

CITY OF PALMER, ALASKA

ORDINANCE NO. 298

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 6 OF THE PALMER MUNICIPAL CODE BY REPEALING CHAPTER 6.16 AND ADOPTING NEW CHAPTER 6.16 AND ADDING SECTION 6.08.065 CONCERNING IMPOUNDMENT OF ANIMALS.

THE CITY OF PALMER, ALASKA, ORDAINS:

Section 1. Classification. This ordinance shall be of a permanent nature and shall become a part of the City of Palmer Code of Ordinances.

Section 2. Severability. If any provisions of this ordinance, or any application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of this ordinance and the application to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

Section 3. Repeal of Chapter. That Chapter 6.16 is hereby repealed.

Section 4. Adoption of New Section and New Chapter. That Section 6.08.065 and Chapter 6.16 are hereby adopted as follows:

6.08.065 Animals at large. It is unlawful for any person to allow any animal of which he is the owner or custodian to be at large. In addition, any animal found at large may be impounded and placed in the animal shelter.

Chapter 6.16 - Impoundment.

Sections:

- 6.16.010 Impoundment procedure.
- 6.16.020 Redemption of impounded animals.
- 6.16.030 Impoundment fees.
- 6.16.040 Adoption.

6.16.010 Impoundment procedure. A. Dogs not wearing a current city dog license and other animals found running at large anywhere in the city shall be taken by a police officer or animal control officer and impounded in the shelter designated as the area animal shelter, and there confined in a humane manner for a period of not less than seventy-two (72) hours, unless sooner claimed by the owner, and may thereafter be disposed of in a humane manner if not claimed by their owners, or held for adoption. Dogs wearing a current city dog license which are found running at large in the city shall be taken up and impounded for not less than one hundred twenty (120) hours and if not claimed by the owner or held for adoption shall then be disposed of in a humane manner.

B. When a dog is found at large and its ownership is known to the enforcement agents, such dog need not be impounded; but the police officer or animal control officer may file a complaint against the owner of the dog.

C. The City or its contractor will keep records which will include, insofar as is practical, the name and address of the owner of the animal and whether or not any animal owned by him has been impounded at any previous time. Upon impounding any animal, the animal control officers at the animal shelter shall make reasonable effort to notify the owner, and to inform the owner of the conditions under which he may regain custody of such animal. The police or chief animal control officer or his designated subordinate may file a complaint against the owner of any animal which has been impounded for being found annoying or running at large, and shall file a complaint against the owner of any animal found annoying or running at large if any animal owned by the owner has been previously impounded within the past two years.

D. The above subsections notwithstanding, 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

6.16.020 Redemption of impounded animals. A. The owner shall be entitled to resume possession of any impounded animals, except as otherwise provided, upon the owner's compliance with the license provision of this title; and upon the payment of impoundment fees set forth in this title.

B. When an owner cannot be located then, if in the judgment of a licensed veterinarian an animal should be destroyed for humane reasons, such animal may not be redeemed.

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C. All animals impounded as vicious animals shall not be redeemed, but shall be destroyed in a humane manner, except that no such animal shall be destroyed without the owner's consent except upon a judicial determination that the animal is vicious.

6.16.030 Impoundment fees. A. Any animal impounded hereunder may be reclaimed as herein provided upon payment by the owner to the chief animal control officer or designee of a fee in accordance with the following schedule in the case of each animal properly licensed under this title, or twenty-five dollars (\$25) in the case of each animal not properly licensed under this title, plus the additional fee indicated for each day or part of a day such animal is kept. Fees set herein shall be collected and retained by the City or Borough to help defray the cost of keeping such animals for the period set forth herein.

Impoundment fees

Unlicensed dogs and other animals	\$25.00
Licensed dogs	\$15.00
Cats	\$ 5.00

Daily board fees

Dogs	\$ 5.00
Cats	\$ 3.00
Other animals weighing less than 15 pounds	\$ 5.00
Other animals weighing more than 15 pounds	\$25.00

Any impounded animal which, by reason of its size, strength, dangerous propensities or any other physical or behavioral characteristics cannot reasonably be kept in the normal animal shelter facilities may be reclaimed upon payment of a twenty-five dollar (\$25) impoundment fee plus the actual costs reasonably incurred in transporting and keeping such animal.

B. Any animal previously impounded hereunder may be reclaimed as herein provided upon payment by the owner to the chief animal control officer or his designated subordinate the sum provided for in Section 6.16.030(A) plus successively increasing fees in increments of twenty dollars (\$20) for each additional impoundment.

6.16.040 Adoption. A. The chief animal control officer may at his discretion require that no cat or unlicensed dog impounded under this chapter shall be adopted from the animal shelter unless the prospective owner shall have the animal spayed or neutered.

B. Any dog impounded under this chapter and not properly licensed under this chapter which is determined to be available for adoption may be adopted from the animal shelter upon payment to the chief animal control officer or his designated subordinate the sum of twenty dollars (\$20) to help defray the cost of keeping such animals for the period set forth herein and the immunization of such animal against rabies and distemper.

C. Any cat impounded under this chapter which is determined to be available for adoption, may be adopted from the animal shelter upon payment to the chief animal control officer or his designated subordinate the sum of fifteen dollars (\$15) to help defray the cost of keeping such animals for the period set forth herein.

D. The chief animal control officer is authorized to establish a schedule of reasonable fees for the adoption of animals of other species which are determined to be available, in order to help defray any costs associated with the care and adoption of such animals. Upon payment of the fees so established to the chief animal control officer or his designee, any such animal housed at the animal shelter may be adopted.

E. No animal may be adopted from impoundment that shows symptoms of infectious or contagious disease.

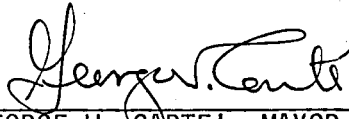
Section 5. Publication and Effective Date. This ordinance shall become effective immediately and publication shall be by posting a copy hereof on the City Hall bulletin board for a period of ten (10) days following its adoption, and it shall be published by being printed and included in the Palmer Municipal Code at its next regular supplementation and printing. A notice of public hearing shall be given by such posting at least five days before final passage.

ORDINANCE NO. 298 - Continued


First Reading: August 14, 1984

Public Hearing &
Second Reading: August 28, 1984

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Palmer, Alaska, this 28th day of August, 1984.



GEORGE W. CARTE, MAYOR



DANIEL M. CONTINI, ACTING CITY CLERK