

**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. Keeping near a residence or business restricted.
- 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.

**10-101. 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. (1983 Code, § 3-101)

**10-102. Keeping near a residence or business restricted.** No person shall keep any animal or fowl enumerated in § 10-101 above within two hundred (200) 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. (1983 Code, § 3-102)

**10-103. Pen or enclosure to be kept clean.** When animals or fowls of any kind 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 of any kind 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 of any kind shall be kept in such a place or condition as to become a nuisance because of either 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 an animal or fowl of any kind. (1983 Code, § 3-106, modified)

**10-107. Seizure and disposition of animals.** Any animal or fowl enumerated in § 10-101 above 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 town council. 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 not claimed by the owner within 3 days, the animal or fowl shall be sold or humanely destroyed, or it may otherwise be disposed of as authorized by the town council.

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

**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)

## CHAPTER 2

### DOGS AND CATS

#### 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.

**10-201. 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. (1983 Code, § 3-201, modified)

**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 reason suspected of being infected with rabies, the health officer or chief of

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<sup>1</sup>State law reference

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

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. (1983 Code, § 3-206)

**10-207. Seizure and disposition of dogs.** Any dog found running at large may be seized by the health officer, animal control officer or any police officer and placed in a pound provided or designated by the city council. 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 three (3) days and redeem his dog by paying a reasonable pound fee, in accordance with a schedule approved by the city council, or the dog will be sold or humanely destroyed. If said dog is not wearing a tag it shall be sold or humanely destroyed unless legally claimed by the owner within three (3) 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.<sup>1</sup> (1983 Code, § 3-207, modified)

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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).