



**ANIMAL SERVICES
DIVISION**

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DATE: April 05, 2021

TO: Honorable Steering Committee, County Council,
and Department Directors

FROM: Talia Butler, Division Director
Animal Services Division

RE: Updated Animal Ordinance

The Animal Services Division has updated aspects of our ordinance that affect the manner in which we enforce animal laws.

The majority of these suggested revisions are cosmetic or style-related and do not affect the substance or essence of the ordinance. Many of the changes provide for increased clarity and eliminate outdated practices.

A summary of these changes follows, as well as a redlined copy of the ordinance in which revisions are proposed.

Feel free to contact me directly regarding any comments or suggestions you may have regarding these proposed changes. We appreciate your review and feedback.

Summary of Ordinance Title 8: Animals

The attached ordinance contains several proposed revisions and deletions. The majority of suggested modifications do not change how we conduct business but update the ordinance to reflect current practices and provide an easier, more organized ordinance for the public to utilize. Below is a summary of all substantive changes:

8.01.10 - Definitions

Clarified the definitions of these terms:

- Abandonment – includes intentionally depositing, leaving, or dropping off an animal with no intent to return, veterinary, clinic, commercial establishment and abandoned animal will be considered unclaimed stray animals subject to the statutory stray wait period for the purpose of this Title.
- Adequate space – changes, the term dog to animal and removes “fixed to a tether, fastener, shelter, chain, tie, or other restraint”.
- Animal Exhibition – Means any display of, event, spectacle, act, or contest in which animals are exhibited or used to provide a performance, whether a fee is charged or not.
- Animal control officer – “or by Salt Lake County, through the division of animal services” has been removed.
- Animal at large – defines owner restraint of an at-large animal and removes stipulation that unvaccinated and unlicensed animals are considered at-large.
- Animal under physical restraint – clarifies that animals are not under restraint if left unattended and a passerby may come into contact with the animal.
- Animal capable of being immediately controlled – removed.
- Cat - means any feline of the domesticated type.
- Dangerous Animal – elaborates on the characteristics of a dangerous animal.
- Director - means any director or head of any municipal animal services agency within Salt Lake County
- Division - means any municipal animal services agency within Salt Lake County.
- Dog - means any canis familiaris.
- Domestic fowl – Clarifies any variety of ducks or chickens regardless of age.
- Exotic animal - means any animal whose native habitat is not indigenous to North American Continent.
- Guard dog - Clarifies the duty to warn the handler of an intruder and to protect a commercial area that is being secured.
- Handler – Clarifies the age and responsibilities.
- Impound – clarifies that animals are considered “impounded” when in the control or custody of an officer, even if they are not at an animal shelter.
- Microchip – Clarifies a secondary form of identification.
- Nuisance – detailed definition of “nuisance animal” has been moved to Nuisance Animal section (8.06.010)
- Owner – ownership previously referenced “harboring,” which has been moved to a separate definition.
- Pet Shop – includes stores that sell birds and other pets, in addition to dogs and cats
- Wild Animal – Clarifies the species of animals that fall under the jurisdiction of DWR.

Added definitions of these terms:

- Adequate fencing for Livestock
- Animal Husbandry
- Attack
- Commercial Dog Walker
- Community Cat
- Custody
- Harboring
- Humane Treatment
- Identification
- Interference
- Microchip
- Impound
- Person
- Protective Custody
- Public Place
- Redemption
- Shelter
- Trap

Removed Definitions:

- Boarding Establishment
- Dog Breeder
- Feral cat
- Feral Cat Colony
- Veterinarian
- Vicious Animal
- Zoological Park

Chapter 8.02 – Administration

8.02.030 –Enforcement Authority: Clarifies who is authorized to retain an animal if the public and/or animal is at serious risk and what type of penalty will be issued.

8.02.040 – Powers and Duties: Removes “Volunteers” as an employee with enforcement powers.

8.02.060 – Interference: Removes stipulations that would otherwise cause a person(s) to be in violation of Interfering with and employee or authorized representative of the division.

Chapter 8.03 - Commercial Permits

8.03.010 – Commercial Permit Requirements (moved to 8.03.040)

8.03.010 – Procedures: Identifies how a commercial establishment applies for and obtains permit for an animal related business.

8.03.020 – Regulatory Authority of Division (moved to 8. 03.200)

8.03.020 –Permit fees–Expiration-Renewal: Identifies how long a permit is good and how a permit will be renewed.

8.03.030 –Procedures (moved to 8.03.010)

8.03.030 –Commercial establishments and exemptions: Specifies which animal related businesses and facilities to be exempt from the permit requirements sections.

8.03.035 –Sale of dogs, cats and rabbit at a commercial animal establishment - Combined with requirements for pet shops.

8.03.040 – Requirements for Catteries and Kennels: (Moved to 8.03.060)

8.03.040 – Commercial Permit Requirements: Identifies which commercial holding facility or similar establishment will require a regulatory permit and which agencies will grant approval. Also identifies how the regulatory permit holder shall operate the business.

8.03.050 – Requirements for Pet Shops (Moved to 8.03.060)

8.03.050 – Permit - Display Requirements: Includes requirements for any establishment obtaining a permit, to be displayed and to notify the division of any changes made that may affect the status of the permit.

8.03.060 – Requirements for Stables (moved to 8.03.060)

8.03.060 – Additional Requirements for Commercial Establishments: Identifies the additional requirements needed for various commercial establishments (i.e. –Kennels, Catteries, Grooming Parlors, Commercial Dog Walker, Animal Exhibition, Guard Dogs, Etc.)

8.03.070 – Requirements for Animal Exhibition (moved to 8.03.060)

8.03.080 – Requirements for Guard Dogs (moved to 8.03.060)

8.03.090 – Fancier's Permit: type of permit is removed; it is no longer required or offered because of the removal of pet limits.

8.03.090 –Animal Grooming Parlors: Added requirements for grooming parlor operations which are similar to the requirements for catteries and kennels and adds that vaccination records are subject to inspection by Animal Services personnel.

8.03.100 – Hobby Permit: type of permit is removed; it is no longer required because of the removal of pet limits.

8.03.100 – Types of Residential Permits: Identifies what type of permit shall be required for non-commercial purposes.

8.03.110 – Permit for Foster Animals: type of permit is removed; it is no longer required because of the removal of pet limits.

8.03.110 – Requirements for Residential Permits: Identifies the requirements needed for an individual to obtain a residential permit.

8.03.120 – Exotic Animal Permit (moved to 8.03.100)

8.03.120 – Additional Requirements for Residential Permits: Identifies specific permit requirements. . (I.e. Dangerous Dog, Domestic Fowl Enclosure, Pigeon Keeping, Etc.)

8.03.130 – Dangerous Animal Permit: (moved to 8.03.100)

8.03.140 – Feral Cat Colony Permit: type of permit is removed; it is no longer required because of the removal of pet limits.

8.03.150 – Exemptions: (moved to 8.03.030)

8.03.160 – Permits: (moved to 8.03.050)

8.03.170 – Permit Fee-Expiration-Renewal: (moved to 8.03.020)

8.03.180 – Establishments-Rules and Regulations: (moved to 8.03.040)

8.03.190 – Establishments-Inspections and Reports: (moved to 8.03.040)

8.03.200 – Regulatory Authority of Animal Control Agencies: Identifies the authority animal control agencies have regarding humane animal care, permits and penalties.

8.03.300 – Permit Inspection Violations: Identifies the enforcement and penalty to be issued if a permit reveals a violation.

8.03.310 Permit – Suspension or Revocation – Grounds: Identifies the grounds in which a permit may be suspended or revoked.

8.03.320 Permits-Suspension or Revocation-Procedures: Identifies the step taken to suspend or revoke a permit and the grievance procedures for reinstatement of a permit.

8.03.230 –Emergency Suspension of Permit: (moved to 8.03.310)

8.03.240 –Notice of Suspension of Permits Service Procedures: (moved to 8.03.320)

Chapter 8.04 Animals Requiring a License

8.04.010 – License Required: Identifies what animals need to license, when animals need to be licensed, and what is needed to get animals licensed.

8.04.020 – License-Application)-Procedure: Stipulates how an owner will apply for an animal license and what is needed to obtain an animal license.

8.04.030 – License-Application)-Procedure: (moved to 8.04.020)

8.04.030 – Sterilization Verification: Stipulates that no animal will be licensed as sterilized without verification of sterilization that such surgery has been performed.

8.04.040 – Additional Requirements for Licensing of Ferrets: removed stipulation that first-time applicants for ferret licenses need to take a class and added that they will be provided with educational information regarding ferret ownership.

8.04.040 – License-Fees: Identifies how license fees are established and who maintains the fee schedule.

8.04.050 – Sterilization Verification: (moved to 8.04.030)

8.04.050 – License-Term and Renewal: Identifies how long a license is good for.

8.04.060 – License—Fees—Senior Citizens: Removes senior citizen license for unsterilized animals. Senior citizen licenses will be offered for sterilized animals only. Senior Citizens with unsterilized animals may purchase a standard pet license. (moved to 8.04.040)

8.04.060 – License Tag Requirements: Identifies how animal tags will be received, penalty for failure to attach license and replacement tags.

8.04.070 – License—Term and Renewal: Removes 2 and 3 year licenses that are no longer in the fee schedule (annual licenses only) and adds that late fee will be charged after a 30-day grace period. (moved to 8.04.050)

8.04.070 – License Exemptions: Identifies which Dogs, Cats or Ferrets may be exempt from being licensed.

8.04.080 – Penalties for non-compliance: Identifies penalties for license violation(s).

8.04.090 –(D) Microchip in Lieu of Tags – Clarifies which animals must wear tags. This inadvertently exempted dogs from wearing identification tags if they were microchipped (moved to 8.04.060)

8.04.100 –Pet limit standards clarifies how animals are to be cared for where there are no pet limits, also explains proper care for rabbits.

8.04.200 – Community Cats: Explains how animal control agencies will sterilize, rabies vaccinate, ear tip and track community cats, feral cats, etc.

8.04.110 through 8.04.190 – Moved to Nuisance Animal Section

Chapter 8.05 – Rabies Control

8.05.010– Dog, Cat and Ferret rabies vaccination requirements: State that divisions will follow the National Compendium protocols.

8.05.020 –Impoundment of animals without a valid vaccination tag: Establishes the procedure to reclaim an animal prior to disposition and establishes the authority to quarantine any animal that may have been exposed to or may have exposed a person to rabies.

8.05.030 –Rabid Animal Report: Establishes a procedure if an animal is suspected of rabies exposure and clarifies reporting and outlines methods of reporting to the appropriate agencies.

8.05.040 –Impoundment of animals without a valid vaccination tag: (moved to 8.05.020)

8.05.040 –Animals exposed to rabies: Establishes any animal potentially exposed to rabies, but is not available for testing, shall be regarded as having rabies.

8.05.050 –Rabid Animal Report: (moved to 8.05.030)

8.05.050 –Penalties for non-compliance: Establishes criteria for penalty to be issued.

8.05.060 –Animals exposed to rabies: (moved to 8.05.040)

Chapter 8.06 – Animal Violations

8.06.010 – Nuisance: Identifies who is in violation of a nuisance animal and defines the types of nuisances listed in sections A thru D.

8.06.020 – Animals-Running at Large: Defines what running at large is and what penalty will be issued.

8.06.030 – Animal Trespass: Defines what animal trespass is and what penalty will be issued.

8.06.040 – Animals Prohibited or restricted in designated areas: Defines the violations as outlined in A thru D.

8.06.050 – Harboring Animals: Identifies the type of violation and penalty.

8.06.060 – Staking Animals Improperly – added that animals may not be tethered in a public place unless supervised and properly restrained.

8.06.070 – Staking and Tethering-Exemptions: As defined in sections A thru F.

8.06.080 – Control and Fencing of Livestock: As defined in sections A thru D.

8.06.090 – (Moved to 8.06.060)

8.06.100 – Dangerous Animals: Identifies all animals designated as “dangerous” will require a dangerous animal permit.

8.06.110 – Prohibitions Relating to Wild Animals-Exemptions: Identifies which agencies are exempt from keeping a wild animal.

8.06.200 – Attacks by Animals: Added that pet owners are liable for damages to persons or animals injured in an attack.

8.06.210 – Animal Biters-Reporting Requirements: Identifies the time frame in which a bite needs to be reported to an agency and when an agency needs to report the bite to the appropriate animal control agency.

Chapter 8.07 – Animal Cruelty

8.07.010 – Care and Maintenance Responsibility: Defines the owners responsibilities required for the care of an animal and added that pets’ owners must provide veterinary care and grooming in addition to other basic care.

8.07.020 – Cruelty Violations – Penalties: Identifies what type of penalty will be issued if an owner or handler is found in violation of this title.

8.07.030 – Injury to Animal by Motorist: Duty to stop and assist: Adds that a motor vehicle operator shall report an incident in the absence of the animal's owner and may transport a hit animal for treatment in the absence of the animal's owner.

Chapter 8.08 – Impoundment

8.08.010 – Animal Shelter and Facilities: Identifies the responsibility the divisions to provide suitable premises and facilities as outline in sections A thru D.

8.08.020 – Impoundment Authorized-When: Establishes the authority to impound as outline in sections A thru C.

8.08.030 – Terms of Impoundment: Clarifies the minimum holding period, voluntary relinquishment, medical attention and determination to destroy as outline in sections A thru D.

8.08.040 – Redemption of Animals: Clarifies what is needed by the animal owner in order to redeem their animal.

8.08.140 (C) - Tethering of dogs—Exemptions: Removes process for applying for extension to tethering hours. This extension is not offered.

Chapter 8.09 - Dangerous or Vicious Dogs

Creation of process to classify dogs as potentially dangerous, dangerous, or vicious. The section identifies requirements for insurance, confinement and restraint, and outlines an appeal process.

Chapter 8.10 - Enforcement and Penalties

8.10.020 –Issuance of Criminal Citations—Notice of Violations and Stipulation: Rewritten for clarity and includes Notice of Violation language repealed in Chapter 11.

8.10.050 Repeated Dangerous or Vicious Animal Violations--Owner Debarment: Enacts process for owner debarment of repeat offenders.

8.10.060 Seizure and Disposition—Written Evaluation Criteria: Enacts process for division to establish evaluation criteria for classification of dangerous or vicious dogs.

8.10.070 Administrative Hearing Process—Animal Disposition or Destruction: Enacts hearing and appeal process for seizures of dangerous or vicious dogs.

Chapter 8.11 - Notice of Violation and Stipulation Procedures

Language moved to Chapter 10.

Chapter 8.11 – Domestic Fowl

8.11.050 – Number of Domestic Fowl – The total number of fowl kept was previously separated by adult fowl and baby chicks (e.g. three adults and three baby chicks). Because it is hard to define at what age a “baby” becomes an adult, and as all chicks grow into adults, the division proposes to create a total number of fowl allowed and not delineate by age.

Chapter 8.12 – Feral Cats

8.12.010 – Feral cats—Impoundment and Disposition:

Removes five-day holding period for feral and free-roaming cats in accordance with the Community Cat Act. Cats may be immediately released, in accordance with state law, as long as they are sterilized, vaccinated against rabies, ear-tipped, and returned to the location where they congregate. Allows division to track feral and unowned community cats.

Chapter 8.14 – Dog Breeders

Dog Breeders section removed and handled in animal care requirements.