

ORDINANCE NO. 1024

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTIONS 6.04.020 AND 6.08.080 OF THE DOUGLAS MUNICIPAL CODE PERTAINING TO ANIMALS AT LARGE

WHEREAS, the City of Douglas (City) Council finds and determines that the following changes and clarifications need to be made in regard to the City of Douglas Municipal Code; and

WHEREAS, the City has authority, under Wyoming Statute § 15-1-103(a)(xiv), to regulate or prohibit the running at large within the city limits of any animals, impose a license fee for the keeping or harboring of dogs and establish and provide for the operation of a pound;

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF DOUGLAS, WYOMING:

Section 1. Section 6.04.020 of the Douglas Municipal Code is hereby amended to read:

If any animal or fowl referred to in Section 6.04.010 shall be found running at large or running within any of the places referred to in Section 6.04.010 contrary to the regulations of this chapter, ~~it is the duty of~~ a police officer or the animal control officer **shall have authority** to take up and cause the same to be confined in a secure pen, pound or other place provided for that purpose. The release of animals and the payment of impoundment fees is controlled by Section 6.08.100.

Section 2. Section 6.08.080 of the Douglas Municipal Code is hereby amended to read:

- A. To the extent space is available, ~~¶~~the animal control officer or other authorized person shall place all apprehended animals in the city animal shelter or other authorized facility, which shall be provided, suitable for the purpose of keeping dogs and cats and other animals, and shall keep the same for a period hereinafter specified or until such sooner time as the owner of the animal shall properly apply to pay all impound fees and license fees for the animal's release.
- B. The period of confinement of animals placed in the city animal shelter prior to their destruction or their adoption shall be as follows:
 - 1. Surrendered Animals. A surrendered animal shall be available for immediate adoption and shall be kept at the animal shelter a minimum of seven (7) days for possible adoption, unless the owner surrenders the animal because of viciousness or bad temperament. Feral cats and other animals which are reasonably determined by the animal control officer, veterinarian, or the shelter operator to be vicious in nature or of bad temperament may be euthanized.
 - 2. Unlicensed Animals. All unlicensed animals, with the exception of cats, shall be kept in the custody of the shelter for a period of not less than five (5) days or one hundred and twenty (120) hours, and all unlicensed cats shall be kept in the custody of the shelter for a period of not less than three (3) days or seventy-two (72) hours from the time of impound. Any such unlicensed animal may be placed with the general population of the shelter and is not required to be held in a separate quarantine facility. Shelter may order the vaccination of any unlicensed animal prior to placing same with the general shelter population. Owner shall reimburse payment of any costs incurred, if unlicensed animal is claimed following vaccination or other care and feeding costs. After the expiration of the five (5) days or one hundred twenty (120) hours, the shelter operator may authorize the destruction of the animal by such humane means as may be provided, or make the animal available for adoption. All unlicensed animals will be checked for alternate methods of identification (tattoos, microchips, etc.) prior to being destroyed or placed for adoption. Such checks will be documented and placed with the animal's file.

Feral Cats. A feral cat is an unsocialized outdoor cat who has either never had physical contact with human, or human contact has diminished to an extent where the cat is no longer accustomed to human contact. In addition to the options under this subparagraph 2, any apprehended feral cats may be removed from the city limits and rehomed at the discretion of the animal control officer or police officer.

3. Licensed Animals. The shelter shall keep all licensed animals for a minimum of seven (7) days or one hundred sixty-eight (168) hours after notification of the registered owner in accordance with Section 6.08.090 of this chapter; however, in the event it is, for one (1) reason or another, impossible for the shelter to notify the registered owner, the shelter shall be authorized to destroy or make the animal available for adoption seventy-two (72) hours after receiving the return receipt from the certified mail advising that the notification was undeliverable or refused.
4. Legal Ownership. The original owner, after the period of confinement, loses all rights to the animal. A person who meets adoption criteria, as set forth in the animal shelter procedures, becomes the animal's legal owner after payment of the adoption fee, proper inoculation, spaying and neutering if necessary and licensing of the animal.

C. In the event that there are no available options for the impoundment of at large dogs or cats seized by the animal control officer or a police officer, and after attempting to provide notice to the owner of a licensed animal by phone or in person, the animal control officer or police officer is authorized to release the dog(s) or cat(s) back into the community, rehome the animal, or may have the animal humanely euthanized.

PASSED AND APPROVED ON FIRST READING this 26th day of June, 2023.

PASSED AND APPROVED ON SECOND READING this 10th day of July, 2023.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED ON THIRD AND FINAL READING this _____ day of _____, 20_____.

Kim Pexton, Mayor

Attest:

Chaz Kokesh, City Clerk

Published: _____

ATTESTATION

I, Chaz Kokesh, the Clerk of the City of Douglas, Wyoming, do hereby attest and state that the above ordinance was published/posted in the manner required by law and that all procedures required by Wyoming State law were complied with.

Chaz Kokesh, City Clerk