

TITLE 3

ANIMALS AND FOWLS

CHAPTER

1. IN GENERAL.
2. DOGS.

CHAPTER 1

IN GENERAL

SECTION

- 3-101. Running at large prohibited.
- 3-102. Keeping near a residence or business restricted.
- 3-103. Pen or enclosure to be kept clean.
- 3-104. Adequate food, water, and shelter, etc., to be provided.
- 3-105. Keeping in such manner as to become a nuisance prohibited.
- 3-106. Cruel treatment prohibited.
- 3-107. Seizure and disposition of animals.
- 3-108. Inspections of premises.

3-101. 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.

3-102. Keeping near a residence or business restricted. No person shall keep any animal or fowl enumerated in the preceding section within one thousand (1,000) feet of any residence, place of business, or public street without a permit from the health officer. The health officer shall issue a permit only when in his sound judgment the keeping of such an animal in a yard or building under the circumstances as set forth in the application for the permit will not injuriously affect the public health.

3-103. 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.

3-104. 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.

3-105. 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 either because of noise, odor, contagious disease, or other reason.

3-106. Cruel treatment prohibited. It shall be unlawful for any person to beat or otherwise abuse or injure any dumb animal or fowl.

3-107. 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 commissioners. 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 commissioners.

The pound keeper shall collect from each person claiming an impounded animal or fowl reasonable fees, in accordance with a schedule approved by the board of commissioners, to cover the costs of impoundment and maintenance.

3-108. Inspections of premises. For the purpose of making inspections to insure compliance with the provisions of this chapter, 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.

CHAPTER 2

DOGS

SECTION

3-201. Rabies vaccination and registration required.

3-202. Dogs to wear tags.

3-203. Running at large prohibited.

3-204. Vicious dogs to be securely restrained.

3-205. Noisy dogs prohibited.

3-206. Confinement of dogs suspected of being rabid.

3-207. Seizure and disposition of dogs.

3-201. 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" (Sections 53-901 to 53-914, Tennessee Code Annotated) or other applicable law.

3-202. 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.

3-203. 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.

3-204. 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.

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

3-206. 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 health officer or chief of police may

¹See sections 44-1408, 53-908, and 53-909, Tennessee Code Annotated.

cause such dog to be confined or isolated for such time as he deems reasonably necessary to determine if such dog is rabid.

3-207. Seizure and disposition of dogs. Any dog found running at large may be seized by the health officer or any police officer and placed in a pound provided or designated by the board of commissioners. 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 commissioners, 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, because of its viciousness or apparent infection with rabies, a dog found running at large cannot be safely impounded it may be summarily destroyed by the health officer or any policeman.¹

¹For a Tennessee Supreme Court case upholding the summary destruction of dogs pursuant to appropriate legislation, see the 1927 case of Darnell v. Shapard, 156 Tenn. 544.