

SAMPLE ORDINANCE

ANIMAL CARE

A. Care and Shelter of Animals

1. Condition of Pens and Premises

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person keeping or harboring animals to fail to keep the premises where such animals are located free from excessive animal waste and offensive odors to the extent that such waste and odors disturb persons residing or located within twenty (20) feet of the premises. It shall be unlawful to allow the premises where animals are kept to become unclean and a threat to the animal's or the public's health by failing to diligently and systematically remove all animal waste from the premises.

(b) If animals are left outdoors, access to shelter that supplies adequate protection from the weather (i.e. sun, wind, precipitation or other inclement weather conditions) shall be provided at all times. Shelters shall be well constructed and appropriate for the species. The animal's age, physical condition and hair coat shall be considered when determining whether available shelter is proper. The Animal Control Officer and Governing Body shall be empowered to make such determination.

(c) Should the property restrictions, environment or mitigating circumstances prevail and a dog must be tethered or tied outdoors, the confinement on the tether shall be no more than six (6) hours during any twenty-four (24) hour period. The tether must be at least fifteen (15) feet in length and positioned to prevent tangling and hanging. The tethered animal must wear a properly fitted harness or buckle type collar.

(d) No animal shall remain outdoors, tethered or untethered, in temperatures below thirty-two (32) degrees Fahrenheit, during the night, or for extended periods in inclement weather.

(e) In no instance shall an animal of less than six (6) months of age be left outside for extended periods of time.

2. Specifications of Outdoor Shelter for Dogs

The shelter shall have these minimum specifications:

(a) A roof, enclosed sides, a doorway and a solid level floor raised at least two (2) inches from the ground.

(b) An entryway protected by a self-closing door, an offset outer door or a flexible flap made of windproof material.

(c) Bedding, such as straw or other nonabsorbent material, in sufficient quantity for insulation against cold and damp. Bedding shall always be kept dry.

(d) One hundred fifty (150) square feet of pen space for each dog kept therein who is six (6) months of age or older.