

Laurens County Animal Control Ordinance

Article I In General

Section 10-1

Definitions:

For the purpose of this article the following words & phrases shall have the meanings respectively ascribed to them:

Domesticated: Any animal raised so as to live in close proximity to man. Such animals shall include dogs and cats, as well as, varieties of poultry, livestock or reptiles.

At Large: Off the premises of owner or premises owner has permission. Not under control of owner by leash, at heel or beside of, or in control of a competent person and is not obedient to that person's commands.

Inoculated / Vaccinated: Animal which has been administered an antibiotic vaccine to provide immunity from rabies for a minimum of one (1) year.

Kennel: Type of pen/cage for boarding/holding animals.

Kennel Operator: Person engaged in the commercial business of buying, selling or boarding animals.

Owner: Any person who owns, harbors, keeps or knowingly permits an animal to be harbored, kept or has an animal in his care, or who permits an animal to remain on or about his premises for more than five (5) days.

Public Nuisance: Any animal that unreasonably annoys humankind, endangers the life or health of people or substantially interferes with the rights of citizens, other than there owners, to enjoyment of life or property. The term "**Public Nuisance**" shall mean and include, but is not limited to any animal that:

1. Is found at large.
2. Damages property other than owners.
3. Chases vehicles.
4. Attacks domestic animals.
5. Attacks pedestrians
(With exception of dogs trained for this purpose and under control of owner).
6. Has been found by ACO to be a menace to public health, welfare or safety.

Section 10-2

Office of Animal Control:

- A. There is hereby created the office of Animal Control, which the animal control officer shall enforce the provisions of this article.
- B. The Animal Control Officer is authorized to issue citations to persons violating this article, for trial in the magistrate court upon such citations.
- C. The Animal Control Officer, as well as employees and agents of the Animal Control Office and persons under his control and supervision, are empowered to seize animals as required by this article so long as the animals are within the county. These employees and agents of the office of Animal Control shall have the right to go on private property within the county for the purposes of enforcing the provisions of this article, provided it is necessary for such purpose. The Animal Control Officer shall have the authority to issue citations and subpoenas to witnesses and require their appearance to magistrate court on any matter relating to the enforcement of any of the provisions contained herein.
- D. Citations may be issued in person or sent certified mail for enforcement of any of the provisions contained herein.

Article II License

Section 10-3

Vaccinations Required:

The owners and keepers of all dogs, cats and domestic wildlife, unless permitted by wildlife resource division, are hereby required to have such vaccinated against rabies. No person shall own, keep or harbor any of these animals over six (6) months of age unless such animal is vaccinated. Owner of each animal vaccinated shall keep a certificate of vaccination.

Section 10-4

Identification:

The owner and keeper of all dogs & cats are hereby required to have identification on such animal. Rabies tag, I.D. Tag or Tattoo must be on animal at all times. Tag must contain information that will allow animal control officer to contact owner or veterinarian/keeper of such animal.

Article III Confinement of

Section 10-5

Confinement:

It is unlawful for any owner of dog or cat to cause or allow the animals to run at large in or on any public property, vacant lot or private property without consent of the property owner. All animals on public property must be under restraint by leash under ten (10) feet length.

Section 10-6

In-Humane Treatment:

- A. It shall be unlawful for any person to secure an animal by a leash less than ten (10) feet in length and not tangle resistance.
- B. It shall be unlawful for any owner of a dog/cat not to furnish such animal adequate food, water, shelter and protection from the elements.
- C. It is unlawful for any person to own any animal, which is seriously sick or injured and not provide proper veterinarian care for such animals. This section shall not be construed to include animals under active veterinary care or veterinary hospitals.

Section 10-7

Cats and Dogs, Which Attack:

It shall be unlawful for any owner of dog/cat to allow said animal to bite, scratch, chase, snap or attack pedestrians, bicyclists, vehicles or allow said animal to be a nuisance with the exception of animal being in defense of property or person.

Section 10-8

Female Dogs and Cats in Heat:

It shall be unlawful for an owner of a female cat or dog while such animal is in heat or in season to allow her to run loose. Animal must be confined in a kennel; in such a manner animal can not get in/out from bottom, top or sides.

Section 10-9

Disturbing the Peace:

It is unlawful for any person to allow any animal in his possession or control to persistently or continuously bark, howl or make noise common to their species or otherwise to disturb the peace and quiet of the surrounding neighborhood. It shall likewise be unlawful to keep or maintain such animals in a manner as to produce noxious or offensive odors, or to otherwise endanger the health and welfare of surrounding inhabitants.

Section 10-10

Destruction of Property:

It is unlawful for any person to allow any animal in his\her possession or control, to destroy and/or disturb any property of another.

Section 10-11

Abandoning:

It shall be unlawful for any person to abandon any dog or cat, or to release it upon public or private property with the intention of abandoning it.

Article IV Livestock

Section 10-12

Livestock At Large:

It shall be unlawful for the owner of any hogs, cattle, mules, goats, sheep, horses, or any other Livestock to allow the same to run loose or be at large.

Section 10-13

Impounding Livestock:

All Livestock found loose or at large will be in violation and shall be impounded by animal control or any deputy/police officer and shall be disposed of in the manner provided by law.

- A. Owner of such Livestock will be responsible for any contract removal, storage, hauling, medical care of any such Livestock impounded.
- B. Office of Animal Control will advertise any or such Livestock for a period of five (5) days in the Dublin Courier Herald before disposing of as provided by law.

Article V Restrictions

Section 10-14

Putting Out Poison:

- A. It shall be unlawful for any person to scatter or put out poison or otherwise distribute on any premises within Laurens County any poison in any form or manner whatsoever which is or may likely be sufficiently lethal or of such strength as to cause death to any animal or fowl, without first obtaining a permit to do so from Laurens County Sheriff's Office or Commissioners Office.

- B. The Sheriff/Commissioners may in his discretion issue or refuse to issue such permits. The sheriff/commissioner may not issue permit unless area is enclosed by a fence, provided that nothing in this section shall apply to poison which are made for the sole purpose of killing and destroying insect pest, rats and other rodents, if such poisons are not dangerous or injurious to human beings. Provided further, that this section shall not apply to each poison as are distributed only in vapor or gaseous form by means of a spray gun or other similar means.

Section 10-15

Cruel Acts:

No person shall perform a cruel act on any animal nor shall any person harm, maim or kill any animal with the exception of:

1. Defend his person or property or the person or property of another from injury or damage being caused by an animal, or

2. Kill any animal causing injury or damage to any livestock or poultry, or

3. Otherwise specified by the Department of Natural Resources.

Section 10-16

Terroristic Threats Involving Animals:

It shall be unlawful for anyone to verbally threaten to kill, maim, poison or harm in anyway any animal with the exception of what is legal under DNR/Game Management Laws.

Section 10-17

Duty to Report Accidents Involving Dogs & Cats:

It shall be unlawful for any person to knowingly injure a dog or cat by running over, or into same or contacting same with an automobile, motorcycle, bicycle or other vehicle. It is also unlawful to fail to immediately notify the owner of said dog/cat or the Animal Control Officer.

Section 10-18

Interferences:

It shall be unlawful for any person to resist, attack, verbally threaten, interfere with or hinder the Animal Control Officer or any of the employees under him or the Health Officer in the performance of the duties imposed upon them by this article or by state law. This shall also include traps set by the Animal Control Officer on property in Laurens County.

Section 10-19

Failure to Obey:

No person shall fail or refuse to surrender any animal for quarantine or destruction as required herein when demand is made therefore by the Animal Control Officer.

Section 10-20

Dog Fighting:

It shall be unlawful for any person to promote, stage, hold, manage, conduct, carry on, train for, attend or own any animal for the participation of any game, exhibition, contest or fight in which one or more animals are engaged for the purpose of injuring, killing, maiming or destroying themselves or any animal (with the exception of what's permitted under state game and fish laws).

Section 10-21

Unlawful Interference by 3rd Parties:

No person shall, without the knowledge of or consent of owner, hold or possess any animal which he does not own for more than seventy two (72) hours without first reporting the possession of such animal to Laurens County Animal Control. It does not apply to non-profit organization whose purpose is the protection of the animals.

Article VI Right to Redeem

Section 10-22

Redemption:

- A. Owners of animal picked up by Laurens County Animal Control have right to redeem the same upon payment of any and all fees which may be due and payable for the impoundment of such animals; provided however, the payment of such impoundment fees shall not bar the imposition of any fine which may be imposed.

Time for Redemption:

- B. All impounded cat/dogs will be held at Laurens County Animal Shelter for a period of five (5) days, ten (10) days if collared, tagged or have ID (Monday-Friday; excluding Saturday, Sunday and National Holidays). Any such animal not redeemed within such time may be sold, destroyed, adopted or otherwise disposed of.

Fees

- C. The owner shall be charged for impoundment of any animal under provisions of this ordinance.
1. First redemption - \$ **20.00**
 2. Second Redemption - \$ **40.00**

There may also be additional charges as set by the Laurens County Animal Shelter for feeding/caring for such animal. Fees shall be made payable at the Laurens County Animal Shelter.

Article VII Rabies

Section 10-23

Any animal which bites/scratches a person or another animal or which otherwise gives symptoms of having rabies shall be immediately reported to the Animal Control Officer and shall thereupon be securely quarantined at the direction of the Laurens County Animal Control for a period of ten (10) days. At the discretion of the Animal Control Officer, such quarantine may be on the premises of owner (if the vaccinations are current) or at the Laurens County Humane Society or at the veterinarian of the owner's choice and at the owner's expense.

Section 10-24

Disposition of Dead Rabid Animals:

If rabies has been diagnosed in an animal under quarantine/or a wild animal that has bitten/scratched another, animals carcass shall be turned over to State Health Department for testing.

Section 10-25

Area-Wide Quarantine:

When the report indicates a positive diagnosis of rabies, the Animal Control Officer may order an area wide quarantine for a period of sixty (60) days. In which all animals in area will be confined and no animals moved in or out of such area.

Section 10-26

Destruction & Isolation of Bitten Animals:

Animals bitten by a known rabid animal shall be immediately destroyed or if the owner is unwilling to destroy the animal, it must be isolated in a kennel designated by the Health Department.

Section 10-27

Surrender of Carcass

Carcass of any dead animal exposed to rabies shall upon demand be surrendered to Laurens County Health Department or Laurens County Animal Control.

Section 10-28

Exceptions

Hospitals, clinics and other premises operated by licensed veterinarians for the care & treatment of animals are exempt from the provisions of this article, except where expressly stated.

Section 10-29

Magistrate Jurisdiction:

The magistrate court of the county shall have jurisdiction over all alleged violations of any portion of this article and shall have all powers granted to it which are necessary and incident to the hearing and disposition of matters brought before the court, such powers to include the authority to issue citations and summons for witnesses. The following persons have standing to file complaints for Violations Herein:

- A. Animal Control Officer or Agents.
- B. Other Law Enforcement Officer.
- C. Public Health Officials.
- D. Individuals with personal knowledge of the violation upon filling a sworn complaint with Magistrate Court.