

30. DOG CONTROL DISTRICT, LICENSING FEES, AND SHELTER OPERATION

30.1 Definitions

As used in this ordinance, unless the context requires otherwise:

- (1) *“Animal”* means any non-human vertebrate with the exclusion of livestock as defined herein.
- (2) *“Animal Control Officer”* means a deputy sheriff or any Clatsop County Animal Control Officer holding a limited commission from the Sheriff.
- (3) *“Board of Commissioners”* means the Clatsop County Board of Commissioners or its designee.
- (4) *“Dog”* means any member of the canine family, including a wolf or wolf hybrid, which is domesticated, or which is kept or maintained in captivity by a keeper.
- (5) *“Euthanized”* means to put to death in a humane manner by a licensed veterinarian or certified euthanasia technician.
- (6) *“Hearings Officer”* means the person with the authority to hear County violation cases and impose penalties for County violations as defined and interpreted under State law.
- (7) *“Owner”* means a person who owns, possesses, controls, maintains or otherwise has charge of a dog or other animal.
- (8) *“Shelter Supervisor”* means the director of the animal shelter or other designee designated by the County Administrator to be responsible for the animal control program.

30.2 Dog Control District and County Animal Control Officers

- a. It is hereby declared that Clatsop County is a dog control district pursuant to ORS 609.030. The Board of Commissioners elects to act as the Board of Supervisors of the Dog Control District.
- b. County Animal Control Officers shall have the powers and duties authorized by State law to enforce laws related to animal control and to enforce such related regulations as are imposed by County ordinance.

30.3 Dog Licenses

- a. Every owner of a dog which has a set of permanent canine teeth or has attained the age of six months, whichever occurs first, shall immediately obtain a dog license, in the manner provided by Oregon law, except dogs exempt from licensing requirements as assistance animals pursuant to ORS 609.105.
- b. All dog licenses issued pursuant to the terms of this ordinance shall be valid for a period of three years from the date of issuance. (ordinance 2004-09)
- c. A dog license is not transferable to another dog. The dog license number shall be assigned to the dog and shall remain with the dog upon transfer to another owner for the duration of the license period.
- d. A dog displaying a current license from jurisdiction outside Clatsop County, but within the State of Oregon, shall not require licensing under this section until the current license expires.
- e. The owner of a dog who has moved to Clatsop County from another state shall have sixty (60) days to meet licensing requirements. A license from another state shall not be transferable to Clatsop County.(ordinance 2004-09)
- f. Dog licenses may be sold in outpost locations by non-County personnel when authorized to do so by a properly executed contract with the County.
- g. The Board of County Commissioners may establish a late filing fee to be assessed at the time the license is renewed, if a person fails to renew a license prior to its expiration date.
- h. At the time an individual dog license is issued, Animal Control shall supply the dog owner with a suitable identification tag at no additional charge. The dog owner shall fasten the tag to a collar or harness and keep it on the dog at all times when the dog is not in the immediate possession of the dog owner. If a dog license tag is lost, the dog owner shall obtain a duplicate license tag upon payment of a fee.

3.4 Fees

- a. Dog license fees, penalty fees, impoundment and redemption fees, adoption fees, euthanasia fees, dead animal pick-up fees, drop-off fees and other related fees related to Animal Control and shelter operations shall be as established from time to time by the Board of Commissioners. The Board of Commissioners may also adopt fees for voluntary services such as a voluntary cat-licensing program.
- b. A license is not valid if fraudulently obtained or payment for the license is not complete or invalidated in any manner by any party or financial institution.

30.5 Shelter Operation and Impoundment

- a. Clatsop County shall operate, maintain or provide for a facility to receive, care for and confine animals delivered to its custody under the provisions of State law and this ordinance, which facility shall be accessible to the public during reasonable hours for the conduct of necessary business concerning impounded animals. The Shelter Supervisor shall have the authority to turn

away any animal for which the County does not have adequate facilities to receive, care for or safely confine said animal.

b. Any animal may be impounded and held at the facility when it is the subject of an alleged violation of law, a violation of the law, when an animal requires protective custody and care because of mistreatment or neglect by its owner or when otherwise ordered impounded by a court. The cost of impounding and keeping the animal shall be the responsibility of the owner of the animal.

c. Unless otherwise provided in this ordinance, dogs impounded at the shelter pursuant to this ordinance shall be held for the following minimum time periods:

1. Unlicensed dogs and dogs whose owners are unknown shall be held for at least three full days not including the day of impoundment pursuant to ORS 609.090.

2. Licensed dogs and dogs for which the dog owners are known shall be held for at least five full days not including the day of impoundment pursuant to ORS 609.090.

3. A dog delivered to the shelter for impoundment by a peace officer who removed the dog from the possession of a person in custody of the peace officer shall be held for at least five days pursuant to ORS 609.090.

4. Notwithstanding any other provision of this section: any dog or cat surrendered to Dog Control by its owner for disposition may, after payment by the owner of an owner surrender fee, be immediately adopted, placed in foster care or subjected to euthanasia at the discretion of the Shelter Supervisor. For purposes of this subsection only, an owner is a person who has had the dog or cat in the person's care, possession, custody or control for thirty days or more.

5. Notwithstanding any other provision of this section: abandoned or unwanted litters of puppies aged two months or less may immediately be adopted, placed in foster care or subjected to euthanasia.

d. If the County is not otherwise authorized to retain custody of an animal, any impounded animal shall be released to the owner or owner's authorized representative upon confirmed payment of any impoundment and care, including but not limited to reimbursement for medical care, redemption fees, rabies vaccination deposits, license fees, and past due fines.

e. Any failure or refusal to pay fees, penalties, or costs as provided for in this ordinance after 5 days from the date of impoundment is deemed abandonment of the impounded animal and the animal shelter shall retain the right to dispose of the animal as considered by the Shelter Supervisor to be in the best interest of Clatsop County.

30.6 Disposition of Animals.

Following expiration of any required holding period set forth above, any dog impounded at the shelter which has been unclaimed by its owner, and any owner-surrendered or abandoned animal may be adopted, placed in foster care or subjected to euthanasia at the discretion of the Shelter Supervisor.

30.7 Adoption.

a. Any dog or cat which is otherwise available for adoption pursuant to this ordinance may be offered for adoption, for a fee, at the discretion of the Shelter Supervisor.

b. The Shelter Supervisor may deny any adoption application that would be contrary to adopted Clatsop County policies.

30.8 Fines.

a. Upon a finding by the Hearings Officer that a person has violated a provision of this ordinance, a fine shall be imposed in an amount set by resolution of the Board of County Commissioners.

b. The following constitute a debt owing to Clatsop County and may be collected in the same manner as any other debt as allowed by law:

1. Any fine ordered pursuant to this ordinance;
2. Any fee due and payable to Animal Control pursuant to this or any ordinance or other order enacted by the Clatsop County Board of Commissioners.

30.9 Hearings Procedure.

Unless otherwise specifically provided by law, hearings under this ordinance will be performed pursuant to the procedures set forth under Clatsop County ordinance governing administrative hearings.