

## TITLE 10

ANIMAL CONTROL

## CHAPTER

1. IN GENERAL.
2. DOGS.

## CHAPTER 1

IN GENERAL

## SECTION

- 10-101. Running at large prohibited.
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- 10-103. Pen or enclosure to be kept clean.
- 10-104. Adequate food, water, and shelter, etc., to be provided.
- 10-105. Keeping in such manner as to become a nuisance prohibited.
- 10-106. Cruel treatment prohibited.
- 10-107. Seizure and disposition of animals.
- 10-108. Inspections of premises.
- 10-109. Vicious or rabid animals.

10-101. Running at large prohibited. It shall be unlawful for any person owning or being in charge of any cows, swine, sheep, horses, rabbits, dogs, cats, mules, goats, or any chickens, ducks, geese, turkeys, or other animal or fowls, cattle, or livestock, either domesticated or non-domesticated, to knowingly or negligently permit any of them to run at large or beyond the control of their owners or keepers within the corporate limits. (1983 Code, § 3-101)

10-102. 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. A person keeping not more than two dogs and/or two cats shall not be required to obtain prior approval from the health officer; however, the keeping of such animals shall remain subject to all other terms and conditions of this chapter. (1983 Code, § 3-102)

10-103. 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. (1983 Code, § 3-103)

10-104. 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. (1983 Code, § 3-104)

10-105. Keeping in such manner as to become a nuisance prohibited. No animal or fowl shall be kept or harbored in such a place or condition that by loud and frequent barking, whining or howling annoys or destroys the peace and quiet of any neighborhood or business district or otherwise becomes a nuisance because of noise, odor, contagious disease or other reason. (1983 Code, § 3-105)

10-106. Cruel treatment prohibited. It shall be unlawful for any person to beat or otherwise abuse or injure any dumb animal or fowl. (1983 Code, § 3-106)

10-107. 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, any police officer or the rabies control officer if there is one, and confined in a pound provided for or designated by the board of mayor and aldermen. If the owner can be identified he shall be given written notice by a postcard addressed to his last-known mailing address to appear within five (5) days and redeem his animal or fowl by paying the pound fee and costs or the animal or fowl will be humanely destroyed or sold. If the owner fails to appear within the five (5) days the animal or fowl shall be humanely destroyed or sold or otherwise disposed of in a humane manner authorized by the board of mayor and aldermen.

The pound keeper shall collect from each person claiming an impounded animal or fowl reasonable pound fees and costs in accordance with a schedule approved by the board of mayor and aldermen, to cover the cost of impoundment and maintenance. (1983 Code, § 3-107)

10-108. 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. (1983 Code, § 3-108)

10-109. Vicious or rabid animals. When because of its viciousness or apparent infection with rabies an animal or fowl running at large or which cannot otherwise be impounded in reasonable safety, then such animal or fowl may be summarily destroyed by the health officer, any police officer or the rabies control officer if there be one. (1983 Code, § 3-109)

## CHAPTER 2

DOGS

## SECTION

- 10-201. Rabies vaccination and registration required.
- 10-202. Dogs to wear tags.
- 10-203. Running at large prohibited.
- 10-204. Vicious dogs to be securely restrained.
- 10-205. Noisy dogs prohibited.
- 10-206. Confinement of dogs suspected of being rabid.
- 10-207. Seizure and disposition of dogs.
- 10-208. Destruction of vicious or infected dogs running at large.

10-201. 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" (Tennessee Code Annotated, sections 68-8-101 through 68-8-114) or other applicable law. (1983 Code, § 3-201)

10-202. 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. (1983 Code, § 3-202)

10-203. Running at large prohibited.<sup>1</sup> 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. (1983 Code, § 3-203)

10-204. 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. (1983 Code, § 3-204)

10-205. 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. (1983 Code, § 3-205)

10-206. 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

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<sup>1</sup>State law reference

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

reason suspected of being infected with rabies, the chief of police or any other properly designated officer or official may cause such dog to be confined or isolated for such time as he deems reasonably necessary to determine if such dog is rabid. (1983 Code, § 3-206)

10-207. Seizure and disposition of dogs. Any dog found running at large may be seized by any police officer or other properly designated officer or official and placed in a pound provided or designated by the board of mayor and aldermen. If the 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 the dog is not wearing a tag it shall be sold or humanely destroyed 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. (1983 Code, § 3-207)

10-208. Destruction of vicious or infected dogs running at large. 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 any policeman<sup>1</sup> or other properly designated officer. (1983 Code, § 3-207)

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<sup>1</sup>State law reference

For 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 (1928).