

**ANIMAL & RABIES  
CONTROL ORDINANCE**

**STATE OF ILLINOIS  
COUNTY OF MASON**

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WHEREAS, the various counties of the State of Illinois are authorized and empowered with the authority to enforce regulations relating to stray animal control; rabies prevention; dogs pursuing, chasing, worrying, wounding, or killing domestic animals or poultry; the liability of persons owning or harboring a dog which attacks or injures a person; and the enforcement of penalties for violations thereof; as set forth in the Animal Control Act;

WHEREAS, the County Board of the County of Mason and State of Illinois believes that the public health, safety and general welfare of the citizens of the County of Mason requires the enforcement of these regulations authorized by statute in relation to animal and rabies control;

WHEREAS, the County Board of the County of Mason believes that stray animals and the possibility of rabies currently create a danger to the public health, safety and general welfare of the citizens of the County of Mason;

THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, by the County Board of the County of Mason and State of Illinois that the following Animal and Rabies Control Ordinance be and hereby is adopted.

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**ANIMAL & RABIES  
CONTROL ORDINANCE**

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Sec. 1-1-1.5. DEFINITIONS.

Unless the context requires, words and phrases used in this Chapter shall be construed as they are defined in the Animal Control Act (510 ILCS 5/1, et. seq.) or as defined below:

- (a) "At Large" -- Any dog shall be deemed to be at large when it is off the premises of its owner's real property and not restrained by a competent person, except the term shall not include:
- (1) Dogs being used in hunting, field trails, and dog shows while on public lands set aside for those purposes; dogs while on private property of others with the actual, implied, customary, or constructive consent of the owner of such private premises; or dogs while on Federal, State, Municipal, or County roads or highways in a rural area while going to or coming from a hunting field, a field trails, or dog show site; and
  - (2) Bloodhounds or other dogs used for tracking in conjunction with police activities, and dogs of the Canine Corps of any police force, any federal law enforcement agency, or the Armed Forces of the United States, while being used for official purposes.
- (b) "Competent Person" – A human being that is capable of controlling and governing the dog in question, and to whose commands the dog is obedient.
- (c) "Dog" – All members of the family *Canidae*, male or female, four (4) months of age or older.
- (d) "Restraint" – A dog, off the premises of its owner's real property, is under restraint within the meaning of this Chapter.
- (1) If it is controlled by a line or leash not more than six (6) feet in length, when said line or leash is held by a competent person; or
  - (2) When at "heel" of a competent person; or
  - (3) When within a vehicle being driven, parked or stopped; or
  - (4) When not more than fifty (50) feet from a competent person, if such dog is not annoying or worrying any humans or domestic animal, or trespassing on private property, or in public where dogs are forbidden.

## Sub-Chapter A, REGISTRATION

### Sec. 1-1-2. PET REGISTRATION REQUIRED.

It shall be unlawful for any person to own, possess, or maintain any dog within the County without first registering each such dog as provided in this Chapter.

### Sec. 1-1-3. EXCEPTIONS.

The registration requirements shall not apply to:

- (a) Dogs used by regularly chartered medical colleges or other educational or scientific institutions for scientific purposes only;
- (b) Puppies under the age of four (4) months;
- (c) Any dog until it has been within the County for a period of seven (7) days.

### Sec. 1-1-4. APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION.

Application for registration will be in the form of a certified proof of vaccination in concurrent with Sec 1-1-5 of this ordinance, and the submission shall contain the following information.

- (a) Name of owner;
- (b) Address of owner;
- (c) Name of dog;
- (d) Age of dog;
- (e) Sex of dog (indicate if neutered or spayed);
- (f) Color and breed of dog; and
- (g) Description of dog.

### Sec. 1-1-5. CERTIFICATE OF RABIES INOCULATION.

- (a) At the time of application for registration, the applicant shall present to the Animal Control Administrator the certificate of a veterinarian licensed by the State of Illinois which shows that such dog was inoculated or vaccinated against rabies within the calendar year immediately preceding such application, or that the inoculation was within three (3) years preceding such application if three-year serum was used.

- (b) In lieu of not having to provide proof of cat rabies vaccination for licensing purposes within the area of Mason County, said proof will have to be presented to animal control officers upon request.

Sec. 1-1-6. FEES—ISSUANCE OF TAGS.

- (a) A license fee to be charged when providing proof of rabies vaccination, shall be collected by the Animal Control Administrator prior to the issuance of any dog registration.
- (b) Provided is a list of registration fees that coincide with the rabies vaccination that was performed:
  - a. One Year Altered Canine – \$20.00
  - b. Multi-Year Altered Canine – \$30.00
  - c. One Year Unaltered Canine – \$30.00
  - d. Multi-year Unaltered Canine – \$40.00
- (c) Upon complying with the foregoing provisions, the owner shall receive from the Administrator a metal registration tag for the County of Mason.

Sec. 1-1-7. TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP.

Whenever the ownership of any dog shall change, the new owner shall notify the Administrator, whereupon the Administrator shall accordingly change the record of ownership of such dog.

Sec. 1-1-8. EXPIRATION OF REGISTRATION.

Every registration shall expire upon the same expiration date of the rabies vaccine said dog received. Such registration shall be renewable upon compliance with Sections 1-1-4 through 1-1-6 of this Chapter.

Sec. 1-1-9. UNAUTHORIZED TRANSFER OF REGISTRATION TAG.

It shall be unlawful for any person to place any registration tag on any dog other than the dog for which such tag was issued.

Sec. 1-1-10. TAG TO BE AFFIXED TO COLLAR.

- (a) The owner of a dog shall provide the dog with a collar or harness made of leather, metal, or other substantial material to which shall be securely fastened the proper registration tag, and said owner shall require the dog to wear the collar at all times when outside of the owner's residence.
- (b) Any dog found in the County not wearing the proper collar and tags shall be impounded.

### **Sub-Chapter B, RABIES CONTROL**

#### **Sec. 2-1-1. RABIES VACCINATION REQUIRED.**

The owner of a dog or cat four (4) months or more of age, located within the County, shall cause such dog or cat to be inoculated against rabies pursuant to the Animal Control Act.

#### **Sec. 2-1-2. CERTIFICATE OF INOCULATION AND ISSUANCE OF RABIES TAG.**

Every licensed veterinarian who vaccinates a dog shall issue a certificate of vaccination to the owner of such dog stating the name and address of the owner, a brief description of the dog, and the date of such vaccination.

### **Sub-Chapter C, OFFENSES INVOLVING ANIMALS**

#### **Sec. 3-1-1. DOGS RUNNING AT LARGE.**

Any dog found running at large may be apprehended and impounded. For this purpose, the Administrator shall utilize any existing or available animal control facility or licensed animal shelter. The dog's owner shall pay a \$25 public safety fine, and all other fees described in Sec. 3-1-6. A dog found running at large a second or subsequent time must be sterilized within 30 days after being reclaimed unless already sterilized; failure to comply shall result in impoundment.

#### **Sec. 3-1-2. ABANDONING ANIMALS WITHIN THE COUNTY.**

It shall be unlawful for any owner or person in control of any animal to abandon such animal within the County. A dog left on the owner's property with no competent person on the

property and to which the owner's duties in pursuant with (510 ILCS 70/3) (from Ch. 8, par. 703) are not being upheld shall be deemed abandoned and impounded.

Sec. 3-1-3. BARKING DOGS, PUBLIC NUISANCE.

It shall be unlawful to own or possess any dog which barks or whines for an extended period of time on a regular or continuing basis so as to constitute a public nuisance.

Sec. 3-1-4. NUISANCE FEEDING PROHIBITED.

The feeding of any cat, or other wildlife except birds, including hand feeding or the placing or setting out of food to be left attended or unattended, on locations other than their owned private property, is hereby declared to be a public nuisance and to be unlawful. Each day this ordinance is violated constitutes a separate offense.

Sec. 3-1-5. IMPOUNDING ANIMALS.

In addition to all other penalties provided herein, the following animals shall be impounded:

- (a) A dog required to be registered under Sec. 1-1-2 which has not been registered.
- (b) A dog required to be inoculated against rabies under Sec. 2-1-1 which has not been inoculated.
- (c) A dog found running at large as described in Sec. 3-1-1.
- (d) A dog found abandoned as described in Sec. 3-1-2.

Sec. 3-1-6. REDEMPTION OF IMPOUNDED ANIMALS.

- (a) If any animal was impounded from the County of Mason, the notice of such and the method of redemption shall be in accordance with The Animal Control Act.
- (b) Impounded Animal Redemption Fees:
  - i. Animal at large public safety fine- \$25.
  - ii. Shelter intake fee- \$30.
  - iii. Day for day boarding fee- \$10 per day.
  - iv. Veterinarian preventive care- \$10/\$30 depending on treatment required.
  - v. Rabies registration fees described in Sec. 1-1-6.

Sec. 3-1-7. ANIMALS NOT REDEEMED.

Any animal not redeemed by its owner after notice has been given pursuant to The Animal Control Act may be:

- (a) Adopted by another party at the discretion of the Administrator upon payment of the following fees:
  - (1) An adoption fee set by Mason County animal shelter per county contract (which includes distemper, hepatitis, and leptospirosis vaccination); and
  - (2) A rabies inoculation fee set by veterinarian availability (if the animal is four (4) months of age or older); and
  - (3) A registration fee per Sec. 1-1-6 (if the animal is four (4) months of age or older);
- (b) Humanely dispatched by the Animal Control Administrator, provided that the animal has been held at the animal shelter for at least seven (7) days.

Sec. 3-1-8. VIOLATIONS—PUNISHMENT.

Any first or second violation of any Section of this Chapter is a Petty Offense and a fine of not less than Twenty-Five Dollars (\$25.00) nor more than Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00), shall be levied upon conviction. A third offense of any Section of this Chapter shall be a Class C Misdemeanor.

**Sub-Chapter D, INTERPRETATION**

Sec. 4-1-1. SEVERABILITY.

If any provision of this Ordinance is declared invalid by a Court of competent jurisdiction, such invalid portions shall not affect the remaining provisions of this Ordinance.

Sec. 4-1-2. CONSTRUED WITH ANIMAL CONTROL ACT.

The provisions of this Ordinance shall be construed in accordance with the provisions of the Animal Control Act and any provisions of said Animal Control Act not set forth verbatim in this Ordinance shall also be enforced in accordance with the Animal Control Act.

Sec. 4-1-3. CONSTRUED WITH HUMANE CARE FOR ANIMALS ACT.

The provisions of this Ordinance shall be construed in accordance with the provisions of the Humane Care for Animals Act and any provisions of said Humane Care for Animals Act not set forth verbatim in this Ordinance shall also be enforced in accordance with the Humane Care for Animals Act.

Sec. 4-1-4. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect upon the date of its passage.

Adopted this 13<sup>th</sup> day of January, A.D. 2026.

  
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KENNETH WALKER, Chairman

ATTEST:

  
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SUMMER R. BROWN, County Clerk