

CHAPTER 55

ANIMAL PROTECTION AND CONTROL

55.01 Definitions	55.10 Owner's Duty
55.02 Animal Neglect	55.11 Confinement
55.03 Livestock Neglect	55.12 Impounding
55.04 Abandonment of Cats and Dogs	55.13 Disposition of Animals
55.05 Livestock	55.14 Displaying Dead Animals
55.06 At Large Prohibited	55.15 Pet Awards Prohibited
55.07 Damage or Interference	55.16 Invisible, Electric Dog Fences and Electric Dog Collars
55.08 Annoyance or Disturbance	55.17 False Representation of Service Animal
55.09 Rabies Vaccination	

55.01 DEFINITIONS. The following terms are defined for use in this chapter.

1. "Advertise" means to present a commercial message in any medium including but not limited to print, radio, television, sign, display, label, tag or articulation.
2. "Animal" means a nonhuman vertebrate.
(Code of Iowa, Sec. 717B.1)
3. "At large" means off the premises of the owner and not under the control of a competent person, restrained within a motor vehicle, or housed in a veterinary hospital or kennel.
4. "Business" means any enterprise relating to any of the following:
 - A. The sale or offer for sale of goods or services.
 - B. A recruitment for employment or membership in an organization.
 - C. A solicitation to make an investment.
 - D. An amusement or entertainment activity.
5. "Fair" means any of the following:
 - A. The annual fair and exposition held by the Iowa State Fair Board pursuant to Chapter 173 of the *Code of Iowa* or any fair event conducted by a fair under the provisions of Chapter 174 of the *Code of Iowa*.
 - B. An exhibition of agricultural or manufactured products.
 - C. An event for operation of amusement rides or devices or concession booths.
6. "Game" means a "game of chance" or "game of skill" as defined in Section 99B.1 of the *Code of Iowa*.
7. "Livestock" means an animal belonging to the bovine, caprine, equine, ovine or porcine species, ostriches, rheas and emus; farm deer as defined in Section 170.1 of the *Code of Iowa*; or poultry.
(Code of Iowa, Sec. 717.1)
8. "Owner" means any person owning, keeping, sheltering, or harboring an animal.

9. "Pet" means a living dog, cat, or an animal normally maintained in a small tank or cage in or near a residence, including but not limited to a rabbit, gerbil, hamster, mouse, parrot, canary, mynah, finch, tropical fish, goldfish, snake, turtle, gecko, or iguana.

55.02 ANIMAL NEGLECT. It is unlawful for a person who impounds or confines, in any place, an animal, excluding livestock, to fail to supply the animal during confinement with a sufficient quantity of food or water, or to fail to provide a confined dog or cat with adequate shelter, or to torture, deprive of necessary sustenance, mutilate, beat, or kill such animal by any means which causes unjustified pain, distress or suffering.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 717B.3)

55.03 LIVESTOCK NEGLECT. It is unlawful for a person who impounds or confines livestock in any place to fail to provide the livestock with care consistent with customary animal husbandry practices or to deprive the livestock of necessary sustenance or to injure or destroy livestock by any means which causes pain or suffering in a manner inconsistent with customary animal husbandry practices.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 717.2)

55.04 ABANDONMENT OF CATS AND DOGS. A person who has ownership or custody of a cat or dog shall not abandon the cat or dog, except the person may deliver the cat or dog to another person who will accept ownership and custody or the person may deliver the cat or dog to an animal shelter or pound.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 717B.8)

55.05 LIVESTOCK. It is unlawful for a person to keep livestock within the City except by written consent of the Council or except in compliance with the City's zoning regulations.

55.06 AT LARGE PROHIBITED. It is unlawful for any owner to allow an animal to run at large within the corporate limits of the City.

55.07 DAMAGE OR INTERFERENCE. It is unlawful for the owner of an animal to allow or permit such animal to pass upon the premises of another thereby causing damage to, or interference with, the premises.

55.08 ANNOYANCE OR DISTURBANCE. It is unlawful for the owner of a dog to allow or permit such dog to cause serious annoyance or disturbance to any person or persons by frequent and habitual howling, yelping, barking, or otherwise; or, by running after or chasing persons, bicycles, automobiles or other vehicles.

55.09 RABIES VACCINATION. All dogs six months of age or older shall be vaccinated against rabies. All dogs shall wear a tag showing evidence of proper and current vaccination. At a minimum, the tag shall show the year of the last rabies vaccination, the name of the veterinary clinic where the dog was vaccinated, and the identification number assigned by the veterinary clinic to the dog. Any dog found running at large without the tag shall be deemed in violation of this chapter.

55.10 OWNER'S DUTY. It is the duty of the owner of any dog, cat, or other animal which has bitten or attacked a person or any person having knowledge of such bite or attack to report this act to a local health or law enforcement official. It is the duty of physicians and

veterinarians to report to the local board of health the existence of any animal known or suspected to be suffering from rabies.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 351.38)

55.11 CONFINEMENT. If a local board of health receives information that an animal has bitten a person or that a dog or animal is suspected of having rabies, the board shall order the owner to confine such animal in the manner it directs. If the owner fails to confine such animal in the manner directed, the animal shall be apprehended and impounded by such board, and after ten (10) days the board may humanely destroy the animal. If such animal is returned to its owner, the owner shall pay the cost of impoundment. This section does not apply if a police service dog or a horse used by a law enforcement agency and acting in the performance of its duties has bitten a person.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 351.39)

55.12 IMPOUNDING. Any dog or any cat found at large in violation of the provisions of this chapter shall be seized and impounded at the veterinary clinic or, at the discretion of the Mayor or County Sheriff, the owner may be served a summons to appear before a proper court to answer charges made thereunder.

55.13 DISPOSITION OF ANIMALS. When an animal has been apprehended and impounded, written notice shall be provided to the owner within two (2) days after impoundment, if the owner's name and current address can reasonably be determined by accessing a tag or other device that is on or part of the animal. Impounded animals may be recovered by the owner upon payment of impounding costs charged by the veterinary clinic, and if an unvaccinated dog, by having it immediately vaccinated. If the owner fails to redeem the animal within seven (7) days from the date that the notice is mailed, or if the owner cannot be located within seven days, the animal shall be disposed of in accordance with law or destroyed by euthanasia.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 351.37, 351.41)

55.14 DISPLAYING DEAD ANIMALS. No person shall display a dead animal in public view.

55.15 PET AWARDS PROHIBITED.

(Code of Iowa, Ch. 717.E)

1. Prohibition. It is unlawful for any person to award a pet or advertise that a pet may be awarded as any of the following:
 - A. A prize for participating in a game.
 - B. A prize for participating in a fair.
 - C. An inducement or condition for visiting a place of business or attending an event sponsored by a business.
 - D. An inducement or condition for executing a contract which includes provisions unrelated to the ownership, care or disposition of the pet.
2. Exceptions. This section does not apply to any of the following:
 - A. A pet shop licensed pursuant to Section 162.5 of the *Code of Iowa* if the award of a pet is provided in connection with the sale of a pet on the premises of the pet shop.

B. Youth programs associated with 4-H Clubs; Future Farmers of America; the Izaak Walton League of America; or organizations associated with outdoor recreation, hunting or fishing, including but not limited to the Iowa Sportsmen's Federation.

55.16 INVISIBLE, ELECTRIC DOG FENCES AND ELECTRIC DOG COLLARS. A dog may be confined with an invisible, electric, in-ground fence and electric collar. The electric fence shall be placed no closer to a sidewalk or property line than three feet. The property owner shall post a conspicuous sign informing the public of the existence of the electric fence for animal confinement. Existing electric fences shall comply with this ordinance by November 30, 2020. *(Ord. 2020-02 – Sep. 21 Supp.)*

55.17 FALSE REPRESENTATION OF SERVICE ANIMAL. A person commits the offense of intentional misrepresentation of an animal as a service animal or a service-animal-in-training if, for the purpose of obtaining any of the rights or privileges set forth in State or federal law, the person intentionally misrepresents an animal in one's possession as one's service animal or service-animal-in-training or a person with a disability's service animal or service-animal-in-training whom the person is assisting by controlling.

(Code of Iowa, Section 216C.11(3)(B))

(Section 55.17 – Ord. 2025-02 – Aug. 25 Supp.)

[The next page is 315]