a prohibited dangerous animal.

(1) The Health Officer or Police Department may determine an animal to be a prohibited dangerous animal whenever the Health Officer or Police Department finds that an animal meets the definition of prohibited dangerous animal or is a dangerous animal in non-compliance with any of the provisions of §3-132.

(2) Upon conducting an investigation and finding an animal meets the definition of a prohibited dangerous animal, the Police Department may issue an order declaring an animal to be a prohibited dangerous animal. Whenever an owner or caretaker wishes to contest an order, he or she shall, within seventy-two (72) hours after receipt of the order, deliver to the Health Officer a written objection to the order stating specific reasons for contesting the order. Upon receipt of the written objection, the matter shall be placed on the agenda for the Board of Health to be reviewed at the next regular meeting. The Board of Health shall act as a quasi-judicial body allowing the animal's owner or caretaker an opportunity to present evidence as to why the animal should not be declared a prohibited dangerous animal.

(3) Pending the outcome of the hearing, the animal may be confined subject to Sec. 173.21, Wis. Stats., or held at a location outside the limits of the City.

(4) After the hearing, the owner or caretaker shall be notified in writing of the Board's determination. If a determination is made that the animal is a prohibited dangerous animal, the owner or caretaker shall comply with subsection (a) within five (5) days after the date of the determination. If the owner or caretaker further contests the determination, he or she may, within five (5) days of receiving the panel's

decision, seek review of the decision by the Circuit Court.

(c) ***Destruction.*** Any dog that has caused bodily harm to a person, persons or a domestic animal on two (2) separate occasions off the owner's premises, without reasonable cause, may be destroyed as a result of judgment rendered by a court of competent jurisdiction, as specified under sec. 174.02(3), Wis. Stats. The City Attorney may petition an appropriate court to obtain a court order to destroy such a dog.

(d) ***Enforcement.*** The Health Department and Police Department may make whatever inquiry is deemed necessary to ensure compliance with this section.

(e) ***Waiver.*** The Health Officer may waive the provisions of this section for a law enforcement or military animal upon presentation by the animal's owner or handler of a satisfactory arrangement for safe keeping of the animal.  
Ord 17-05, §1, 3-8-05)