

ORDINANCE NO.67

An ordinance regulating dogs and cats within the City of Dennison, and providing for impounding and penalties for violation.

The City Council of Dennison ordains as follows:

Section 1. Definitions. As used in this ordinance, the following words shall have the following meanings:

- A. "City" means the area within the boundaries of the City of Dennison.
- B. "Owner" means any person, firm, association or corporation owning, harboring, or keeping a dog or cat.
- C. "At large" means off the premises of the owner and not under the control of the owner or a member of his immediate family or some other competent person either by leash or otherwise.
- D. "Vicious" means any dog or cat which has threatened, attempted to attack or attacked any person, except registered guard dogs.
- E. "Guard dog" means a dog which has been trained to attack or hold persons at bay in order to protect real or personal property, and which has been registered as a guard dog with the City Clerk.

Section 2. Vaccination Required. The owner of a dog or cat shall cause such animal to be vaccinated by a veterinarian qualified to practice in the state.

Section 3. Vaccination Tag. The owner shall cause a vaccination tag with the vaccination number of the dog or cat to be affixed by a permanent metal fastening to the collar of the vaccinated animal in such manner that the tag is clearly visible. The tag must be worn by the animal at all times.

Section 4. Registration with City Clerk. The owner shall register the vaccination number of each dog or cat in the owner's name with the City Clerk.

Section 5. Running at Large Unlawful. It is unlawful for an owner to permit any dog or cat to run at large within the City limits. The owner of such animal seen or found at large by the Dog Warden, the owner is subject to the penalties provided in Section 14 of this Ordinance. It is not unlawful for any dog or cat to appear upon streets or public property when such animal is on a leash and accompanied by a competent person.

Section 6. Habitual Barking Unlawful. It is unlawful if any dog barks, whines, howls, bays, cries or makes other noise excessively so as to cause annoyance, disturbance or discomfort to any individual provided that such noise continues for a period of more than five minutes and is plainly audible from a distance of 100 feet from the premises whereupon the dog is kept. It shall not be a violation of this section if the dog was barking, crying or making other noise due to harassment or injury to the dog or a trespass upon the premises whereupon the dog is located. Upon the second warning to an owner of such failure to restrain by the Dog Warden or any other person designated by the City, the owner is subject to the penalties provided in Section 14 of this Ordinance.

Section 7. Keeping Vicious Dogs and Cats Unlawful. It is unlawful for an owner to keep or allow to appear a vicious dog or cat within the City limits, except registered guard dogs. Upon the second warning to an owner of such keeping or appearance, made by the Dog Warden or any other person designated by the City, the owner is subject to the penalties provided in Section 14 of this Ordinance.

Section 8. Registration of Guard Dogs Required. The owner shall register a guard dog by description, name, breed and age with the City Clerk. An unregistered guard dog shall be treated as a vicious dog under this Ordinance.

Section 9. Confinement of Registered Guard Dogs Required. The owner shall cause registered guard dogs which are kept within the City limits to be confined in an enclosure, or leashed and accompanied by the owner, at all times, so that such dog is not dangerous to any person. Any unconfined or unleashed registered guard dog, shall be treated as a vicious dog under this Ordinance.

Section 10. Capture of Vicious and Other Animals. The Dog Warden may cause a lawful tranquilizer gun to effect the capture of any vicious dogs or cat, or any dog or cat which cannot be captured by the usual means.

Section 11. Capture and Impound. The Dog Warden shall make reasonable efforts to capture and impound any dog or cat, including registered guard dogs, and whether vaccination-tagged or not, found at large within the City limits. The Dog Warden shall make a reasonable attempt to notify the owner of any vaccination-tagged animal, including registered guard dogs, of such capture and impound, if the owner has registered his name with the City Clerk.

Section 12. Impounding. The city dog catcher and every police officer shall impound any dog or cat found unlicensed or running at large and shall give notice of the impounding to the owner of such dog or cat if known. If the dog or cat is not claimed within five regular business days it will be disposed of.

Section 13. Redemption from Impound. The owner may redeem such dog or cat from the impound location determined by the City of Dennison. Any impounding charges incurred by the impound location for care and feeding shall be paid by the owner. An untagged dog or cat may be redeemed in like manner and for said fee, with proof of compliance with the vaccination requirements of Sections 2, 3 and 4 of this Ordinance.

Section 14. Animal Limit. A limit of 4 animals total per household over 4 months of age.

Section 15. Penalties. Any owner acting unlawfully as stated in this Ordinance is guilty of a misdemeanor.

Section 16 Severable. If any section, sentence or phrase of this Ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the validity of any other section, sentence or phrase of this Ordinance.

Section 17 Repeal. Ordinance No. 35, Adopted October 17, 1968, entitled "An ordinance providing for the licensing and keeping of dogs in the village of Dennison and making provisions for violations thereof" and Ordinance No. 48, passed February 4, 1986, are hereby repealed.

Effective Date. This Ordinance shall be effective from and after its passage and publication. This Ordinance is passed by the City Council of Dennison this 1st day of October, 1998.

Starr Mickelson
MAYOR

Dawn Olson
CITY CLERK-TREASURER