

**TITLE 10****ANIMAL CONTROL****CHAPTER**

1. IN GENERAL.
2. DOGS AND CATS.

**CHAPTER 1****IN GENERAL****SECTION**

- 10-101. Running at large prohibited.
- 10-102. Pen or enclosure to be kept clean.
- 10-103. Adequate food, water, and shelter, etc., to be provided.
- 10-104. Keeping in such manner as to become a nuisance prohibited.
- 10-105. Seizure and disposition of animals.
- 10-106. Violation and penalty.

**10-101. Running at large prohibited.** It shall be unlawful for any person owning or being in charge of any cows, 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.

Any person, including its owner, knowingly or negligently permitting an animal to run at large may be prosecuted under this section even if the animal is picked up and disposed of under other provisions of this chapter, whether or not the disposition includes returning the animal to its owner.

**10-102. 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.

**10-103. 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.

It shall be unlawful for any person to beat or otherwise abuse or injure any dumb animal or fowl. A violation of this section shall subject the offender to a penalty of up to three hundred fifty dollars (\$350) for each offense.

**10-104. 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 because of either noise, odor, contagious disease, or other reason.

**10-105. 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 any police officer or other properly designated officer or official and confined in a pound provided or designated by the board of mayor and aldermen. 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 mayor and aldermen.

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 mayor and aldermen, to cover the costs of impoundment and maintenance.

**10-106. Violation and penalty.** Any violation of any section of this chapter other than § 10-104 shall subject the offender to a penalty of up to one hundred fifty dollars (\$150) for each offense. Each day the violation shall continue shall constitute a separate offense.

## CHAPTER 2

### DOGS AND CATS

#### SECTION

10-201. Rabies vaccination and registration required.

10-202. Dogs to wear tags.

10-203. Vicious dogs to be securely restrained.

10-204. Confinement of dogs suspected of being rabid.

10-205. Seizure and disposition of dogs.

10-206. 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 or cat without having the same duly vaccinated against rabies and registered in accordance with the provisions of the "Tennessee Anti-Rabies Law" (Tennessee Code Annotated, §§ 68-8-101 through 68-8-114) or other applicable law.

**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.

**10-203. 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. A violation of this section shall subject the offender to a penalty of up to three hundred fifty dollars (\$350) for each offense.

**10-204. 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 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.

**10-205. 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 has a tag evidencing such vaccination placed on its collar.

**10-206. 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 or other properly designated officer.<sup>1</sup>

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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 Darnell v. Shapard, 156 Tenn. 544, 3 S.W.2d 661 (1928).