

CHAPTER I
GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section I - Definitions:

- a. Dog: Any domestic or feral canine animal of either sex.
- b. Cat: Any domestic or feral feline animal of either sex
- c. Animal Control Officer(s): Officer(s) designated by the County Commissioners, specially deputized by the Laramie County Sheriff and charged with the responsibility of enforcing the provisions of these regulations.
- d. Animal Detention Facility: Any facility designated by the County Commissioners for the purpose of impounding of animals.
- e. Owner: Shall include, but is not limited to, any person having the care, custody or control of any animal, or the occupant of a dwelling or premise where an animal is kept.
- f. Dog or Cat at Large: A dog or cat off the premises or property of the owner except when said dog is in the immediate accompaniment and control of the owner or some other competent person and obedient to that person's command.
- g. Public Nuisance: Any dog or cat or dogs and cats that: Molest passers-by or passing vehicles; attack other animals; damage private or public property; are an untreated source of disease to animal or man or are otherwise in violation of the terms of W.S. 11-31-301 et seq. or any other applicable law regulation or ordinance, including, but not limited to, the Laramie County Nuisance Ordinances.
- h. Vicious Dog: Any dog that constitutes a physical threat to human beings or other animals, including big game animals and livestock. A dog trained as a guard, sentry, or police dog shall not per se be considered a vicious dog.
- i. Destroyed: Euthanization by methods generally accepted or provided for at law.
- j. Altered: Rendering an animal incapable of reproduction, through spaying, neutering or otherwise making the animal reproductively sterile

CHAPTER II
ENFORCEMENT

Section I. Enforcement Generally: The provisions of these regulations shall be enforced by those people or agencies designated by the Board of County Commissioners. It shall be a violation of these regulations, in addition to any other applicable law, statute or regulation, to interfere with an Animal Control Officer or the County Sheriff or his deputies, or to fail to obey the lawful order of an Animal Control Officer or the County Sheriff or his deputies. The Animal Control Officer(s) are empowered by the Laramie County Sheriff to issue citations for violations of these regulations and other applicable state law or regulation.

Section II. Right of Entry: Animal Control Officers and/or Sheriff Deputies are hereby authorized to enter upon any premises excluding a dwelling unit within the County of Laramie for the express purpose of apprehending and impounding animals.

Section IV. Capture of Animals: Animal Control Officers shall be authorized to use any humane and safe devices needed to capture or restrain dogs or cats at large, dogs or cats that are a public nuisances, or vicious dogs (officers may assist property owners in the humane trapping of unwanted domestic animals).

Section V. Animals Running at Large/ Authority: Animal Control Officers and/or the County Sheriff or his deputies are hereby authorized to shoot a public nuisance or vicious dog, a dog running or injuring big game animals or livestock only in the event that the dog or dogs cannot be safely captured. A dog injuring or killing livestock in violation of W.S. 11-31-107 and W.S. 11-31-301. may be killed by the owner of the livestock or his agent or any peace officer.

Section VI. Animals Running at Large/Authority to Capture Animal: Animal Control Officers and/or the County Sheriff or his deputies are hereby authorized to capture dogs or cats running at large whether at large singly or in a group, and cause the same to be confined in an animal detention facility. Impoundment fees and/or other authorized fines or fees shall be paid by the owner of dogs or cats confined.

Section VII. Animals Running at Large/Unlawful: It shall be unlawful for any owner to allow or permit any dog or cat to be at large as defined in Chapter I or to allow a dog to be in violation of the applicable terms of W.S. 11-31-105 through W.S. 11-31-108 and W.S. 11-31-301. If an animal is found to be at large or in violation of law within the meaning of these regulations the owner shall be presumed to be in violation of these regulations and shall be subject to the penalties provided by W.S. 11-31-301(c) in addition to any other penalties or sanctions provided for at law.

Section VIII. - Owning, Keeping, etc. of Vicious Dogs: No persons shall own, keep, harbor or

allow to be upon any premises occupied by him or under his charge or control, any known vicious dog as defined by law or that may or has manifested a disposition to bite any person. Upon conviction of any person violating this section, the court having jurisdiction may in addition to the punishment provided by W.S. 11-31-301(e) or at law, order any Animal Control Officer or the County Sheriff or his deputies to forthwith cause such animal to be destroyed, and for that purpose any officer charged with such duty shall have the right to enter upon any premises within Laramie County.

Section IX. - Dogs in Heat: Every female dog in heat shall be confined in a building or secured enclosure in such a manner that such female cannot come into contact with another dog, except for planned breeding.

Section X. - Public Nuisance: It shall be unlawful for any owner to allow or permit any dog or cat to attack or attempt to attack any person or passing vehicles, attack other animals, damage private or public property or to permit a dog or cat to become an untreated source of disease to animals or man or to act in violation of the terms of W.S. 11-31-301 or W.S. 11-31- 107. If a dog or cat is found to be a public nuisance within the meaning of this article, the owner shall be subject to the penalties as provided for in Article V of this resolution and any other penalty imposed by applicable law, ordinance or regulation.

CHAPTER III

RABIES CONTROL

Section I - Requirement of Rabies Vaccination: All dogs or cats three months or older shall be vaccinated against rabies, and thereafter at intervals recommended by current veterinary standards. The vaccination certificate shall indicate the date of vaccination, the type of vaccine used and the period of immunization. If a dog or cat is found without a current rabies vaccination tag affixed to its collar or harness, the owner of such dog shall be presumed to have violated the provisions of this article. If upon demand of proof of vaccination of any dog or cat by the Animal Control Officers a valid certificate of vaccination issued by a licensed veterinarian cannot be produced, the owner will be presumed to have violated the provisions of this article.

Section II - Report of Bites/Confinement/Destruction: Any person having knowledge that any animal has bitten a human shall immediately report the incident to the Animal Control Officer or Sheriff's Office together with the name and address of the person or persons bitten if known.

a. The biting animal shall be confined for a period of not less than ten (10) days, the location of confinement shall be determined by the Animal Control Officer. Confinement shall consist of restricting the animal by chain, by caging, or other methods approved by the Animal Control Officer. Animals shall not be vaccinated for rabies during the first ten (10) days of confinement period.

b. No animal held for observation on suspicion of rabies shall be released until the observation period is over and a written release is given by the Animal Control Officer. In the event the animal is not vaccinated against rabies, the animal shall be vaccinated before it is released from confinement.

c. If a dog or cat vaccinated against rabies is exposed to a known rabid animal, the dog shall be re-vaccinated and confined under the supervision of a veterinarian for a period of at least thirty (30) days. The confinement period may be extended if deemed necessary for the protection of human health by the licensed veterinarian. The conditions and method of confinement shall be subject to the discretion of the veterinarian with the concurrence of the animal control officer.

d. If a dog or cat not vaccinated for rabies is exposed to a known rabid animal, the dog or cat shall be destroyed immediately or vaccinated for rabies immediately and confined for a period of not less than six (6) months under the observation procedure prescribed by a veterinarian. All expenses involved in the confinement of a dog or cat in this section shall be responsibility of the owner.

Section III - Animal with Rabies: If rabies is ascertained to be present in a dog or cat or any other animal, the animal shall be immediately destroyed or be subject to such other disposition so as not be a danger to human health as directed by Animal Control with the advice and consent of a licensed veterinarian.

Section IV - Disposition of Dead Rabid Animals: When rabies is diagnosed in an animal under observation for rabies or dies during the observation period, the head of the animal shall be immediately sent to the Wyoming Laboratory or other appropriate laboratory or testing facility for pathological examination.

Section V - Area-Wide Quarantine: The County Commissioners with the recommendation of the County Health Officer may impose a county-wide animal quarantine in the event of a rabies outbreak. The County Commissioners upon the recommendation of the County Health Officer shall designate the animals affected by and subject to the quarantine. No animal so designated shall be allowed in public places or upon public streets during such quarantine. No animal designated may be taken or shipped from or into the quarantined area without approval of the County Health Officer. The Health Officer shall be empowered to provide for a programming of mass immunization of any animals designated by establishment of temporary emergency vaccination clinics during area-wide quarantines.

Section VI - Surrender of Carcass: The carcass of any dog or any other animal suspected of dying with a communicable disease shall upon demand be surrendered to the Animal Control Officer.

CHAPTER IV

REGISTRATION

Section I - The Rabies Tag: The rabies tag, which is provided at the time of rabies vaccination of an animal, shall serve as the registration tag. Such tag shall remain valid for the period of the rabies vaccination. The certificate of vaccination filed with the attending veterinarian shall be used to establish ownership.

- a. The rabies tag shall be worn on a chain or collar attached to the dog or cat when the dog or cat is off the premises of the owner.
- b. Tags are not transferable between dogs or cats.

CHAPTER V

IMPOUNDMENT

Section I - Authority of County to Establish Animal Detention Facility: The County may designate or operate a facility for detention of dogs, and the County may enter into a cooperative agreement with other jurisdictions for the operation of such facility.

Section II - Detention Authorized: Dogs or cats at large, maltreated dogs or cats, vicious and/or public nuisance dogs or cats may be taken by the County Sheriff or his deputies or Animal Control Officers and impounded in an animal detention facility. Animals seriously injured or ill may be destroyed. Exemptions: Dogs or cats at large apprehended by the Animal Control Officer that are wearing a rabies tag or for whom rabies vaccination evidence in accord with Article II Section 1 is presented may be, at the discretion of the Officer, returned directly to the owner without impoundment. The owner of the dog or cat or dogs and cats may be issued a citation for violations of the sections of these regulations or other applicable law or regulation.

Section III - Notice of Impoundment: Actual notice of impoundment of a dog or cat wearing a current registration tag shall be given to the owner thereof in person or by telephone within twenty-four (24) hours of impoundment. When notice cannot be made to the owner within twenty-four (24) hours of impoundment, or when the dog or cat is unidentified, written notice shall be posted at the facility within twelve (12) hours of impoundment, giving a summary description of the dog or cat so held and if an owner is known a notice shall be mailed to the owner at his last known residence.

Section IV - Duration: Impounded, unidentified animals shall be detained at an animal detention facility for a period of not less than forty-eight (48) hours before being disposed of pursuant to this resolution. Identified animals shall be detained in an animal detention facility

for a minimum period of forty-eight (48) hours after actual notice to the owner as provided in this resolution before being disposed of or for a minimum period of ninety-six (96) hours after mailing of notice to an owner to whom actual notice cannot be reasonably made. Any dog or cat suspected of being afflicted with rabies or known to have bitten by a rabid animal shall be detained and disposed of as prescribed by the Animal Control Officer. Time periods between 5:00 p.m. on Friday and 8:00 a.m. on Monday and all legal holidays shall not be counted.

Section V - Release of Detained Dogs or Cats: An owner reclaiming a detained unaltered dog or cat for the first time within a twelve (12) month period shall pay a fee of fifty dollars (\$50.00) plus a daily board fee.

a. An owner reclaiming an unaltered detained dog or cat for each subsequent time within a twelve (12) month period shall pay a fee of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) plus a daily board fee. Reclaiming an altered detained dog or cat requires a payment of a \$30.00 fee. An owner reclaiming a detained dog or cat which was wearing identification shall receive a five dollar (\$5.00) discount from the fee charged.

b. An owner reclaiming a detained dog or cat which does not have a valid registration tag must obtain the tag and present evidence thereof to the person in charge of the animal detention facility or the Animal Control Officer within five (5) days.

c. The owner of a reclaimed dog or cat may, in addition to reclamation and board fees be subject to penalty as provided in these regulations or by other applicable law.

Section VI - Disposition of Unredeemed Dogs or Cats: If any dog or cat is not redeemed from the ~~dog~~ detention facility in the manner and time provided in this resolution, it shall become the property of the County and may be placed up for adoption by the County. The adoption period shall set by the Director of the Animal Shelter. If not placed for adoption, or if not adopted within the required period of time, if not accepted by another agency for adoption, the dog or cat shall be considered the property of the Animal Shelter and may be disposed of or maintained in any manner as directed by the Director of the Animal Shelter.

Section VII - Sterilization: No unclaimed dog or cat shall be released for adoption without being sterilized or, in lieu thereof, the adopter may place a cash deposit of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) with the adopting agency to be refunded upon presentation of proof of sterilization.

CHAPTER VI

GENERAL PENALTIES

Section I. Violation Constitutes Misdemeanor: It shall be unlawful for any person to violate any of the provisions of these regulations. Punishments for violations of these regulations shall be as provided for, but not limited to, the sanctions enumerated in W.S. 11-31-104, 11-31-108 and 11-31-301. Punishment for violations of this ordinance not otherwise delineated by statute are punishable by a fine not to exceed seven hundred and fifty dollars (\$750.00) pursuant to W.S. 18-5-204, 206.

CHAPTER VII

ESTABLISHMENT OF RABIES CONTROL DISTRICT

Section I. District Established: These regulations are established pursuant to the authority of Wyoming Statutes §§11-31-212, §11-31-213, § 11-31-214, §11-31-301 18-5-201 et seq., 18-2-101, 18-3-504, 18-5-101 and 201 et seq. The Board of Laramie County Commissioners, pursuant to W.S. 11-31-212 hereby designates the boundaries of the Laramie County Rabies Control District subject to the applicable regulations herein to be those of Laramie County as defined by Wyoming Statute §18-1-101. Further, the Board of Laramie County Commissioners, pursuant to W.S. § 11-31-301(j) hereby establishes an animal control district encompassing all the unincorporated area of Laramie County and provide and allow for cooperation with municipalities within Laramie County in joint animal control programs.

CHAPTER VIII

GENERAL LEGAL PROVISIONS

Section I. Interpretation, Conflict and Separability: In their interpretation and application the provisions of these regulations shall be held to be the *minimum* requirements for the promotion of the public health, safety and general welfare of the county.

Section II. Conflicts: These regulations are not intended to interfere with, abrogate, modify, restrict or in any way annul or replace, unless otherwise expressly specified herein, any other ordinance, rule or regulation, code, obligation under or provision of any law, statute, regulation, ordinance or code. Where any provisions of these regulations impose restrictions different from those imposed by any other provision of these regulations or any other ordinance, statute, law, regulation or code whichever provisions are more restrictive or impose higher

standards shall control.

Section III. Separability: If any part or provision of these regulations or application thereof to any person or circumstance is adjudged invalid in any court of competent jurisdiction, such judgement shall be confined in its operation to the part, provision or application directly involved in the controversy in which judgement shall have been rendered and shall not affect or impair the validity of the remainder of these regulations or the application thereof to other persons or circumstances. The Laramie County Board of County Commissioners hereby declares that it would have enacted the remainder of these regulations even without any such part, provision or application.

Section IV. Saving Provision: These regulations shall not be construed as abating any action now pending under, or by virtue of any prior existing regulations, ordinance, law, statute or code or as discontinuing abating, modifying or altering any penalty accruing or about to accrue, or as affecting the liability of any person, firm or corporation, or as waiving any rights of Laramie County under any section of any applicable ordinance, statute, law, regulation or code except as shall be expressly provided for in these regulations.

Section V. Amendments: For the purpose of providing for the public health, safety and general welfare, the Board of Commissioners of Laramie County may amend, modify or add to the provisions of these regulations. Public hearings on all such amendments shall be held by the Laramie County Commissioners on all proposed amendments as prescribed by law.

Section VI. Authority: These regulations are enacted pursuant to the powers delegated to the Board of Commissioners of Laramie County in accordance with Wyoming Statutes §§ §11-31-212, §11-31-213, § 11-31-214, §11-31-301 18-5-201 et seq., 18-2-101, 18-3-504, 18-5-101 and 201 et seq. and as an exercise of the valid powers delegated by the State of Wyoming to Laramie County.

Section VII. Sovereign Immunity: By the issuance of these regulations or in taking action with regard to their provisions Laramie County does not waive its Governmental Immunity and it fully retains all immunities and defenses provided by law with regard to any action based on these regulations. Nor does Laramie County surrender its sovereign immunity under contract, tort or any other applicable theory of law by issuing or taking action in regard to these regulations.

Section VIII. Additional remedies : In addition to the provisions for enforcement of these regulations contained herein a failure to comply with these regulations or applicable law may result in the implementation of any and all available legal remedies by Laramie County, including, but not limited to, criminal prosecution or an action for injunction, mandamus or other appropriate action or proceeding to remedy the violation or condition. Nothing in these regulations shall be construed to require issuance of a warning prior to Laramie County proceeding in any other manner to correct the violation or condition of these regulations or applicable law.

DATED this ____ day of _____, 2004.

BOARD OF LARAMIE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Jack Knudson, Chairman

ATTEST:

Debra K. Lathrop, Laramie County Clerk

Reviewed and approved as to form only:

Mark Voss, Deputy Laramie County Attorney