

CHAPTER 53

DOG

SECTION 1.

Definition of Terms. As used in this ordinance, unless the context indicates otherwise:

- a. "collar" means a band, strip or chain placed around the neck of a dog.
- b. "kennel" means any establishment wherein or whereon dog(s) are kept for the purposes of shelter, breeding, sale, or sporting purposes.
- c. "livestock" means any horse, bovine, sheep, goat, pig, domestic rabbit or domestic fowl, including game fowl raised in captivity.
- d. "officer" means a peace officer, full time health officer, humane officer, warden or an employee designated by the governing body of this County or of any city, village or town within St. Croix County.
- e. "owner" includes any person who owns, harbors or keeps a dog.

SECTION 2.

Dog Licensing.

All dogs kept, harbored, or maintained by their owners in St. Croix County shall be licensed and registered if more than 5 months of age. Dog licenses shall be issued by the County Clerk or appropriate municipality or township officer. Payment shall be made of a license tax of \$2.00 for a neutered male dog or spayed female dog, upon presentation of evidence that the dog is neutered or spayed; and \$5.00 for an unneutered male dog or unspayed female dog. The owner shall state at the time application is made for such license his name, address, and the name, breed, color, and sex of each dog owned or kept by him. Further, the owner shall present evidence that the dog(s) is/are currently immunized against rabies. The provisions of this section shall not be intended to apply to dogs whose owners are non-residents temporarily within the County nor to dogs brought into the County for the purpose of participating in any dog show, nor to seeing eye dogs or dogs for the deaf properly trained to assist blind or hearing impaired persons when such dogs are actually being used by blind or deaf persons for the purpose of aiding them in going from place to place. Licenses for seeing eye dogs and dogs for the hearing impaired shall be issued free of charge by the County Clerk upon proof that the dog is trained as a seeing eye dog or as a dog for the hearing impaired.

SECTION 3.

Issuance of Licenses and Collar Tags.

Upon proper and complete application as outlined in Section 2, the County Clerk shall complete and

issue to the owner a license for the dog bearing a serial number, an expiration date, the owner's name and address, and the name, sex, spayed or unspayed, neutered or unneutered, breed and color of the dog. The collecting official shall keep a duplicate copy of the license on file. After issuing the license the collecting official shall deliver to the owner a tag of durable material bearing the same serial number as the license, the words "St. Croix County", and the year in which it was issued. Licenses and tags shall be applied for annually by the owner. Every owner shall be required to provide each dog with a collar to which the license tag must be affixed, and shall see that the collar and tag are constantly worn. In case a dog tag is lost or destroyed, a duplicate will be issued by the collecting official upon presentation of a receipt showing the payment of the license fee for the current year, and the payment of \$_____ for such duplicate. Dog tags shall not be transferable from one dog to another and no refunds shall be made on any dog license fee because of death of the dog or the owner's leaving the County before expiration of the license period.

SECTION 4.

Dogs running at large and untagged dogs prohibited.

- a. A dog is considered to be running at large if it is off the premises of its owner and not under the control of the owner or some other person.
- b. A dog is considered to be untagged if a valid license tag is not attached to a collar which is kept on the dog whenever the dog is outdoors unless the dog is securely confined in a fenced area.
- c. Any dog running at large or untagged is subject to impoundment. Any officer may and a humane officer shall attempt to capture and restrain any dog running at large and any untagged dog and to deliver the dog to a County pound. The pound master upon receiving the dog shall make complete registry, entering the breed, color, and sex of such dog and whether licensed. If licensed he shall enter the name and address of the owner and the number of the license tag.
- d. Restraining actions shall be performed in the following manner: (1) The dog's owner shall be notified and requested to capture his dog, (2) An officer shall be notified and requested to capture and restrain the dog, and (3) The officer shall capture and restrain the dog.

If a restraining action has been attempted unsuccessfully or if a dog is so vicious or threatening so as to render a restraining action inadequate or inappropriate, or the dog is exhibiting signs of hydrophobia, the officer may kill the dog.

- e. Penalties. The owner who permits a dog to run at large or untagged shall forfeit not less than \$25 nor more than \$100 for the first offense and not less than \$50 nor more than \$200 for subsequent offenses.

SECTION 5.

Impounded Dogs--Notice to Owner.

Not later than three days after the impounding of any dog, the pound to where the dog was delivered shall attempt to notify the owner personally or by mail. If the owner is unknown, written notice shall be posted at the St. Croix County Courthouse describing the dog and the date on which and location from which the dog was taken. The owner may reclaim the dog only if the owner gives his name and address, presents evidence that the dog is licensed and vaccinated against rabies, and pays any and all boarding, impoundment, and notice fees. The following charges shall be paid to St. Croix County for impounding any dog--\$_____ per day for impoundment and \$_____ for giving notice.

SECTION 6.

Sacrifice or Use for Human Purposes if Dog Unclaimed.

If, within seven days after impoundment a dog is not released to its owner, said dog is deemed unclaimed. The pound may extend the seven day time limit if it appears likely that the dog will be released. Each unclaimed dog may be released to a person other than the owner if the person to whom the dog is to be released states his name and address, signs a statement agreeing to license the dog and to have the dog vaccinated against rabies unless evidence is presented that the dog is licensed and vaccinated, and pays any and all boarding and impoundment fees for the dog. Any dog not released in such a manner may be disposed of in a proper and humane manner or may be released to the University of Wisconsin system, the Medical College of Wisconsin, Inc., or to any other educational institution of higher learning chartered under the laws of the State of Wisconsin and accredited to the University of Wisconsin system, upon requisition by the institution. The requisition shall be in writing, shall bear the signature of an authorized agent, and shall state the dog is requisitioned for scientific or educational purposes. If a requisition is made for a greater number of dogs than is available at a given time, the officer or pound may supply those immediately available and may withhold from other disposition all unclaimed dogs coming into the officer's or pound's custody until the requisition is fully discharged, excluding impounded dogs as to which ownership is established within a reasonable period. A dog left by its owner for disposition is not considered an unclaimed dog under this section. If operated by the county or a city, village, or town, the pound is entitled to the payment of \$1.00 for each dog requisitioned. An institution making a requisition shall provide for the transportation of the dog.

SECTION 7.

Muzzling.

Whenever it becomes necessary to safeguard the public from the dangers of hydrophobia, the Chairman of the St. Croix County Board of Supervisors, if he deems it necessary, shall issue a proclamation ordering every person owning or keeping a dog to confine it securely on his premises unless such dog shall have a muzzle of sufficient strength to prevent its biting any person. Any unmuzzled dog running at large during the time of the proclamation shall be seized and impounded, unless noticeable infected with rabies. All dogs noticeably infected with rabies and displaying vicious propensities shall be killed by the officer without notice to the owner. Dogs impounded during the first two days of such proclamation shall, if claimed within five days, be released to the

owner, unless infected with rabies, upon payment of impounding charges provided for in Section 5. If unclaimed after that period, such dog may be summarily destroyed.

SECTION 8.

Rabies--Notice

If a dog is believed to have rabies or has been bitten by a dog suspected of having rabies, such dog shall be confined by a leash or chain on the owner's premises and shall be placed under the observation of a veterinarian at the expense of the owner for a period of two weeks. The owner shall notify the pound master of the fact that his dog has been exposed to rabies and at his discretion the pound master is empowered to have such dog removed from the owner's premises to a veterinary hospital and there placed under observation for a period of two weeks at the expense of the owner.

It shall be unlawful for any person knowing or suspecting a dog has rabies to allow such dog to be taken off his premises or beyond the limits of the County without the written permission of the pound master. Every owner, or other person, upon ascertaining a dog is rabid shall immediately notify the pound master or an officer, and he shall either remove the dog to the pound or summarily destroy it.

SECTION 9.

This ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after its proper passage and publication pursuant to Wisconsin law.

Ordinance No. 72 (83) – May, 1983