

CHAPTER 55

ANIMAL PROTECTION AND CONTROL

55.01 Definitions
55.02 Animal Neglect
55.03 Livestock Neglect
55.04 Abandonment of Cats and Dogs
55.05 Livestock
55.06 At Large Prohibited
55.07 Damage or Interference
55.08 Annoyance or Disturbance

55.09 Vicious Dogs →
55.10 Rabies Vaccination
55.11 Owner's Duty
55.12 Confinement
55.13 At Large: Impoundment
55.14 Disposition of Animals
55.15 Pet Awards Prohibited
55.16 Tethering of Animals

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 that 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 that 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.

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 by frequent and habitual howling, yelping, barking, or otherwise, or by running after or chasing persons, bicycles, automobiles or other vehicles.

55.09 VICIOUS DOGS. It is unlawful for any person to harbor or keep a vicious dog within the City. A dog is deemed to be vicious when it has attacked or bitten any person without provocation, or when propensity to attack or bite persons exists and is known or ought reasonably to be known to the owner.

55.10 RABIES VACCINATION. Every owner of a dog shall obtain a rabies vaccination for such animal. It is unlawful for any person to own or have a dog in said person's possession, six months of age or over, which has not been vaccinated against rabies. Dogs kept in State or Federally licensed kennels and not allowed to run at large are not subject to these vaccination requirements.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 351.33)

55.11 OWNER'S DUTY. It is the duty of the owner of any dog, cat, or other animal that 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)

55.12 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)

55.13 AT LARGE: IMPOUNDMENT. Animals found at large in violation of this chapter shall be seized and impounded at the impoundment facility utilized by the City, or at the discretion of the peace officer, the owner may be served a summons to appear before a proper court to answer charges made thereunder.

55.14 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 as established by the impoundment facility, 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)

55.15 PET AWARDS PROHIBITED.

(Code of Iowa, Ch. 717E)

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 that 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 TETHERING OF ANIMALS. No person shall stake or otherwise tie or fasten an animal in a manner or place that permits the animal to pass onto, over or across any public sidewalk, street or alley or private property other than the owner's.

[The next page is 215]

CITY OF MERRILL, IOWA
ORDINANCE NO. 2022- 1 (AMENDED)
CHAPTER 55

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES
OF THE CITY OF MERRILL, IOWA, BY AMENDING
PROVISIONS PERTAINING TO ANIMAL PROTECTION AND CONTROL

BE IT ENACTED by the City Council of the City of Merrill, Iowa:

SECTION ONE. SECTION MODIFIED. Sections 55.08 and 55.09 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Merrill, Iowa, are repealed and the following adopted in lieu thereof.

SECTION 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 by frequent and habitual howling, yelping, barking, or otherwise, or by running after or chasing persons, pets under leash controlled by owners, bicycles, automobiles or other vehicles.

SECTION 55.09. VICIOUS DOGS. It is unlawful for any person to harbor or keep a vicious dog within the City. A dog is deemed to be vicious when it has attacked or bitten any person or individual owners pet while under leash and in control of said owner without provocation or when propensity to attack or bite persons or leashed pets exists and is known or ought reasonably to be known to the owner. The determination that a dog is deemed to be vicious shall be made by the City Chief of Police.

SECTION TWO. SEVERABILITY CLAUSE. If any section, provision or part of this Ordinance shall be adjudged invalid or unconstitutional, such adjudication shall not affect the validity of the Ordinance as a whole or any section, provision or part thereof not adjudged invalid or unconstitutional.

SECTION THREE. WHEN EFFECTIVE. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage, approval and publication as required by law.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 22nd day of February, 2022.

CITY OF MERRILL, IOWA

BY: Bruce E. Norgaard
BRUCE NORGAARD, MAYOR

ATTEST:

Vicky Hemmelman
VICKY HEMMELMAN, CITY CLERK

First Reading: 2/21/2022
Second Reading: 2/21/2022
Third Reading: 2/21/2022

I CERTIFY that the foregoing is published as Ordinance No. 2022- 1 on the 22nd day of February, 2022.

Vicky Hemmelman
VICKY HEMMELMAN, CITY CLERK

CODE OF ORDINANCES - MERRILL, IOWA