

## **CITY OF CHATTANOOGA ANIMAL ORDINANCES MADE SIMPLE**

*To read the ordinances in their entirety, please refer to Chapter 7 of the City Code*



### **Leash Law (Animal Running at Large)**

It is unlawful for any person to allow any unleashed animal belonging to him or her to go on someone else's property without permission of the property owner or on any public street, sidewalk, or other public property in the city including parks and recreation areas that do not specifically allow unleashed dogs. Any animal found running at-large more than once in a 12-month period shall be subject to seizure and/or impoundment by the Animal Services Department of the McKamey Animal Center. The animal has to be spayed or neutered and microchipped at the owner's expense in order to be released from the Center. Spaying, neutering and microchipping will not be required if the person can show proof of spay/neuter/microchip from a licensed veterinarian. (Sec. 7 – 36)



### **Public Nuisance**

It is unlawful for any owner or custodian to permit his/her animal or animal in his/her care, to create a public nuisance. Public nuisance is defined as any animal or group of animals that habitually does one or more of the following:

- 1) damage, soil or defile community or neighborhood private or public property;
- 2) turn over garbage containers, damage flower or vegetable garden;
- 3) cause unsanitary or offensive conditions;
- 4) impede the safety of pedestrians, bicyclists or motorists;
- 5) meet the requirements of the definition of "barking dog", or
- 6) are allowed to remain an unaltered free roaming cat.

If an animal is determined to be a "public nuisance" (Sec. 7 – 2 definitions), the owner or custodian must keep the animal confined in a secure enclosure on his/her property at all times. The animal must be on a leash when the animal is off the owner or custodian's property. (Sec. 7 – 42)



### **Animal causing unsanitary conditions; prohibited**

All owners and persons are required to immediately and properly dispose of a pet's solid waste deposited on any property, private or public, not owned or possessed by that person. Any person that violates this will be subject to a mandatory fine of \$50. (Sec. 7-41)

## **Keeping Stray Animals**

It is unlawful to keep an animal which doesn't belong to you without permission of the owner. You must notify the McKamey Animal Center within 24 hours from the time the animal comes in your possession. An Animal Services officer shall take the animal and place it in a 5 day stray hold. If the animal is not reclaimed in 5 days and is made available for adoption then you may apply through the normal adoption process and fees to become the adoptive owner of the animal. All expenses are assumed by the owner if they reclaim the animal within 5 days. (Sec. 7-86)



### **Impounding Animals**

The McKamey Animal Center Animal Services Department can pick up any animal found running at large or in violation of any other law and take him/her to the shelter. If the impounded animal is found to be neonatal, (too young to survive on its own) suffering in pain, sick, injured, contagious, carry a zoonotic (disease that can be transmitted to people) disease or vicious, the animal may be immediately destroyed in a humane manner. If a police officer attempts to seize an animal and determines that the animal is vicious or infected with rabies, he/she may shoot the animal. (Sec. 7 – 80)

Immediately upon impounding an animal, the McKamey Animal Center shall send certified a post card or letter to the owner, if known, within 2 business days. (Sec. 7 – 82)

A licensed or microchipped dog or cat shall be kept for 10 days after the notice is mailed to the owner. An unlicensed or microchipped dog or cat shall be kept for 5 business days. At the end of that time, in either case, the animal shall be euthanized or adopted at the shelter's discretion. Litters (2 or more) of puppies or kittens estimated to be less than six months of age shall have no required holding period and may immediately be euthanized or adopted at the shelter's discretion. All dogs and cats that are so unsocialized as to pose a threat to safety of McKamey Animal Center staff or the public shall be quickly and humanely euthanized. The McKamey Animal Center is not required to shelter or care for any feral, wild or exotic animal. (Sec. 7 – 84)

### **Claiming Impounded Animal**

To pick up your animal, you must pay the following fees:

1<sup>st</sup> offense: \$20 impound fee plus \$10.00/day boarding

2<sup>nd</sup> offense: \$50 impound fee plus \$10.00/day boarding

Livestock: \$50 impound fee plus \$10/day boarding plus the cost of transportation of the animal to the shelter (Sec. 7 – 83)

If the animal is not licensed and current on a rabies vaccination, you must also pay the license fee and rabies vaccination fee. *These fees are required to be paid in full whether the animal is relinquished or reclaimed.* (Sec. 7-85)



### **Licensing**

Every dog and cat over the age of 3 months must be licensed. Licenses can be obtained at the McKamey Animal Center or participating veterinarians. Such registration license shall be effective from January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31 during the year of issuance.

The license must be attached to the dog or cat's collar and worn at all times. Additional license tags issued to dangerous dogs and potentially dangerous dogs shall be a different color from regular license tags and attached to the collar as well. (Sec. 7 – 18 a, b, c; Sec. 7 - 19 a, b, c, d, e, f, g)

***License Fees: (\$1 handling fee for every license purchased by mail)***

**Pet owner is age 65 or over with altered pets: FREE for up to three pets**

**Altered dog or cat: \$10**

**Unaltered dog or cat: \$50**

**Replace lost tag: \$5**

**Potentially dangerous altered dog: \$50**

**Potentially dangerous unaltered dog: \$100**

**Dangerous altered: \$150**

**Dangerous unaltered: \$200**

**Multiple pet: \$50 for each dog or cat in excess of 7 and up to 10 dogs or cats**

**\$100 for each dog or cat in excess of 10 and up to 20 dogs or cats**

**\$200 for each dog or cat in excess of 20 dogs or cats**

Late fee: \$20 per animal (if license is not renewed within 30 days of expiration or if you are issued citation or delinquency letter for lack of a license)

### **Animals surrendered by owner**

If you surrender your animal to the McKamey Animal Center, the animal may be immediately placed for adoption or humanely destroyed. (Sec. 7 – 87)



### **Rabies**

State law requires all dogs and cats to be vaccinated under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian. Pets age 3 month and older must wear tags showing proof of vaccination and a city license. (Sec. 7-20; 7-21)

Every animal determined by the health department to pose a risk of rabies and every animal that has bitten a human and/or has been exposed to rabies or is suspected of having rabies shall be, at the discretion of the health department, quarantined for a minimum of 10 days at the owner's home or at the McKamey Animal Center.

If the animal is housed at the Center and determined to have rabies during or after the quarantine period, the health department may order the Center to humane destroy the animal according to health department instructions.

If the animal is housed at the Center for rabies quarantine the owner of the animal shall be liable for boarding fees at a rate of \$10 per day. (Sec. 7 – 22)

### **Guard-dog Licenses**

It is unlawful for any person, firm or corporation to supply guard dogs to the public without a valid license, which can be obtained at the McKamey Animal Center. All persons using dogs as guard dogs shall register the dogs with the McKamey Animal Center. All guard dogs are required to be microchipped. (Sec. 7 – 131)

Guard-dog owner license: \$75



### **Barking Dogs**

It shall be unlawful to allow a barking dog to exist in the City. (Sec. 7 – 56)

A barking dog means any dog which, by causing frequent, long, continued noise, disturbs the comfort or repose of any person or creates any other noise that a reasonable person would find distressing or disruptive. (Sec. 7-55)

You may receive a 10 day written warning, then a citation to City court. Each day a barking violation exists shall be subject to a separate citation and fine for each violation. (Sec. 7 – 57)



### **Tethering dogs and other animals**

It shall be unlawful for any person to tie or tether a dog or other animal to a stationary object for more than a reasonable period (*a period of time not to exceed (12) twelve hours in a 24-hour period*) of time on or in a location so as to create an unhealthy situation for the animal or a potentially dangerous situation for a pedestrian. ANIMALS MAY NOT BE TETHERED AT ALL BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 10 pm AND 6 am. Alternatives to the choice of keeping a dog on a chain may be found by visiting [www.dogsdeservebetter.org](http://www.dogsdeservebetter.org) or contacting the McKamey Animal Center.

Releasing your dog to run at large, confining your dog to a pen that is inappropriately small, or allowing your dog to be restrained in a manner that allows any person or child to enter the area occupied by the animal is not acceptable. (Sec. 7-37)

### **Transporting in an inhumane manner**

It shall be unlawful for any person in the City to carry or cause to be carried in or upon any vehicle or other conveyance any animal in a cruel or inhumane manner or to leave an animal in a vehicle in a manner so as to subject such animal to excessive heat. Can only be in an open bed pickup if the dog is secured so that it cannot fall, be thrown, hang, or escape from the vehicle. (Sec. 7-39)

### **Unattended animals left in Automobile**

A person may not leave a cat or dog unattended in a standing or parked motor vehicle in a manner that endangers the health or safety of the cat or dog. A city enforcement professional may use reasonable force to remove a companion animal in distress and will not be liable for any damages. (Sec. 7-40)

### **Keeping or possessing swine, goats or fowl**

It shall be unlawful for any person to keep or possess swine, goats, or fowl within the city on property other than agriculturally zoned land, unless animals are kept on a tract of land containing five (5) or more contiguous acres. (Sec. 7-107)



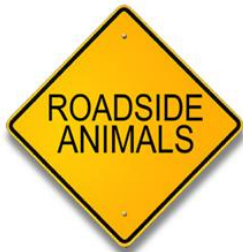
### **Keeping of exotic animals prohibited**

No person shall have, keep or permit to be kept on his or her premises within the City any exotic animal as defined as: All animals classified as Class I animals under T.C.A. § 70-4-403, as amended, and any relevant state regulations propagated thereunder, as well as any wolf-hybrid and the following species of non-venomous snakes when such snakes reach six (6) feet in length: (i) reticulated python (*Python reticulatus*); (ii) Burmese python (*Python molurus bivittatus*); (iii) African rock python (*Python sebae*); (iv) common boa (*Boa constrictor*); and (v) green anaconda (*Eunectes murinus*). (Sec. 7 – 115)



### **Curbside Sale**

It shall be unlawful to sell, barter, trade or adopt any animal as a curbside sale within the city limits of Chattanooga. (This applies to puppies sold in retail parking lots, side of road, flea market, or any City street, etc.) (Sec. 7-44)



### **Failure to provide adequate care; neglect**

It shall be unlawful for any person who keeps or houses any animal in any residence, business, shelter or other place in the City to fail to supply adequate care to such animal. It shall be unlawful for any person to neglect an animal as defined below:

- 1) Fail to provide an animal with adequate care as defined in Chapter 7
- 2) Fail to sufficiently and properly care for an animal to the extent that the animal's health is jeopardized
- 3) Keep any animal under conditions which increase the probability of disease
- 4) Allow any animal to suffer unnecessary pain
- 5) Meet the definition of an animal hoarder as defined in Chapter 7 (Sec. 7-32)

### **Cruelty to Animals**

It shall be unlawful for any person to engage in cruelty to an animal, which is defined as "Any act, omission or neglect whereby unjustifiable physical pain, suffering, or death of an animal is caused or permitted." (Sec. 7-33)