

# DOG AND CAT OWNERSHIP

Every dog or cat older than four (4) months living within the City of Denison needs to be licensed each year. Although this is the law, it also will help your pet be identified and returned to you should it run away.

## HOW TO LICENSE YOUR DOG OR CAT

- 1) Get a copy of your animal's latest rabies vaccination record.
- 2) Come to City Hall (111 North Main) with the copy and pay the fee. (Male and female intact animals are \$20 each. Sterilized – spayed or neutered – animals are \$10 each.)
- 3) You will get a receipt of the license, along with a metal tag for the current year. Keep the receipt in a secure location. Put the tag on your pet's collar, or if it's a house pet without a collar keep the tag in a secure location too.

THANKS FOR LICENSING YOUR PET!!!

Below are excerpts from the City of Denison Code of Ordinances.

### 55.02 LICENSE REQUIRED.

It is unlawful for any person to own, harbor, shelter or keep an unlicensed dog or cat which is four months of age or older.

1. The owner of a dog or cat shall obtain a City dog or cat license from the City Clerk on or before the date said person acquires ownership of the dog or cat or the date when the dog or cat becomes four months of age, whichever occurs first. Thereafter the owner of a dog or cat shall obtain a City dog or cat license from the Clerk on or before January 1 of each year.
2. Upon payment of the license fee and presentation of evidence of rabies vaccination, the City Clerk shall enter a record of the name of the owner, said owner's place of residence and a description of the dog or cat and shall issue to the owner a metal City license tag stamped with the number of the license and the year for which it is issued. The owner of the dog or cat shall securely fasten the City license tag to a collar or harness which shall be worn by the dog or cat for which the license is issued.
3. All City dog or cat licenses shall expire on January 1 of the year following the date of issuance.

### 55.03 LICENSE FEE.

The fee for an annual dog or cat license issued hereunder shall be set by resolution of the City Council. Such fee is listed in the Schedule of Civil Penalties and Fees in the Appendix of this Code of Ordinances. A penalty shall be added to the license fee for each month or part thereof when the license fee is delinquent. The delinquent penalty shall be set by resolution of the Council and is also listed in the Schedule of Civil Penalties and Fees in the Appendix of this Code of Ordinances.

### 55.04 RABIES VACCINATION.

Before a City dog or cat license is issued, the owner must present evidence that the dog or cat has been vaccinated against rabies. Such evidence shall be a certificate of vaccination signed by a licensed veterinarian, and the certificate shall show the vaccination does not expire within six months from the effective date of the license.

### 55.05 ANIMAL NEGLECT.

It is unlawful for a person who impounds or confines, in any place, an animal, excluding livestock, to fail to supply the animal during confinement with a sufficient quantity of food or water, or to fail to provide a confined dog or cat with adequate shelter, or to torture, deprive of necessary sustenance, mutilate, beat, or kill such animal by any means which causes unjustified pain, distress or suffering.

### 55.07 ABANDONMENT OF CATS AND DOGS.

A person who has ownership or custody of a cat or dog shall not abandon the cat or dog, except the person may deliver the cat or dog to another person who will accept ownership and custody or the person may deliver the cat or dog to an animal shelter or pound.

### 55.09 AT LARGE PROHIBITED.

It is unlawful for any owner to allow an animal to run at large within the corporate limits of the City.

### 55.10 DAMAGE OR INTERFERENCE.

It is unlawful for the owner of an animal to allow or permit such animal to pass upon the premises of another, thereby causing damage to or interference with the premises.

### 55.11 ANNOYANCE OR DISTURBANCE.

It is unlawful for the owner of a dog or cat to allow or permit such dog or cat to cause serious annoyance or disturbance to any person by frequent and habitual howling, yelping, whining, caterwauling, wailing, screeching, barking, or otherwise, or by running after or chasing persons, bicycles, automobiles or other vehicles.

### 55.13 OWNER'S DUTY.

It is the duty of the owner of any dog, cat, or other animal which has bitten or attacked a person within the City limits or any person having knowledge of such bite or attack to report this act to a local health or law enforcement official. It is the duty of physicians and veterinarians to report to the local board of health and the Police Department the existence of any animal known or suspected to be suffering from rabies.