

Chapter 52

DOGS AND OTHER ANIMALS

[Amended 4-5-04 by HO-2004-09]

- § 52-1. Confinement; exception.
- § 52-2. Actions considered public nuisance.
- § 52-3. Confinement of female dogs and cats in heat required.
- § 52-4. Care and treatment of animals.
- § 52-5. Appointment of special Animal Warden; use of county agency.
- § 52-6. Impoundment.
- § 52-7. Notification of owner upon animal impoundment.
- § 52-8. Trapping, poisoning, or shooting animals.
- § 52-9. Violations and penalties.
- § 52-10. Prohibited animals.

†Related legislation is found in Chapter 65, Article VII, Solid Pet Waste.

[HISTORY: Adopted by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Hyattsville: Art. 1, 11-19-73; Art. II, 12-1-69. Art. II amended at time of adoption of Code; see Ch. 1, General Provisions, Art. I. Other amendments noted where applicable.]

GENERAL REFERENCES

Municipal infractions - See Ch. 20.

§ 52-1. Confinement; exception.

Dogs, cats and other animal pets shall be confined at all times to the premises of their owners, except when under the immediate and effective control of a responsible person, specifically on a leash not to exceed six (6) feet in length.

§ 52-2. Actions considered public nuisance. [Amended 4-5-04 by HO-2004-09]

A. No owner shall fail to provide effective care and control of his animals to prevent them from becoming a public nuisance. Excessive, continuous or untimely barking, howling or making of other noises, molesting passersby, chasing vehicles, habitually attacking other domestic animals, trespassing upon school grounds or trespassing upon any other property in such a manner as to damage the property or excreting on property other than that of the owner shall be deemed a nuisance.

B. No person owning, keeping or having custody of a dog or cat, except a seeing eye dog, shall allow or permit excrement of such animal to remain on public property, including streets or private property without the consent of the owner or occupant thereof. The person owning, keeping or having custody of the animal shall immediately remove and properly dispose of the excrement deposited by the animal.

§ 52-3. Confinement of female dogs and cats in heat required.

The owner of any female dog or cat shall confine said dog or cat in heat within a building or secure enclosed kennel with a top in such a manner that such female dog or cat cannot come in contact with another animal except for planned breeding within the building or enclosure.

§ 52-4. Care and treatment of animals. [Amended 4-5-04 by HO-2004-09]

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It shall be a violation of this Article for the owner of any domestic or kept animal to fail to provide said animal with sufficient good and wholesome food and water, clean and sanitary surroundings and shelter and protection from the weather, veterinary care when needed to prevent suffering or the transmission of communicable disease, humane care and treatment, and it shall be a violation to abandon an animal, to beat, ill treat, torment, overload, overwork or otherwise abuse any animal or cause or permit any animal to fight or become engaged in combat between animals or between animals and humans.

§ 52-5. Appointment of special Animal Warden; use of county agency. [Amended 4-5-04 by HO-2004-09]

The Mayor and City Council shall be authorized to appoint a special Animal Warden or other City agent empowered to enforce this Code and said Animal Warden shall be under the direction of the Chief of Police or Code Enforcement Supervisor or shall call upon the Prince George's animal shelter to assist the Police Department in impounding any dog or cat found at large in violation of this chapter.

§ 52-6. Impoundment.

A domestic pet found at large without a license tag shall, except as provided in this chapter, be impounded by the Animal Control Warden or other agent empowered to enforce this Code and taken to the animal control shelter.

§ 52-7. Notification of owner upon animal impoundment. [Amended 4-5-04 by HO-2004-09]

Upon impounding an animal, the Animal Control Warden or other agent empowered to enforce this Code shall cause a prompt and reasonable effort to be made to locate and notify the animal's owner.

§ 52-8. Trapping, poisoning, or shooting animals. [Amended 3-3-80 by HB No. 1-80, Amended 4-5-04 by HO-2004-09]

It is prohibited to trap, poison, shoot or otherwise kill any animal, unless trapping in a humanitarian trap for the purposes of spaying, neutering, or improving the condition of a wild, homeless or injured animal.

§ 52-9. Violations and penalties. [Amended 3-3-80 by HB No. 1-80; 3-3-80 by HB No. 2-80; by HB No. 7-82, Amended 6-1-98 by HR 98-03, Amended 7-16-01 by HO-2001-03, Amended 4-5-04 by HO-2004-09]

A. Violations of this Article shall be punishable as a municipal infraction as provided in Chapter 20 of this Code. With the exception of §52-4, the fine for the first violation shall be one hundred dollars (\$100.00) and the fine for the second and subsequent violations will be two hundred dollars (\$200.00).

B. In the case of a verified cruelty or neglect charge, as pertains to § 52-4, the fine for the first violation shall be two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00) and the fine for the second and subsequent violations will be five hundred dollars (\$500.00).

§ 52-10. Prohibited animals. [Amended 4-5-04 by HO-2004-09]

Keeping livestock, domestic fowl and/or wild exotic rare animals is prohibited within the City. This includes but is not limited to: cattle, horses, swine, sheep, pigs, goats, turkeys, roosters and other poultry and game birds, or wild exotic cats, monkeys, venomous snakes and any endangered species.