

CHAPTER 30: ANIMALS

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ARTICLE I. IN GENERAL

Section 30-101 Definitions

For the purposes of this chapter the following words shall have the meanings indicated; unless the context clearly indicates a contrary meaning:

1. **Animal.** Any living creature, domestic or wild.
2. **Animal, Dangerous.** Any wild mammal, reptile, or fowl which is not naturally tame or gentle but is of a wild nature or disposition and which, because of its size, vicious nature or other characteristics, would constitute a danger to human life or property if not kept or maintained in a safe manner or in secure quarters; and any domestic mammal, reptile, or fowl which, because of its size, vicious propensity, or other characteristic, would constitute a danger to human life or property, if not kept or maintained in a safe manner or in secure quarters.
3. **At Large.** Off the premises of the owner and not under the control of the owner, a member of his immediate family, or some other person, either by leash, cord, chain, or other holding device.
4. **Livestock.** 'Livestock' means cattle, swine, equines, poultry, sheep, goats, ratites, nontraditional livestock, and ruminants. 'Nontraditional livestock' means the species of Artiodactyla (even-toed ungulates) listed as bison, water buffalo, farmed deer, llamas, and alpacas that are held and possessed legally and in a manner which is not in conflict with the provisions of Chapter 5 of Title 27 dealing with wild animals.
5. **Running At Large or Straying.** Any livestock which is not under manual control of a person and which is on any public road of this city or on any property not belonging to the owner of the livestock, except by permission of the owner of such property.

NOTICE OF NEW LEASH LAW!!
Approved at the August 24, 2009 Council Meeting
City of Bowman
Animal Control Leash Law
Effective Immediately!!

Chapter 30- Code of Ordinances for the City of Bowman

Sec. 6-1. Running at large prohibited; duty of owner or custodian; penalty.

(a) It shall be unlawful for the owner or custodian of any dog or other animal located within the city to fail to keep such dog or any other animal at all times either:

- (1) Confined on the property of such owner or custodian; or
 - (2) On a leash in the custody of a responsible person on the public streets; or
 - (3) In an automobile and in the custody of a person competent by law to drive such automobile;
- or
- (4) Tied or secured while riding in a truck

(b) Any person violating the provisions of subsection (a) of this section shall be punished as provided in section 1-9.

Sec. 6-2. Impoundment; procedure for disposition of impounded animals.

(a) It shall be the duty of the animal control officer to seize and impound all dogs or other animals found running at large within the corporate limits of the city in violation of this chapter. Any dog or other animal seized and impounded shall be detained for a period of 48 hours and, if not claimed and redeemed by the owner or custodian within such period, shall be disposed of in such manner as the animal control officer shall designate; provided, however, that whenever the name of any person appears on the collar of any dog or other animal seized or impounded, pursuant to the provisions of this chapter, such person, owner or custodian shall be notified of such seizure in writing by the animal control officer by a postcard addressed to him at his last known address and deposited in the United States mail. Diligent inquiry shall be made to ascertain the identity of the owner, and such owned dog or other animal shall not be disposed of until five days after the written notice shall have been given.

(b) When the name of the owner or the custodian shall not appear on the collar of the dog or other animal, the animal control officer shall make a reasonable investigation and inquiry to ascertain the owner or custodian of such dog or other animal and shall give such owner or custodian the same notice by postcard as provided in subsection (a) of this section. If such investigation fails to reveal the name of the owner or custodian, then such dog or other animal may be disposed of by the animal control officer after a period of 48 hours as provided in subsection (a) of this section.

(c) Any dog or other animal seized and impounded pursuant to this chapter may be redeemed at any time prior to the disposition of such dog or other animal by the payment of the currently required impoundment fee, plus the daily maintenance fees.

(d) The animal control officer shall keep accurate written records showing the final disposition of all dogs or other animals impounded by him under the provisions of this chapter, which records shall be open and available for inspection by any citizen or officer, or agent of the city.

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Addition to amend definitions Section 30-101

6) **Substantial chain.** Any chain should weigh no more than $\frac{1}{8}$ of the weight of the animal. It should be a minimum of 15 feet in length to tether the animal. The chain cannot be tied to a dog house or tree, but has to be tied to a swivel peg that allows the dog to move about freely.

Section 30-102 Dangerous Animals

It shall be unlawful for any person to permit any dangerous or vicious animal of any kind to run at large in the city. If the animal causes injury to another person who does not provoke the injury, then the owner shall be liable in damages to the person so injured.

The police officers of the city shall be authorized to use such force as is necessary to prevent any such dangerous or vicious animal from causing harm to any person or property.

Section 30-103 Strays

It shall be unlawful for any person to permit any cattle, horses, swine, sheep, goats, poultry, dogs, or cats to run at large in the city. If any such animal is found to be running at large in any public place in the city, it shall be impounded in the manner provided in this chapter.

Section 30-104 Impoundment of Livestock Running At Large

See Section 30-203 of this Chapter.

Section 30-105 Violations

Any animal control officer of the city is authorized to issue and serve citations for appearance before the Municipal Court for violations of any provisions of the animal control sections of the city and/or the "Georgia Animal Protection Act" located in Chapter 11, Title 4 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated.

Section 30-106 Cruelty

It shall be unlawful for anyone to violate the Animal Protection Act as adopted or as amended.

Section 30-107 Dead Animal Disposal Act

It shall be unlawful for any person within the city who owns or is caring for an animal which has died or has been killed to abandon the animal, its parts, or blood. Such person should dispose of the carcass in the manner outlined in Chapter 5, Title 4 of the *O.C.G.A.*

ARTICLE II. DOGS

Section 30-201 Reserved

Section 30-202 Control of Rabies

The governing authority of each municipality is authorized and required, in the control of rabies, to require regulation and/or licensing of animals. No dog shall be kept, harbored or maintained within the city, unless such dog has been inoculated against rabies by the administration of antirabies vaccine, approved by the state Department of Human Resources, and administered by a licensed veterinarian and shall have attached by collar a numbered tag showing such inoculation, in accordance with the regulations of the state Department of Human Resources and in accordance with Title 31, Chapter 19 of the *O.C.G.A.*

Note: Pursuant to *O.C.G.A.* § 31-19-5, felines shall also be inoculated for rabies.

Section 30-203 Impoundment, Disposition of Impounded Animals

1. It shall be the duty of the animal control officer to seize and impound all dogs or other animals found running at large within the corporate city limits in violation of this ordinance. Any dog or other animal seized and impounded shall be detained for a period of seventy-two (72) hours and, if not claimed and redeemed by the owner or custodian within such period, shall be disposed of in such manner as the animal control officer shall designate; provided, however, that whenever the name of any person appears on the

collar of any dog or other animal seized or impounded, pursuant to the provisions of this ordinance such person, owner or custodian shall be notified of such seizures in writing by the animal control officer by a postcard addressed to him at his last known address and deposited in the United States mail. Diligent inquiry shall be made to ascertain the identity of the owner, and such owned dog or other animal shall not be disposed of until five days after the notice shall have been given.

- 2. When the name of the owner or the custodian does not appear on the collar of the dog or other animal, the animal control officer shall make a reasonable investigation and inquiry to ascertain the owner or custodian of such dog or other animal and shall give such owner or custodian the same notice by postcard as provided in subsection (a) of this section. If such investigation fails to reveal the name of the owner or custodian, then such dog or other animal may be disposed of by the animal control officer after a period of seventy-two (72) hours as provided in subsection (1) of this section.
- 3. Any dog or other animal seized and impounded pursuant to this chapter may be redeemed at any time prior to the disposition of such dog or other animal by the payment of the currently required impoundment fee, plus the daily maintenance fees.

Section 30-204 Reserved 

Section 30-205 Reserved

Section 30-206 Cruelty to Dogs

No person shall perform a cruel act on any dog; nor shall any person harm, maim or kill any dog, or attempt to do so except to defend his person or property, or the person or property of another from injury or damage being caused by a dog.

Section 30-207 Dangerous Dog Control Law

Each municipality shall comply with the "Dangerous Dog Control Law" pursuant to *O.C.G.A.* §§ 4-8-20 through 4-8-30.

Section 30-208 Rabies

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 (2) weeks. The owner shall notify the health department of the fact that his dog has been exposed to rabies, and at his discretion the poundkeeper 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 (2) weeks at the expense of the owner.

It shall be unlawful for any person knowing or suspecting a dog to have rabies to allow such dog to be taken off his premises or beyond the limits of the city without the written permission of the health department.

Whenever a dog is ascertained to be rabid, notification of same shall be made to the health department, who shall cause such dog to be removed to the city pound or summarily destroyed.

Section 30-209 Dog Bites

Whenever any dog bites a person, the owner of such dog shall immediately notify the poundkeeper who shall order the dog held on the owner's premises or shall have it impounded at the owner's expense for a period of two (2) weeks. The dog shall be examined immediately after it has bitten anyone and again at the end of the two (2) week period. If at the end of two (2) weeks a veterinarian is convinced that the dog is then free from rabies, the dog shall be released from quarantine or from the pound as the case may be. If the dog should die in the interim, its body shall be sent to a licensed veterinarian for examination for rabies.

City of Bowman

Animal Control Leash Law

Sec. 30-204. Running at large prohibited; duty of owner or custodian; penalty.

(a) It shall be unlawful for the owner or custodian of any dog or other animal located within the city to fail to keep such dog or other animals at all times either:

- (1) Confined on the property of such owner or custodian, in a proper enclosure, substantial chain (see definition in Sec 30-101) , or inside the home; or
- (2) On a leash in the custody of a person 17 years of age or older on the public streets; or
- (3) In an automobile and in the custody of a person competent by law to drive such automobile; or
- (4) Tied or secured while riding in a truck

(b) Any person violating the provisions of subsection (a) of this section shall be fined \$100 for the first violation, \$200 for the second violation, and \$300 for the third violation. If a pet owner is convicted on violating the leash law and it involves a dog previously determined by the City of Bowman Code Enforcement Board to be dangerous, the owner will then be fined \$500 for the first offense and \$1000 thereafter.

(c) Any person fined for violation of this leash law must pay the fine shown on the violation notice at Bowman City Hall prior to the hearing date shown on the violation notice or appear for a hearing before the Code Enforcement Board at the date and time on the violation notice to appeal the violation.

Section 30-210 **Muzzling**

Whenever it becomes necessary to safeguard the public from the dangers of hydrophobia, the Mayor, if he deems it necessary, may 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 in the manner provided in Section 30-204, unless such dog shall be noticeably infected with rabies, in which case it shall be summarily disposed of.