CHAPTER 55

ANIMAL PROTECTION AND CONTROL

55.01 Definitions
55.02 Animal Neglect
55.03 Livestock Neglect
55.04 Abandonment of Cats and Dogs
55.05 Livestock
55.06 At Large Prohibited
55.07 Damage or Interference
55.08 Annoyance or Disturbance
55.09 Vicious Dogs
55.10 Rabies Vaccination
55.11 Owner's Duty
55.12 Confinement
55.13 At Large: Impoundment
55.14 Disposition of Animals
55.15 Impounding Costs

55.01 DEFINITIONS. The following terms are defined for use in this chapter.

1. "Animal" means a nonhuman vertebrate.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 717B.1)

2. "At large" means off the premises of the owner and not under the control of a competent person who has the animal on a maximum 10-foot leash, restrained within a motor vehicle, or housed in a veterinary hospital or kennel. ***(Ord. 20-09 – Aug. 20 Supp.)***

3. "Livestock" means an animal belonging to the bovine, caprine, equine, ovine or porcine species, ostriches, rheas, emus; farm deer as defined in Section 170.1 of the Code of Iowa; or poultry.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 717.1)

4. "Owner" means any person owning, keeping, sheltering or harboring an animal.

55.02 ANIMAL NEGLECT. It is unlawful for a person who impounds or confines, in any place, an animal, excluding livestock, to fail to supply the animal during confinement with a sufficient quantity of food or water, or to fail to provide a confined dog or cat with adequate shelter, or to torture, deprive of necessary sustenance, mutilate, beat, or kill such animal by any means which causes unjustified pain, distress or suffering.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 717B.3)

55.03 LIVESTOCK NEGLECT. It is unlawful for a person who impounds or confines livestock in any place to fail to provide the livestock with care consistent with customary animal husbandry practices or to deprive the livestock of necessary sustenance or to injure or destroy livestock by any means which causes pain or suffering in a manner inconsistent with customary animal husbandry practices.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 717.2)

55.04 ABANDONMENT OF CATS AND DOGS. A person who has ownership or custody of a cat or dog shall not abandon the cat or dog, except the person may deliver the cat or dog to another person who will accept ownership and custody or the person may deliver the cat or dog to an animal shelter or pound.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 717B.8)

55.05 LIVESTOCK. It is unlawful for a person to keep livestock within the City except by written consent of the Council or except in compliance with the City's zoning regulations.

55.06 AT LARGE PROHIBITED. It is unlawful for any owner to allow an animal to run at large within the corporate limits of the City.

55.07 DAMAGE OR INTERFERENCE. It is unlawful for the owner of an animal to allow or permit such animal to pass upon the premises of another thereby causing damage to, or interference with, the premises.

55.08 ANNOYANCE OR DISTURBANCE. It is unlawful for the owner of a dog to allow or permit such dog to cause serious annoyance or disturbance to any person or persons by frequent and habitual howling, yelping, barking, or otherwise; or, by running after or chasing persons, bicycles, automobiles or other vehicles.

55.09 VICIOUS DOGS. It is unlawful for any person to harbor or keep a vicious dog within the City. A dog is deemed to be vicious when it has attacked or bitten any person without provocation, or when propensity to attack or bite persons exists and is known or ought reasonably to be known to the owner.

55.10 RABIES VACCINATION. Every owner of a dog shall obtain a rabies vaccination for such animal. It is unlawful for any person to own or have a dog in said person's possession, six months of age or over, which has not been vaccinated against rabies. Dogs kept in kennels and not allowed to run at large are not subject to these vaccination requirements.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 351.33)

55.11 OWNER'S DUTY. It is the duty of the owner of any dog, cat or other animal which has bitten or attacked a person or any person having knowledge of such bite or attack to report this act to a local health or law enforcement official. It is the duty of physicians and veterinarians to report to the local board of health the existence of any animal known or suspected to be suffering from rabies.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 351.38)

55.12 CONFINEMENT. If a local board of health receives information that an animal has bitten a person or that a dog or animal is suspected of having rabies, the board shall order the owner to confine such animal in the manner it directs. If the owner fails to confine such animal in the manner directed, the animal shall be apprehended and impounded by such board, and after ten (10) days the board may humanely destroy the animal. If such animal is returned to its owner, the owner shall pay the cost of impoundment. This section does not apply if a police service dog or a horse used by a law enforcement agency and acting in the performance of its duties has bitten a person.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 351.39)

55.13 AT LARGE: IMPOUNDMENT. Animals found at large in violation of this chapter shall be seized and impounded at the impoundment facility utilized by the City, or at the discretion of the peace officer, the owner may be served a summons to appear before a proper court to answer charges made thereunder.

55.14 DISPOSITION OF ANIMALS. When an animal has been apprehended and impounded, written notice shall be provided to the owner within two (2) days after impoundment, if the owner's name and current address can reasonably be determined by accessing a tag or other device that is on or part of the animal. Impounded animals may be recovered by the owner upon payment of impounding costs, and if an unvaccinated dog, by having it immediately vaccinated. If the owner fails to redeem the animal within seven (7) days from the date that the notice is mailed, or if the owner cannot be located within seven days, the animal shall be disposed of in accordance with law or destroyed by euthanasia.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 351.37, 351.41)

55.15 IMPOUNDING COSTS. Impounding costs are: twenty-five dollars ($25.00) for the City impoundment fee, plus impoundment charges as established by the impounding facility.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 351.37)

[The next page is 285]