

TITLE 3

ANIMALS AND FOWLS

CHAPTER

1. DOGS.

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DOGS

SECTION

3-101. Rabies vaccination and registration required.

3-102. Dogs to wear tags.

3-103. Running at large prohibited.

3-104. Vicious dogs to be securely restrained.

3-105. Noisy dogs prohibited.

3-106. Confinement of dogs suspected of being rabid.

3-107. Seizure and disposition of dogs.

3-101. 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 68-8-101 to 68-8-114, Tennessee Code Annotated) or other applicable law.

3-102. 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.

3-103. Running at large prohibited.¹ It shall be unlawful for any person knowingly to permit any female dog owned by him or under his control to run at large within the corporate limits during the dog's period of estrum.

3-104. 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.

¹See Tennessee Code Annotated, sections 44-8-108, 68-8-108, and 68-8-109.

3-105. 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.

3-106. 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 cause such dog to be confined or isolated for such time as he deems reasonably necessary to determine if such dog is rabid.

3-107. 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 mayor and aldermen. 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 mayor and aldermen, or the dog will be sold or humanely destroyed. If said dog is not wearing a tag it shall be humane-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 case of Darnell v. Shapard, 156 Tenn. 544, 3 S.W.2d 661 (1927).