

GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY
ANIMAL CONTROL ORDINANCE
ORDINANCE No. 1

PREAMBLE

The Board of Commissioners of the County of Grand Traverse recognizes that Public Act 339 of 1919, and Public Act 368 of 1978, constitute State Law for the regulation for dogs.

The Board of Commissioners furthermore recognizes that animals require legal protection, that the property rights of owners and non-owners of animals need to be protected, and that the health, safety, and welfare of the people in Grand Traverse County will best be served by adoption of this ordinance.

Section I: Name

This ordinance shall be known and cited as the "Grand Traverse County Animal Control Ordinance, Ordinance No. 1."

Section II: Purpose

The purpose of this ordinance is to establish regulations for the ownership, licensing, and keeping of dogs and other animals in Grand Traverse County.

Section III: Definitions

- A. "1919 Dog Law" shall refer to Public Act 339 of 1919, MCL 287.261 et seq.
- B. "Animal control officer" shall mean any agent of the Health Department Director designated to enforce this ordinance and the 1919 Dog Law.
- C. "Director" shall mean the Health Officer of the Grand Traverse County Health Department or his/her designee.
- D. "Dog kennel" shall mean any establishment which keeps or boards dogs for profit, whether for breeding, sale, or sporting purposes.
- E. "Owner" shall mean any person who has a right of property in an animal, any person who permits an animal on or about his/her premises, or any person who exercises dominion or control over an animal with or without the authority of any person who claims a superior property right in the animal.

Section IV: Regulations

- A. Animal Control Agency Assignment and Responsibility
 1. The Grand Traverse County Board of Commissioners assigns the Grand Traverse County Health Department as the County's Animal Control Agency, and the Health Department's Director shall be responsible for the enforcement of this ordinance and the state laws referenced in the Preamble related to the enforcement of dogs.
 2. This responsibility extends to any animal within Grand Traverse County other than an animal subject to a city or township ordinance adopted pursuant to MCL 287.290.

B. Animal Control Agency Powers and Duties

1. Confinement of Dogs

- a.) The Animal Control Agency shall capture, accept, and confine unlicensed, stray, unwanted, abandoned, and abused dogs.
- b.) The Agency shall provide notice to the owner of a dog displaying a valid license within 48 hours of the dog's confinement.
- c.) The notice shall be sent to the owner's address as provided in the owner's license application.

2. Disposal of Unclaimed Dogs

- a.) Healthy dogs not displaying a valid license, which remain unclaimed after four days of confinement, and dogs displaying a valid license, which remain unclaimed after seven days following notice of confinement, shall be destroyed, or given to agencies approved by the Director.
- b.) Sick or injured dogs may be destroyed at the Director's discretion.
- c.) Voluntarily surrendered dogs may be destroyed at the owner's request.

3. Establishment and Payment of Fees

- a.) The Director shall establish fees for the pickup, processing and boarding of animals. The Director shall review these fees on an annual basis and shall ensure that all fees are charged in accordance with costs incurred by the Animal Control Agency.
- b.) No animal shall be released to any claimant until the fees for capture and confinement are paid.

C. Dog Licenses

1. All dogs must be licensed except:

- a.) A dog under four months of age.
- b.) A dog licensed by another state or county where the dog owner maintains his or her permanent residence.
- c.) Dogs kept in dog kennels licensed pursuant to the dog kennel provisions of this ordinance.

2. The County Treasurer shall issue licenses pursuant to the provisions of the 1919 Dog Law.

3. All dogs must be currently protected by a rabies vaccine at the time the Treasurer issues licenses.

4. The license tag issued by the County Treasurer shall be always worn by each licensed dog at all times.

5. The County Board of Commissioners shall set the license fees from time to time.

D. Owner's Responsibilities. No person shall intentionally, or by failure to exercise due care, allow a dog to run at large, stray, or otherwise be off the owner's premises unless held on leash, subject to the exceptions found at MCL 287.262.

E. Kennels

1. In addition to the kennel license required by MCL 287.270, any person operating a dog kennel shall obtain a kennel health permit from the County Health Department. Each application for a kennel health permit shall be on a form provided by the Health Department and shall set forth the location of the kennel and the maximum number of dogs which may be kept in the kennel.

2. Each kennel shall be inspected prior to the issuance of a kennel health permit, and additional inspections may occur at any time to ensure

- compliance.
3. Each dog kept in the kennel shall be vaccinated for rabies as specified by this ordinance.
 4. The Director shall establish standards consistent with the health and safety of the animals kept in a kennel. Failure to comply with the established standards is a violation of this ordinance and is grounds for revocation of the kennel health permit and kennel license.

Section V: Penalty

- A. Any person violating the provisions of this ordinance shall be subject to a municipal civil infraction violation. Each day that a violation continues is a separate municipal civil infraction violation. Sanctions for each violation shall include a fine of not more than Five Hundred and no/100 Dollars (\$500.00) costs, damages and injunctive orders as authorized by State Statute.
- B. In addition to the imposition of the foregoing fines, penalties, and other legal remedies, the Sheriff's Office, and other officers such as the County Board of Commissioners may designate, with cause the proper posting of numbers, and the cost thereof assessed against the owner of such premises.

Section VI: Miscellaneous

- A. This ordinance shall take effect thirty (30) days after publications as required by law. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with any of the provision of this ordinance are hereby repealed.
- B. The provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared to be severable, and if any clause, sentence, word, section, or provision is declared void or unenforceable for any reason by a court of competent jurisdiction the remaining portions of said ordinance shall remain in force.



Chairperson of the Board of Commissioners
of Grand Traverse County

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