

SUMMARY: An ordinance regulating control of rabies in Washoe County.

BILL NO. 495

ORDINANCE NO. 328

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A RABIES CONTROL AUTHORITY; PROVIDING FOR THE VACCINATION OF DOGS AGAINST RABIES; PROVIDING FOR THE DISPOSITION OF BITING ANIMALS OR ANIMALS SUSPECTED OF HAVING RABIES; REGULATING ANIMAL BITE INVESTIGATION TO DETERMINE POSSIBLE RABIES EXPOSURE OF A HUMAN BEING; PROVIDING COORDINATION AND EDUCATION TO ALL ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES WHO ARE ASSISTING IN ENFORCEMENT OF THIS ORDINANCE; REGULATING OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN HIGH RISK WILD ANIMALS; AND OTHER MATTERS PROPERLY RELATING THERETO.

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF WASHOE DO ORDAIN:

SECTION 1. Definitions of terms used in this ordinance.

- A. Cat: The term "cat" shall mean any domestic feline animal, male or female, sexed or neutered.
- B. Dog: The term "dog" shall mean any canine animal, male or female, sexed or neutered.
- C. High Risk Species: The term "high risk species" shall refer to such species as the striped skunk, spotted skunk, raccoon, fox, bat, coyote, bobcat, badger, weasel, and such other high risk transmitters of rabies as may from time to time be defined by the District Health Officer.
- D. Livestock: The term "livestock" shall mean:
- (a) all cattle or animals of the bovine species;
 - (b) all horses, mules, burros and asses or animals of the equine species;
 - (c) all swine or animals of the porcine species;
 - (d) all goats or animals of the caprine species;
 - (e) all poultry or domesticated fowl or birds; and
 - (f) all dogs and cats.
- E. Low Risk Species: The term "low risk species" shall refer to the gopher, mouse, hamster, various squirrels, rat (wild and pet), rabbit (wild and domestic), and all poultry (wild and domestic).
- F. Medium Risk Species: The term "medium risk species" shall refer to the dog and cat.
- G. Own: The term "own", unless otherwise specified, shall mean keep, harbor, or have control, charge, or custody of any animal. This term shall not apply to animals owned by others which are temporarily maintained on the premises of a veterinarian or kennel operator for a period of less than 30 days.

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- H. Owner: The term "owner" shall mean any person keeping, harboring, or having charge or control of, or permitting any animal habitually to be or remain on, or be lodged or fed within, such person's house, yard, or premises. This term shall not apply to veterinarians or kennel operators temporarily maintaining on their premises animals owned by others for a period of less than thirty (30) days.
- I. Proper Authority: The term "proper authority" shall mean Animal Control Officer, Humane Officer, Fish and Game Warden or other law enforcement officer having specific responsibilities in animal control.
- J. Quarantine: The term "quarantine" shall mean placement of a biting animal in isolation at a veterinary hospital, kennel, animal shelter or other approved facility in a manner where the animal can be carefully observed for signs of illness or abnormal behavior.
- K. Rabies Control Authority: The term "rabies control authority" shall mean the District Health Officer or any person or persons so authorized by him and under his supervision.
- L. Stray: The term "stray" shall mean any livestock running at large upon public or private lands in the State of Nevada, whose owner is unknown in the section or place where such animal is found.
- M. Vaccination Against Rabies: The term "vaccination against rabies" shall mean the inoculation of a dog or cat with rabies vaccine licensed by the United States Department of Agriculture and included in the latest compendium of Animal Rabies Vaccines of the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Department of Public Health Service. Such vaccination must be performed by a licensed veterinarian.
- N. Veterinarian: The term "veterinarian" shall mean a member of the profession of veterinary medicine as described in the State of Nevada Veterinary Practice Act, Chapter 638, Nevada Revised Statutes, or as defined by the applicable Veterinary Practice Act, in any state of the United States.

SECTION 2. Rabies Vaccination Required.

Every dog four (4) months of age and older shall be vaccinated against rabies. Young dogs shall be vaccinated within thirty (30) days after they have reached four (4) months of age. Unvaccinated dogs acquired or moved into the County of Washoe must be vaccinated within thirty (30) days after purchase or arrival, unless under four (4) months of age, as specified above.

Every dog shall be revaccinated within the intervals specified in the latest Compendium of Animal Rabies Vaccines referred to under Section 1, "Vaccination Against Rabies".

SECTION 3. Duties of Veterinarian.

It shall be the duty of each veterinarian, at time of vaccinating any dog, to complete a certificate of rabies vaccination in duplicate which shall include the following information:

- A. Owner's name and address;
- B. Description of dog (breed, sex, markings, age, name);
- C. Date of vaccination;
- D. Rabies vaccination tag number;
- E. Type of rabies vaccine administered;
- F. Manufacturer's serial number of vaccine;
- G. Date of expiration of the vaccination as set forth under the "duration of immunity" in the Compendium of Animal Rabies Vaccines referred to in Section 1 herein.

The original of the certificate shall be given to the owner and the copy shall be retained by the issuing veterinarian. The veterinarian and the owner shall retain their copies for the interval between vaccinations specified in Section 2. A metal or durable plastic tag, serially numbered, issued by the veterinarian who has vaccinated the dog, shall be securely attached to the collar of the dog. Whenever a dog is out-of-doors, whether on or off the owner's premises, the collar with the vaccination tag must be worn.

SECTION 4. Vaccination Cost.

The cost of rabies vaccination shall be borne by the owner of the dog.

SECTION 5. Exception of Vaccination Requirement - Transient Dogs.

The provisions of this ordinance with respect to vaccination shall not apply to any dog owned by a person temporarily remaining with the County of Washoe for less than thirty (30) days, or any dog brought into the County of Washoe for field trial or show purposes, nor for hunting dogs in the state for less than thirty (30) days. Such dogs shall be kept under strict supervision of the owner.

SECTION 6. Quarantine of Biting Animals.

- A. When any animal bites a human within the County, the owner of such animal shall immediately place the animal in quarantine, or the Animal Control Officer or any peace officer may seize such animal, whether on or off the owner's premises, and place the animal in quarantine for such period of time as may be ordered by the Rabies Control Authority. The animal to be quarantined shall be placed in confinement with a licensed veterinarian in a veterinary hospital or other place of quarantine approved by the District Health Office, and such quarantine shall be at the owner's expense. Home quarantine may be authorized by the District Health Officer or persons duly authorized under his supervision, under the following conditions: the owner must show a current vaccination certificate against rabies as defined in Section 2; the victim must consent in writing to a home quarantine; and the quarantine holding facilities must be approved for isolating the animal from public contact.
- B. Any animal quarantined shall remain in quarantine for such period of time as the District Health Officer shall order, not to exceed six (6) months,

and such animal shall not be released until a written release is issued by the District Health Officer.

- C. The owner of any animal placed in quarantine shall present to the District Health Officer a written statement executed by a veterinarian that the animal has been examined and found to be free of the signs or symptoms of rabies and has received inoculation against rabies as referred to under Section 2.

SECTION 7. Destruction of Suspected Rabid Animals and Animals Inflicting Bites.

- A. Wildlife, destruction of. All wildlife considered to be in the high risk species as described in Section 1, may be destroyed immediately upon capture or in the process of capture by representatives of the District Health Officer, the Washoe County Animal Control Center, any State of Nevada Fish and Game Warden, or any peace officer in Washoe County, where there is reason to believe such wildlife has bitten a human being or has rabies.
- B. Any other wildlife animal, destruction of. Any other wildlife animal which has no marking, license or other identification showing ownership and upon reasonable and speedy inquiry, if time permits, no owner may be found, may be destroyed immediately upon capture or in the process of capture by representatives of the District Health Officer, the Washoe County Animal Control Center, and State of Nevada Fish and Game Warden, or any peace officer, where there is reason to believe such wildlife has bitten a human being or has rabies.
- C. Dogs, cats, horses, cattle, or other livestock, or wildlife clearly owned by a private party, destruction of:
- (1) All captured dogs, cats, horses, other livestock, or wildlife clearly owned by a private party, may be destroyed immediately by order of the District Health Officer or his representative where there is reason to believe such animal has rabies and has in fact bitten a human being.
 - (2) All dogs, cats, horses, cattle or other livestock, or wildlife clearly owned by a private party, running at large upon public or private roads may be destroyed in the process of capture, when the circumstances reasonably require such destruction to effect capture, by any representative of the District Health Officer, the Washoe County Animal Control Center, any State of Nevada Fish and Game Warden, or any peace officer, where there is reason to believe such animal has rabies or has in fact bitten a human being.
 - (3) It shall be the duty of the District Health Officer and his staff to circulate at least yearly to the director of any enforcement agency designated herein information describing the medically accepted signs of rabies in an animal and to provide current information on rabies control and other pertinent information. The director of any such designated enforcement agency shall take reasonable steps to inform his agents of such signs of rabies.

- D. Disposal of animal captured and disposal of carcasses of destroyed animals. Where an animal has been destroyed, the District Health Officer or his representatives shall make every effort to remove the head intact, and deliver same to the Animal Disease Laboratory of the Nevada State Department of Agriculture for appropriate laboratory examination. The remaining carcass shall be destroyed or buried as prescribed by regulations governing the disposal of pathological wastes.

In the event the animal has not been destroyed upon capture, the animal shall be delivered to such quarantine facility as is designated by the District Health Officer, and there shall be destroyed and the head sent intact for appropriate laboratory examination to the Animal Disease Laboratory of the Nevada State Department of Agriculture. The carcass shall be disposed of as prescribed by regulations governing the disposal of pathological wastes.

In the destruction of any animal, humane measures shall be employed, and in such a manner as to attempt to maintain the head and brain intact.

X SECTION 8. Handling of Animals Exposed to Rabid Animals.

Any animal of a species subject to rabies which has been bitten by a known rabid or suspected rabid animal or has been in intimate contact with a rabid or suspected rabid animal shall be quarantined in a place and manner approved by the District Health Officer for a period of not more than six (6) months or destroyed, except if the dog or cat has been vaccinated against rabies within two (2) years but not less than thirty (30) days with a canine live-virus rabies vaccine or within one (1) year but not less than thirty (30) days with a canine killed virus rabies vaccine of a type approved in the latest compendium of Animal Rabies Vaccines referred to under Section 1, the dog or cat may be revaccinated in a manner prescribed by the Department and quarantined in a place and manner approved by the District Health Officer for a period of ninety (90) days.

SECTION 9. Provision for Enforcement.

To enforce the provisions of this ordinance, authority for the control of rabies shall be delegated to the Washoe County District Health Officer.

SECTION 10. High Risk Wild Animals.

- A. Due to the presence of rabies in skunks, raccoons, foxes, coyotes, bats, bobcats, badgers, weasels, and such other high risk transmitters of rabies as defined by the District Health Officer, no such animal may be intentionally kept, harbored or in any way cared for, maintained or fed on private property in the County of Washoe as pets. Any such animal must be turned over to proper authority within forty-eight (48) hours of the time that the property owner or occupier either knows or should have known of the animal's presence on the property.
- B. Any owner of any such animal who has kept or harbored such animal prior to the enactment of this ordinance

must obtain a certificate to this effect from the District Health Department within ninety (90) days of the enactment of this ordinance and thereupon shall be exempt from Section 10 (A) of this ordinance. No such certificate from the District Health Department shall be issued unless the owner produces a veterinarian's certification of good health. Any high risk wild animal which is kept pursuant to this section must be confined in a humane and proper cage.

SECTION 11. Penalties for Violation of Ordinance.

The owner of any animal who violates any of the provisions of this ordinance, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall pay a fine of not more than \$500.00. Each day that a violation occurs constitutes a separate offense.

SECTION 12. Pound Fees

Impoundment fees shall be borne by the owner. Fees for impoundment at public facilities shall be established by the Poundkeeper upon approval by the Board of County Commissioners of Washoe County.

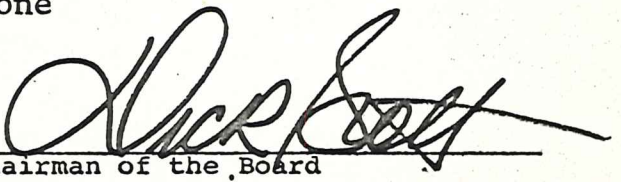
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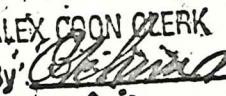
This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage, approval and publication as prescribed by NRS 244.100.

Proposed on the 25th day of August, 1976.
Proposed by Commissioner Scott, Grow, Rusk, Nelson, Gaunt
Passed on the 7th day of September, 1976.

Vote:

Ayes: Commissioners: Scott, Grow, Rusk, Nelson, Gaunt
Nays: Commissioners: None
Absent Commissioners: None


Chairman of the Board

ATTEST:
ALEX COON CLERK
By  CHIEF DEPUTY
County Clerk's Office

This ordinance shall be in force and effect from and after the 23rd day of September, 1976.

ORDINANCE NO. 328

Amended by Ordinance No. 363, Bill No. 532, Item 77-2255