

CITY OF PALMER, ALASKA

ORDINANCE NO. 432

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTERS 6.04 (DEFINITIONS); 6.08 (ANIMAL REGULATIONS); 6.12 (LICENSING); 6.16 (IMPOUNDMENT) OF TITLE 6 - ANIMALS OF THE PALMER MUNICIPAL CODE.

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. Sections 6.04.055, 6.04.070, and 6.04.080 of Chapter 6.04 - Definitions are hereby added, deleted or amended as follows:

Section 6.04.055 Cat. "Cat" means a domestic or domesticated member of the family Felidae.

Section 6.04.070 Dog. "Dog" means any domestic or domesticated member of the family Canidae commonly known as dogs, but not a fox, coyote, wolf or any other game species the taking of which is regulated by the State, save only that any fox, coyote or wolf which is kept as a pet under a valid state permit shall be treated in like fashion as a common dog.

Section 6.04.080 Kennel. Deleted in its entirety.

Section 4. Section 6.08.025 is added to Chapter 6.08 as follows:

Section 6.08.025 Dogs/Cats Allowed. A person shall not own, possess, keep, or harbor in the City more than three dogs and three cats over the age of six months.

Section 5. Sections 6.12.010, 6.12.020, and 6.12.030 of Chapter 6.12 - Licensing are hereby amended as follows:

6.12.010 License required when--Application--Immunization--Term--License transfer. A. Application for a license for a dog or a cat shall be to the police chief or his designated subordinate in accordance with this title, and shall state the name and address of the owner and the name, breed, color, age and sex of the dog or cat.

B. Immunization. No license or tag for a dog or cat shall be issued unless proof is shown that the rabies immunization for the dog or cat is valid through the end of the term of the license. Such proof shall consist of a statement or receipt from a licensed veterinarian showing the expiration date. The expiration date shall be noted by the person issuing the license. This notation will constitute the required proof during the effective period of the immunization.

C. Term. All licenses required by this chapter shall be issued for a term of three years.

D. License Transfer. No person shall use a dog or cat license receipt or license tag issued for one dog or cat on another dog or cat.

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6.12.020 Fees. The license fee shall be ten dollars for three years for each dog or cat over six months old and shall become due January 1st. The fee shall be collected upon issuance of the license and there shall be no prorated fees.

6.12.030 Tag and collar. A. Issuance. Upon complying with the provisions of Section 6.12.010 and 6.12.020 of this title, there shall be issued to the owner for each dog or cat a numbered receipt and a tag stamped with an identification number and the year for which issued.

B. Placement. A tag shall be issued for each dog or cat. Every owner is required to see that the tag is securely fastened to the dog's or cat's choke chain, collar or harness, which must be worn by the dog or cat at all times except when kenneled, fenced, in harness, in competition, or in training, except a law enforcement agency need not affix a license to a police dog.

C. Lost Tag. In the event that the license tag issued for a dog or cat is lost, the owner may obtain a duplicate tag upon the payment of two dollars and fifty cents for the remainder of the license term.

Section 6. Sections 16.16.010 (A and B), 6.16.030, and 6.16.040 of Chapter 6.16 - Impoundment are amended as follows:

16.16.010 Impoundment procedure. A. Dogs or cats not wearing a current city dog or cat 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 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 or cats wearing a current city dog or cat license which are found running at large in the city shall be taken up and impounded for not less than one hundred twenty 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 or cat is found at large and its ownership is known to the enforcement agents, such dog or cat need not be impounded, but the police officer or animal control officer may file a complaint against the owner of the dog or cat.

(Subsections C and D remain unchanged).

6.16.030 Impoundment fee. A. Any animal impounded under this section may be reclaimed as provided in this section 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 thirty dollars 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 in this section shall be collected and retained by the proper authority to help defray the costs of keeping such animal for the period set forth in this chapter.

Impoundment Fees

Unlicensed dogs or cats and other animals	\$30.00
Licensed dogs or cats and other animals	\$15.00

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Daily Board Fees

Dogs	\$10.00
Cats	\$ 5.00
Other animals	
weighing less than 15 pounds	\$10.00
weighing more than 15 pounds	\$30.00

Humane Destruction and Disposal

Small animals	\$ 5.00
Large animals	\$15.00

<u>Impoundment Release</u>	\$10.00
<u>Daily Quarantine Fee</u>	\$10.00

Any impounded animal which, by reasons 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 thirty dollar impoundment fee plus the actual cost reasonably incurred in transporting and keeping such animal.

B. Any animal previously impounded under this chapter 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 subsection A, plus successively increasing fees in increments of twenty dollars 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 seventy five dollars to help defray the cost of keeping such animals for the period set forth in this chapter and the immunization of such animal against rabies and distemper. Thirty dollars deposit to be refunded upon proof of spay or neutering within 90 days of adoption or deposit is forfeited.

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 forty dollars to help defray the cost of keeping such animals for the period set forth in this chapter. Twenty dollars deposit to be refunded upon proof of spay or neutering within 90 day of adoption or deposit is forfeited.

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 7. Publication and Effective Date. This ordinance shall become effective immediately upon its adoption. 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 further it shall be published by

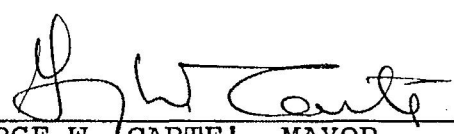
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being printed and included in the Palmer Municipal Code at its next regular supplementation and printing. A notice of public hearing shall be given by such posting at least five (5) days before final passage.

First Reading: June 25, 1991

Public Hearing &  
Second Reading: July 9, 1991

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Palmer, Alaska, this 9th day of July, 1991.



GEORGE W. CARTE, MAYOR

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DAVID L. SOULAK, CITY CLERK