

CITY OF PALMER, ALASKA

ORDINANCE NO. 178

206008

AN ORDINANCE CONTROLLING THE KEEPING OF ANIMALS AND BIRDS
AND REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 120.

THE CITY OF PALMER, ALASKA, ORDAINS:

Section 1. Ordinance 120 is hereby repealed.

Section 2. Definitions: The following terms as used in this Ordinance shall have the following meaning:

- a. Owner: Any person, group of persons or corporation, owning, keeping or harboring an animal or animals.
- b. Kennel: The place where an owner breeds, buys, sells, keeps or boards three (3) or more dogs over the age of six (6) months, whether for profit or not.
- c. At Large: Any animals shall be deemed to be at large when it is off the property of its owner and not under restraint.
- d. Restraint: An animal is under restraint if it is controlled by a leash, "at heel" beside a competent person and obedient to that person's command, or within a vehicle being driven or parked on the street.
- e. Vicious Dog: Any dog which when unprovoked has ever bitten or attacked a human being shall be deemed vicious.
- f. Animal Shelter: Any premises designated by the City Manager for the purpose of impounding or caring for animals found at large or otherwise existing in violation of the Code of Ordinances.

Section 3. Prohibited Acts and Practices

- a. No person shall be cruel to any animal; cruelty shall include but not be limited to abandoning or inhumanely beating, underfeeding or overloading any animal.
- b. No person shall throw or deposit any poisonous substance on any exposed public or private place where it may endanger any animal.
- c. No person shall keep or harbor any pigs or swine.
- d. No person shall keep or harbor animals affected with a contagious or pestilential disease.
- e. Any person raising livestock or poultry shall confine them within an enclosed building structure which is at least 200 feet from the nearest residence, and all such structures shall be kept in a clean and sanitary condition free of flies, insects, vermin and rodents. All debris and droppings shall be promptly and regularly removed, and objectionable odors confined to the premises or eliminated.
- f. No persons shall keep or harbor any animal or bird which causes annoyance in the neighborhood by barking, howling, braying, crowing or making other sounds common to its species, or by being the source of offensive or objectionable odors which are not confined to the premises.

- g. No persons shall herd or keep, for commercial purposes, outside an enclosed building structure any cattle, horses, mules, sheep or other animals for the purpose of feeding, grazing or pasture, and no persons shall tie, stake or fasten any horse, cow, sheep or goat or other animal within the traveled portion of any street, alley, or public place, or in such a manner that the animal has access to the traveled portion of any street, alley, or public place.

Section 4. Dead Animals

- a. Bodies of dead animals shall be transported, buried and disposed of in accordance with regulations promulgated by the City Manager and approved by the Council.

Section 5. Licensing

- a. No person shall own, keep or harbor any dog within the city limits unless such dog is licensed as herein provided. Application for such license shall be made to the City Manager or such agent of the City Manager as shall be designated, and shall state the name and address of the owner and the name, breed, color, age and sex of the dog. The License fee shall be paid at the time of making application, and a number receipt given to the applicant, and a numbered metallic tag shall be issued to the owner.
- b. Regulations and fees for annual non-transferrable licenses for dogs and kennels shall be promulgated by the City Manager with the approval of the City Council.
- c. Every owner is required to see that the metal tag issued under this section is securely fastened to the dog's choke chain collar, collar, or harness, which must be worn by the dog at all times except when kenneled or fenced. In the event such tag is lost, the owner may obtain a duplicate upon payment of an established fee.

Section 6. Impoundment

- a. Any animal found at large may be impounded and placed in the animal shelter. In their discretion, police officers are authorized to kill any animal at large which, in the officer's judgment, is deemed vicious or deemed to be endangering any person or property.
- b. Unlicensed animals found at large may be taken up by the police department or other designated personnel and impounded in the animal shelter. Such animals shall be confined for a period of not less than 72 hours and may thereafter be disposed of if not claimed by their owners, or held for adoption. Provided, however, licensed dogs found at large may be taken up and impounded for not less than 96 hours, and if not claimed by the owner or held for adoption, shall then be disposed of.
- c. When a dog is found at large, and its ownership is known to the enforcement agents, such dog need not be impounded, but the agent may file a complaint against the owner of the dog.
- d. Immediately upon impounding dogs, the enforcement agents shall make reasonable effort to notify the owner of such dogs or other animals so impounded, and to inform such owners of the conditions whereby they may regain custody of such animal.

12-14-76 - City Council approved \$10.00 impound fee 1st day, \$5.00 per day each day thereafter.

- e. Impounded animals may be reclaimed in accordance with regulations established by the City Manager and approved by the Council; impoundment fees shall be set in such regulations.

Section 7. Confinement of Animals

- a. The owner shall confine within a building or secure enclosure every vicious dog, and not take such dog out of such building or secure enclosure unless the dog is leashed and securely muzzled.
- b. Every female dog or cat in season shall be confined in a building or secure enclosure, or in a veterinary hospital or boarding kennel, in such manner that such female dog or cat cannot come in contact with another animal except for planned breeding purposes.
- c. No wild animal may be kept within the city limits, except under such regulations and conditions as shall be fixed by the City Manager, provided, however, that wild animals may be kept for exhibition purposes by circuses, zoos, and educational institutions in accordance with such regulations as shall be established by the City Manager.
- d. Any court may order the humane disposal of any vicious dog found at large.

Section 8. Rabies Control

- a. Every animal which bites a person shall be promptly reported to the police department and health officer, and shall thereupon be securely quarantined at the direction of the health officer for a period of ten days, and shall not be released from such quarantine except by permission of the health officer. In the discretion of the health officer, such quarantine may be on the premises of the owner, or at the shelter designated as the area animal shelter, or any veterinary hospital of the owner's choice. In every event, quarantine shall be at the owner's expense. In case of animals whose ownership is not known, such quarantine shall be at the shelter designated as the animal shelter.
- b. The owner, upon demand by any enforcement agent or the health officer, shall forthwith surrender any animal which has bitten a human and which is suspected as having been exposed to rabies, for supervised quarantine which expense shall be borne by the owner. The animal may be reclaimed by the owner if adjudged free of rabies and not vicious, upon payment of established fees.
- c. When an animal under quarantine has been diagnosed as being rabid, or suspected by a licensed veterinarian as being rabid, it shall be disposed of in accordance with directions of the health officer, and such portions of the body as desired by the health officer shall be delivered to him.
- d. If rabies are reported in the area, or if the health officer suspects rabies in the area, the health officer may recommend an area-wide quarantine for a period of thirty days, and upon invoking such quarantine, no animal shall be taken into the streets, or permitted to be in the streets, during such period of quarantine. During such period of quarantine, no animal may be taken or shipped from the city without the written permission of the health officer.

- e. During such period of rabies quarantine as herein mentioned, every animal bitten by an animal judged to be rabid shall be forthwith destroyed, or at the owner's option and expense, shall be treated for rabies infection by a licensed veterinarian, or held under thirty days quarantine by the owner in the same manner as other animals are quarantined.
- f. In the event there are additional cases of rabies occurring during the period of the quarantine, such period of quarantine may be extended for an additional six months.
- g. The carcass of any dead animal exposed to rabies shall upon demand be surrendered to the health officer.
- h. The health officer shall direct the disposition of any animal found to be infected with rabies.
- i. No person shall fail or refuse to surrender any animal for quarantine or destruction as required herein when demand is made therefor by an enforcement agent or health officer.

Section 9. Reports of Bite Cases:

It shall be the duty of every physician, or other practitioner of medicine, to report to the police department and health officer the names and addresses of persons treated for bites inflicted by animals, together with such other information as will be helpful in rabies control.

Section 10. Responsibilities of Veterinarians:

It shall be the duty of every licensed veterinarian to report to the police department and health officer his diagnosis of any animal observed by him as having rabies.

Section 11. Interference:

No person shall interfere with, hinder or molest any agent of the police department or health officer in the performance of any duty of such agent or seek to release any animal in the custody of the police department or health officer or his agents.


Section 12. Penalty:

Any person violating any provision of this ordinance shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and punished by a fine of not more than Three Hundred (\$300.00) Dollars or by imprisonment for not more than thirty (30) days, or by both such fine and imprisonment. Each act of violation and every day upon which such violation shall occur shall constitute a separate offense.

Publication of this ordinance shall be by posting a copy hereof on the City Hall bulletin board for a period of ten (10) days following its passage and approval.

First Reading: July 24, 1973
 Second Reading: August 14, 1973
 Amended & Third Reading: August 28, 1973

Passed and approved by the City Council for the City of Palmer, Alaska, this 25th day of September, 1973.


 JACK E. MAZE/MAYOR


 WILLIAM E. CURTIS/CITY CLERK