

Rockford, Illinois, Code of Ordinances >>

PART I - GENERAL ORDINANCES >>

Chapter 4 - ANIMALS

ARTICLE I. - IN GENERAL

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Sec. 4-1. - Keeping pigeons in city.

(a)

No person shall keep, maintain or harbor any pigeons within the city except upon the conditions prescribed in this section and which said conditions are hereby declared to be in addition to such restrictions as may be contained in all other ordinances.

(b)

Pigeons when permitted to be maintained, shall be kept in a suitable house or coop which shall be not more than 800 cubic feet in size and not more than 100 pigeons shall be kept at any time. Pigeon houses or coops may also have an attached enclosed runway, but all structures for the keeping of pigeons shall be constructed so as to keep the same properly confined and prevent their flying about except as hereinafter provided.

(c)

No pigeon house, coop or runway shall be constructed except within the rear yard of any premises and everywhere shall be distant at least 50 feet from any dwelling or building inhabited by human beings; provided that the same need not be more than 25 feet from the dwelling or building inhabited by the owner or keeper of such pigeons.

(d)

Pigeons shall not be permitted to fly about and shall be kept within the house, coop or enclosed runway, at all times, except that carrier or homing pigeons, when a proper permit has been obtained from the health department, may be permitted to be exercised and flown outside of the enclosure before 10:00 a.m. and after 5:00 p.m. Homing or carrier pigeons under two months of age may be permitted to be outside their enclosure during their training period. Pigeons returning from training flights may do so at any time provided they immediately enter their loft. The flying of carrier or homing pigeons, at any time, may be prohibited in any specific case where it is satisfactorily established that such pigeons soil clothes or other property not belonging to the keeper of such pigeons. Such proof shall be established in an action in court on complaint of any person affected by the violation of this provision.

(e)

All pigeon houses, coops or runways shall be maintained in such proper sanitary condition as to avoid offensive odors and no pigeons shall be kept which create any loud and excessive noises and sounds.

Any odors emitting from pigeon houses, coops or runways which are perceptible at least 75 feet from such pigeon house, coop or runway, and any noises emitting from pigeons which are audible at least 150 feet from such pigeon house, coop or runway shall be prima facie evidence of a violation of this provision.

(Code 1955, § 6-6.1; Code 1970, § 5-1; Ord. of 6-6-1955)

State law reference— *Racing, Hobby, and Show Pigeon Act of 1993, 510 ILCS 45/1 et seq.*

Sec. 4-2. - Killing of domestic animals and poultry prohibited.

(a)

Definitions. The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this section, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Domestic animals means any cattle, calves, buffalo, catalo, cattalo, sheep, swine, and goats.

Poultry means domesticated chickens, turkeys, ducks, geese, guineas, or rabbits capable of being used for human consumption.

(b)

Violations.

(1)

No domestic animal or poultry shall be killed for human consumption or to be sold for human consumption within the city except as provided in subsection (c) of this section.

(2)

Any person violating these provisions shall be guilty of a petty offense punishable by a fine of not less than \$50.00 nor more than \$500.00.

(c)

Exceptions. The provisions of subsection (b) of this section, violations, shall not apply to facilities and individuals licensed and approved by the state department of agriculture or the United States Department of Agriculture, as provided in the humane slaughter of livestock act (510 ILCS 75/0.01 et seq.), or to those facilities or individuals who are otherwise exempt from the provisions of that act.

(Code 1970, § 5-25; Ord. No. 1988-448-O, 11-14-1988)

Sec. 4-3. - Prohibited; exceptions.

It shall be unlawful to engage in the trapping of any bird or mammal by setting or placing a leg hold trap, body-gripping trap, or other similar device designed or used to capture, hold or kill within the city; provided, that this section shall not prohibit:

(1)

The trapping, by any means other than setting or placing a leg hold trap, or any bird or mammal by an authorized officer, employee or agent of the state or any local unit of government when such trapping is conducted in conformance with state law and the rules and regulations of the state department of conservation; provided, however, that live trapping shall be used before other trapping methods if practical. The employee or officer of the city authorized to engage in trapping shall be the director of public works or his designee; or

(2)

The trapping of rats, mice or other vermin within any building.

(Code 1970, § 5-50; Ord. No. 1990-179-O, 6-25-1990)

Sec. 4-4. - Feeding of wild animals.

(a)

Definitions. The following words, terms and phrases, when used in section, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this subsection, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Wild means not domesticated, living unconfined, in a state of nature.

(b)

Nuisance feeding prohibited. The feeding of any wild mammal by any means, including hand feeding or the placing or setting out of food to be left attended or unattended, which creates a hazard to public health or safety is hereby declared to be a public nuisance and to be unlawful.

(c)

Presumption. If any person places or sets out food that is, in fact, consumed by a wild mammal, that person shall be presumed to have fed a wild mammal. This provision shall not apply to persons setting out refuse or garbage for collection in conformance with the city Code, or to persons growing crops or gardens in conformance with the city zoning ordinance, or to the baiting of traps.

ARTICLE II. - DOGS AND CATS ^[11]

[DIVISION 1. - GENERALLY](#)

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DIVISION 1. - GENERALLY

[Sec. 4-27. - Court appearances.](#)

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Sec. 4-27. - Court appearances.

As an alternative to any other manner of charging a violation of this article, the animal services department of the county or any law enforcement officer may issue a ticket charging a violation of a provision of this article. The ticket would allow the person charged to satisfy the violation without a court appearance by a written plea of guilty and payment of the minimum fine prescribed in this article, along with the applicable costs. If the person wishes to contest the violation charged, he may enter a plea of not guilty on or before the court appearance date found on the ticket. Where a violation of [section 4-60](#) is charged, the person charged must, in addition to payment of the fine, present evidence that the animal has been inoculated against rabies.

(Code 1970, § 5-19; Ord. No. 1989-117-O, 6-5-1989)

Secs. 4-28—4-57. - Reserved.

DIVISION 2. - DOGS

[Sec. 4-58. - Running at large.](#)

[Sec. 4-59. - Barking dogs.](#)

[Sec. 4-60. - Collar required for dogs.](#)

[Sec. 4-61. - Animal defecation prohibited.](#)

[Secs. 4-62—4-80. - Reserved.](#)

Sec. 4-58. - Running at large.

(a)

No person shall cause or permit any dog owned or kept by him to run at large at any time during the year on any public way or public place, or upon the private premises of any other person than the owner or keeper of such dog.

(b)

Any person violating subsection (a) of this section shall be subject to a fine of not less than \$100.00 nor more than \$500.00 for a first offense, and a fine of not less than \$500.00 for a second and subsequent offenses.

(Rev. Ord. 1936, § 176; Code 1955, § 6-23; Code 1970, § 5-13; Ord. of 5-10-1943; Ord. of 3-19-1956; Ord. No. 1970-69-O, 3-16-1970; Ord. No. 2003-117-O, 7-7-2003)

Sec. 4-59. - Barking dogs.

It shall be unlawful for any person to own, keep, have in his possession, or harbor any dog which, by frequent or habitual howling, yelping, barking or otherwise, shall cause annoyance or disturbance to persons in the neighborhood; provided that the provisions of this section shall not apply to hospitals conducted for the treatment of small animals which are approved by the health department or to premises occupied or used by the city pound.

(Rev. Ord. 1936, § 1012; Code 1955, § 27-26; Code 1970, § 5-14)

Sec. 4-60. - Collar required for dogs.

Every dog kept within the city shall be provided by its owner or keeper with a collar made of substantial material to which shall be attached a numbered rabies inoculation tag or personal property tax tag.

(Code 1970, § 5-15; Ord. No. 1970-153-O, 8-3-1970)

Sec. 4-61. - Animal defecation prohibited.

(a)

No person, being the owner of or having charge of any animal shall permit it to defecate upon any public property, or upon any private property without permission of the property owner.

(b)

Any person, being the owner of or having charge of any animal not confined to that person's property shall immediately remove any animal feces deposited on public or private property in violation of subsection (a) of this section.

(Code 1970, § 5-16; Ord. No. 1989-116-O, 6-5-1989)

Secs. 4-62—4-80. - Res

DIVISION 3. - CATS

[Sec. 4-81. - Definitions.](#)

[Sec. 4-82. - Registration and inoculation of cats.](#)

[Sec. 4-83. - Cat registration fee.](#)

Sec. 4-81. - Definitions.

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this division, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Administrator means the administrator of the county division of animal services.

Cat includes all members of the feline family.

County board means the county board of the county.

Owner means any person having a right of property in a cat or other animal, or who keeps or harbors a cat or other animal, or who has it in his care, or acts as its custodian, or who knowingly permits it to remain on or about any premises occupied by him.

(Code 1970, § 5-20; Ord. No. 1991-323-O, 12-16-1991)

Sec. 4-82. - Registration and inoculation of cats.

(a)

Every owner of a cat four months or more of age shall cause such cat to be inoculated against rabies. Evidence of such rabies inoculation shall be entered on a certificate, the form of which has been approved by the state department of agriculture and the certificate shall be signed by the veterinarian administering the vaccine.

(b)

Within 30 days of the day of inoculation, any owner of a cat shall register such cat by presenting to the administrator or his authorized agent, the certificate of inoculation together with the appropriate fee. The owner shall be supplied with a registration tag for each cat registered, and said tag shall be worn by each cat whenever said cat is off the property of its owner and not within a motor vehicle. The tag shall be in a form and color approved by the state department of agriculture. The method of distribution of the tags and collection of the registration fees shall be determined by the county board.

(c)

Failure to register a cat within 30 days of the inoculation or failure to comply with subsection (a) of this section shall result in the registration fee being doubled.

(Code 1970, § 5-21; Ord. No. 1991-323-O, 12-16-1991)

Sec. 4-83. - Cat registration fee.

There shall be a registration fee in an amount established by the city. Acceptable evidence of alteration may consist of certification by the veterinarian performing the alteration procedure or a notarized statement made by the seller of the animal indicating that it has been spayed or neutered while in his possession. There shall be a hobby breeder and exhibitor permit fee in an amount established by the city.

(Code 1970, § 5-22; Ord. No. 1991-323-O, 12-16-1991)