

# CHAPTER 7 - ANIMAL CONTROL

## Article 7-1 RULES AND REGULATIONS

Section 7-1-1	Definitions
Section 7-1-2	Enforcement of Chapter
Section 7-1-3	Cruelty
Section 7-1-4	Noises; Offensive Odors; Limits on Numbers of Dogs or Cats
Section 7-1-5	Livestock
Section 7-1-6	Dangerous Animals
Section 7-1-7	Strays; Housing, Limitations
Section 7-1-8	Swine Prohibited
Section 7-1-9	Chickens, Ducks, Geese, Turkeys, Rabbits and Pigeons
Section 7-1-10	Destruction of Injured Dogs and Other Animals
Section 7-1-11	Diseased Animals
Section 7-1-12	Kennel and/or Cattery Unlawful within the City
Section 7-1-13	Areas Zoned Areas for Livestock-Conditions
Section 7-1-14	Dog Waste Removal; Exceptions; Sanctions

### Section 7-1-1 Definitions

In this Chapter unless the context otherwise requires:

- A. Animal: When used within the provisions of this Chapter shall mean dogs, cats, livestock and any animal of a species that is susceptible to rabies, except man.
- B. Animal Control Authority: Shall consist of the Gila County Enforcement Agent, the Animal Control Officer, Chief of Police, any City Police Officer, or such other person designated by the City Council.
- C. Animal Control Officer: Means the person appointed or employed by the City as its enforcement officer, the Gila County Enforcement Agent, or any member of the City Police Department.
- D. Animal Shelter: Means the Gila County Animal Shelter or “county pound” as that term is defined by A.R.S. 11-1001, or any other premises designated by the Council for the purpose of impounding and caring for all animals impounded pursuant to this Chapter.
- E. At Large: Means off the premises of the owner, and being neither confined by an enclosure nor physically restrained by a leash.
- F. Cattery: Means a residence, building, structure or other enclosed or controlled area in which a person keeps, harbors or maintains four (4) or more cats which are over four (4) months of age.

- G. County Enforcement Agent: means the person designated pursuant to A.R.S. 11-1001.
- H. Dangerous or Vicious Animal: Any animal which has attacked or bitten any human being, has a propensity to attack, to bite, cause injury or otherwise endanger the safety of human beings or other animals without provocation or which has been previously found to be a vicious animal by a Court of competent authority.
- I. Exposed to Rabies: Means an animal if it has been bitten by, or been exposed to, any animal known to have been infected with rabies.
- J. Fowl: Means chicken, cock, hen, duck, goose, peafowl, or other generally accepted domesticated commercial bird.
- K. Kennel: Means a residence building, structure, fenced, enclosed or controlled area, in which a person keeps, harbors or maintains four (4) or more dogs which are over four months of age.
- L. Livestock: Means neat animals, horses, sheep, goats, swine, mules, or asses.
- M. Owner: Means any person, group of persons or corporations owning, keeping, possessing, maintaining, or harboring a dog or dogs or other animals.
- N. Restraint: Means physically restrained by a leash.
- O. Stray Dog or Cat: Means any dog or cat four months of age or older running at large that is not wearing a valid license tag.
- P. Vaccination: Means the administration of an approved anti-rabies vaccine to animals by a veterinarian.
- Q. Wild Animals: Animals which are normally found in a state of nature as further defined by A.R.S. 17-101 (A) 21 and (22), as amended from time to time.

### **Section 7-1-2 Enforcement of Chapter**

The provisions of this Chapter shall be enforced by the Animal Control Authority as defined above. The Animal Control Authority and the City Attorney may file complaints for enforcement of this Article or for the collection of any monies due the City under this Chapter.

### **Section 7-1-3 Cruelty**

It is unlawful for any person to cruelly treat any animal in the City in any way. Any person who inhumanely beats, fails to adequately feed or water, overloads, fails to

provide shelter, abandons or who subjects any animal to temperatures in the extremes shall be deemed guilty of a violation of this Section.

**Section 7-1-4 Noises; Offensive Odors; Limits on Numbers of Dogs or Cats**

- A. It is unlawful for any person to:
  - 1. Harbor, possess, maintain or keep any animal which disturbs the peace of any person at any time of the day or night by barking, whining, howling or by making any similar objectionable noise in an excessive, continuous or untimely fashion.
  - 2. Possess, maintain or keep any animal or animals on any premises in a manner which results in offensive odors being emitted or an unsanitary condition being created or maintained.
- B. Within the corporate limits of the City, it shall be unlawful for any person to harbor, maintain, house or keep at any one time, more than three (3) dogs over four (4) months of age or more than three (3) cats which are over four (4) months of age.

**Section 7-1-5 Livestock**

- A. It is unlawful to permit any livestock or fowl within the City limits except as authorized under this Code.
- B. It is unlawful to picket or tie any animal in the streets of the City for the purpose of grazing and feeding.

**Section 7-1-6 Dangerous Animals**

- A. It is unlawful to permit a dangerous or vicious animal of any kind to run at large within the City limits. Any such animals may be immediately impounded.
- B. Where Animal Control Officers have reasonable cause to believe that an animal is dangerous or vicious and may cause immediate physical injury if allowed to escape, they may make application to the Magistrate Court for an ex parte order to impound the animal provided that a civil hearing is set within five (5) working Court days.
- C. Upon complaint of any person and after notice to the owner and a civil hearing, the City Magistrate (or any judge having authority to hear the matter) may determine that an animal is dangerous or vicious. In the event that an animal is off the premises of the owner and bites a human being breaking the skin, there shall be a rebuttable presumption that the animal is dangerous or vicious and shall be destroyed absent sufficient mitigating circumstances set forth on the

record. If an animal is determined to be dangerous or vicious, the Court may order one or more of the following:

1. The destruction of said animal.
  2. That such animal be confined within a building or secure enclosure.
  3. That such animal be securely muzzled or caged at all times.
- D. The Animal Control Officer is authorized to destroy a dangerous animal of any kind, upon an order from the City Magistrate, or when it is necessary for the protection of any person or property, when in their judgment the animal is:
1. Dangerous or vicious; and/or
  2. Cannot be safely impounded.

#### **Section 7-1-7 Strays; Housing; Limitations**

- A. Any person who otherwise lawfully keeps or causes to be kept any horses, mules, cattle, burros, goats, sheep or other livestock or fowl shall keep such livestock or fowl in a pen or similar enclosure to prevent their roaming at large within the corporate limits of the City. Any such livestock or fowl running at large shall be impounded as provided in this Chapter.<sup>1</sup>
- B. It is unlawful to cause or allow any stable, residence or place where any animal is or may be kept to become unclean or unwholesome. Any residence, property or premises upon which animals are otherwise lawfully kept shall always be sanitary and free from offensive odors and subject to inspection and regulations.
- C. It is further unlawful to keep or maintain any animal enclosure or any coop, house, stable, fowl house, geese, turkey, pigeon shed, rabbit hutch, or other structure defined in this Section to be located within one hundred (100) feet of the dwelling house of any person or persons.

#### **Section 7-1-8 Swine Prohibited**

It is unlawful to keep any live swine or pigs within the corporate limits of the City.

#### **Section 7-1-9 Chickens, Ducks, Geese, Turkeys, Rabbits and Pigeons**

It is unlawful for any person to keep any chickens, ducks, geese, turkeys, rabbits or pigeons within the corporate limits of the City, except where specifically allowed under this Code, and only then where they are securely housed or cooped so as to prevent them from being at large.

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<sup>1</sup> **Editor's Notes:** State law reference A.R.S. 9-240(B) 16

**Section 7-1-10 Destruction of Injured Dogs and Other Animals**

Any animal which is suffering from serious injuries and is in great pain and probably would not recover, or which has evidence of any infectious disease which is a danger to other animals or to humans, may be destroyed by the Animal Control Officer, or any member of the police department, after reasonable efforts under the circumstances to notify the owner, if any, have failed.

**Section 7-1-11 Diseased Animals**

- A. It is unlawful to allow any domestic animal afflicted with a contagious or infectious disease to be exposed in any public place whereby the health of man or beast may be affected. It is unlawful for such diseased animal to be shipped or removed from the premises of the owner thereof, except under the supervision of the Animal Control Officer.
- B. It is hereby made the duty of the Animal Control Officer to secure such disposition of any diseased animal and such treatment of affected premises as to prevent the communication and spread of the contagion or infection, except in the cases where the State Health Department Officer or the State Veterinarian have authority under the laws of the State of Arizona.

**Section 7-1-12 Kennel and/or Cattery Unlawful within the City**

- A. It shall be unlawful to operate, maintain or establish a kennel or cattery, as defined in this Article, within the corporate limits of the City.
- B. It shall be presumed that a person is operating, maintaining or establishing a kennel or cattery if he/she has present on the premises, at one time, four (4) or more dogs over four (4) months old or four (4) or more cats over four (4) months old.
- C. Veterinarians operating a licensed clinic, pet stores, authorized circuses, or other humane facilities shall be exempt from the provisions of this Section,

**Section 7-1-13 Areas Zoned for Livestock - Conditions**

- A. Where otherwise lawful within certain zoning districts as provided in this Code to keep livestock, fowl, or rodents, the land on which said animals are kept or maintained shall not be less than one (1) acre and the authorization to keep and maintain said animals shall be specifically conditioned upon full compliance with the following:
  - 1. There shall be no more than two (2) horses and/or three (3) other head of livestock maintained on the property for the first one (1) acre of land and

no more than two (2) additional head for each additional one-half (1/2) acre of land owned and operated by the person keeping and maintaining said livestock.

2. No fowl, rodents, or livestock shall be cooped, stabled, or confined in any building within one hundred (100) feet from any residence, dining, or sleeping quarters which may be situated on adjacent land, and all such animals shall be kept in suitable enclosures and shall not be permitted to run at large. All such enclosures shall be maintained at all times in a clean and sanitary condition.
3. All animals allowed to be maintained within a zoning district shall be kept and maintained in such a manner as to not disturb the peace, comfort, and health of any other person residing in the City. It shall be a violation of this Section where offensive or foul odors or noise are emitted beyond the property boundaries of the premises on which the animals are maintained.
4. If newly annexed property is actually utilized for maintaining livestock at the time of annexation, such use may continue as a non-conforming use until terminated under the provisions of the Zoning Code.

**Section 7-1-14     Dog Waste Removal; Exceptions; Sanctions**

- A. It shall be a civil violation for the owner or person having custody of any dog to fail immediately to remove and dispose of in a sanitary manner any solid waste deposited by the dog on public property or on private property without the consent of the person in control of the property.
- B. It shall be a civil violation for the owner, proprietor, agent or occupant of any premises where dogs are kept to deposit, cause to be deposited or allow to accumulate, within or about the premises, any solid wastes from dogs for a period of time longer than 72 hours. This paragraph applies to private property, including property owned, leased or controlled by the owner of the dog.
- C. Paragraph A shall not apply to blind persons, persons with mobility disabilities, or police officers or other law enforcement officers accompanied by police dogs while on emergency.
- D. Any individual who receives notice of violation and fails to appear at the hearing time designated in the notice, or at the time designated for hearing by the court, shall be deemed to have admitted the allegations of the complaint, and the court shall enter judgment for the City and impose a civil sanction in accordance with the provisions of Section 1-5-1(A).

## **Article 7-2 IMPOUNDING GENERALLY**

Section 7-2-1	Scope of Article
Section 7-2-2	Impounding of Wild and Farm Animals at Large
Section 7-2-3	Animal Traps
Section 7-2-4	Notice to Owners of Impoundment
Section 7-2-5	Report of Impounded Animals
Section 7-2-6	Conditions and Duration of Impoundment
Section 7-2-7	Impeding Animal Control Officer
Section 7-2-8	Biting Animals

### **Section 7-2-1 Scope of Article**

The provisions of this Article shall apply to the impoundment of any and all animals, except dogs and cats. The intent of this Article is to regulate the impoundment of wild and farm animals.

### **Section 7-2-2 Impounding of Wild and Farm Animals at Large**

It shall be the duty of the Animal Control Officer, assisted by the police as may be required, to stabilize the situation when animals, other than dogs or cats, are found at large, except where lawfully under the charge, care or control of a person. Appropriate county, state or federal agencies with jurisdiction shall be immediately notified.

### **Section 7-2-3 Animal Traps**

The Animal Control Authority may set cat and dog traps to catch strays upon reasonable request of City property owners. The Animal Control Officer shall only impound animals from traps set by the Animal Control Officer. Traps will not be set for wild animals unless there is a specific rabies exposure from that animal. Citizens that set animal traps are required to dispose of the animals they catch as instructed by the appropriate county, state or federal agency with jurisdiction.

### **Section 7-2-4 Notice to Owners of Impoundment**

If the owner of any impounded animal is known to the Animal Control Officer and resides or has a known place of business in the City, the Animal Control Officer shall notify the owner personally or by written notice within twenty-four (24) hours after such animal has been taken up and/or impounded. The notice shall contain a description of the animal, where impounded, and shall state that unless reclaimed the animal will be sold, placed for adoption, or destroyed as provided by law.

### **Section 7-2-5 Report of Impounded Animals**

The Animal Control Officer shall, within twenty-four hours (24) after taking and impounding any animal, make a report to the Police Department stating the kind of

animal and describing it by color, marks, or brands or otherwise, where the animal is impounded and when the animal was taken up and impounded.

#### **Section 7-2-6 Conditions and Duration of Impoundment**

The Animal Control Officer may take an animal impounded under this Article to the agency having jurisdiction, or to any other place designated by the City Manager, who shall keep same in accordance with law. The duration of impoundment shall not be less than three (3) days, unless sooner claimed by the owner and the impound charges are paid therefore.

#### **Section 7-2-7 Impeding Animal Control Officer**

It is unlawful for any person to, in any manner, intervene, impede, prevent, obstruct or intimidate the Animal Control Officer or any of his/her deputies or City Police in the discharge of their duties in taking up or attempting to take up and impound any and all animals which it shall be their duty to impound under the provisions of this Chapter, or who shall rescue or attempt to rescue any animal so taken up or to release any animal so impounded

#### **Section 7-2-8 Biting Animals**

Whenever any animal bites a person, the person so bitten and the owner of the animal shall immediately notify the County Enforcement Agent, or any member of the Police Department who shall immediately turn the case over to the County Enforcement Agent as provided by law.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> **Editor's Notes:** State law reference: See, A.R.S. 11-1003

**Article 7-3 RABIES CONTROL- IMPOUNDMENT AND DISPOSAL OF DOGS AND CATS**

- Section 7-3-1 Rabies Control - Compliance with State Law
- Section 7-3-2 Dogs or Cats "At Large" Prohibited
- Section 7-3-3 Impoundment of Dogs and Cats and Disposal
- Section 7-3-4 Redemption of Impounded Dogs, Cats or Other Animals
- Section 7-3-5 Confinement of Certain Dogs and Other Animals
- Section 7-3-6 Rabies Control - Animal Bites
- Section 7-3-7 Reports of Bite Cases
- Section 7-3-8 Responsibilities of Veterinarians
- Section 7-3-9 Exemptions
- Section 7-3-10 Investigation

**Section 7-3-1 Rabies Control - Compliance with State Law**

For purposes of rabies control, it shall be the policy of the City to assist the County Enforcement Agent in carrying out his/her obligations under State law. The provisions of this Chapter shall only be interpreted as an effort to provide that assistance rather than as a substitute for the provisions of State law.

**Section 7-3-2 Dogs or Cats "At Large" Prohibited**

- A. No person owning, keeping, possessing, harboring or maintaining a dog or cat shall allow such dog or cat to be at large. A dog or cat is not deemed to be at large:
  - 1. While such dog or cat is actively engaged in obedience training, accompanied by and under the control of his/her owner or trainer in a training school which has been approved by the City Animal Control Officer.
  - 2. While such dog is being exhibited at an American Kennel Club approved show, or similar authorized and organized show.
  - 3. While such dog is engaged in races approved by Arizona Racing Commission.
  - 4. While such dog is within a City authorized dog park.
- B. The Animal Control Officer shall apprehend any dog or cat running at large contrary to the provisions of this Section.<sup>3</sup>

**Section 7-3-3 Impoundment of Dogs and Cats and Disposal**

- A. Cats running at large shall be taken by the Animal Control Officer and impounded

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<sup>3</sup> **Editor's Notes:** A.R.S. 9-240(B) 16

in the shelter designated as the City Animal Shelter or County Animal Shelter, and there to be confined in a humane manner for a period of not less than three (3) days, and may be thereafter disposed of in a humane manner if not claimed by their owners. Cats not claimed by their owners before the expiration of three (3) days shall become the property of the Animal Control Authority and may be disposed of at the discretion of said Authority.

- B. Any "stray" dog, as defined in Section 7-1-1, shall be delivered to the County Enforcement Agent established pursuant to the provisions of State law. The impounding or disposal of such strays shall be as prescribed by State law.<sup>4</sup>
- C. If the dog found at large has current county license and tags on it, the Animal Control Officer shall identify the owner from public records and shall deliver the animal to the owner, if possible, and cite the owner for a violation of this Article or state law.
- D. Animals other than dogs and cats shall be impounded when found running at large within the City limits and disposed of in accordance with the provisions of Article 7-2 of this Code.

#### **Section 7-3-4 Redemption of Impounded Dogs, Cats or Other Animals**

- A. Any animal impounded by the City under the provisions of this Chapter may be reclaimed by the owner upon the payment of fees, penalties and costs incurred as established by the applicable Animal Control Authority. The release of stray dogs shall be as determined by the county enforcement agency pursuant to State law.
- B. Any animal, other than a dog or cat, impounded under the provisions of this Chapter and not reclaimed by its owner within three (3) days may be humanely destroyed by a veterinarian, Animal Control Officer or placed in the custody of some person deemed to be a responsible and suitable owner, who will agree to comply with the provisions of this Chapter and such other regulations as shall be fixed by the City. If the animal is one as to which the respective rights of the owner and the person in possession or custody are determined by State law, such law shall be complied with in full.

#### **Section 7-3-5 Confinement of Certain Dogs and Other Animals**

- A. The owner shall confine, within a building or secure enclosure, every fierce, dangerous or vicious dog, and shall not take or allow such dog out of such building or secure enclosure unless such dog is securely muzzled. A sign must be posted in a conspicuous place at the entrance to the premises advising the public of the dangerous or vicious nature of the dog maintained therein.

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<sup>4</sup> **Editor's Notes:** State law reference: See, inter alia, A.R.S. 11-1013

- B. Every female dog or cat in heat shall be kept confined on the property of the owner or in a veterinary hospital, boarding kennel, in such a manner that such female dog or cat cannot come in contact with another animal, except for intentional breeding purposes.
- C. No wild animal may be kept within the City limits, except under such conditions as shall be fixed by the City and governmental entity with jurisdiction over said animal pursuant to the provisions of State law.
- D. Any animal described in Subsection (c) found at large shall be impounded by the Animal Control Officer and may not be redeemed by the owner unless such redemption is authorized by a Court having jurisdiction.
- E. When in the judgment of a licensed veterinarian or the Animal Control Officer an animal should be destroyed for humane reasons, such animal may not be redeemed.

**Section 7-3-6 Rabies Control - Animal Bites**

- A. Every animal which bites a person shall promptly be reported to the County Enforcement Agent and Animal Control Officer as required by State law. Treatment and confinement of said animal shall be as provided by State law.
- B. Upon demand made by the County Enforcement Agent, the Animal Control Officer or the police, the owner shall forthwith surrender any animal which has, or is suspected of having bitten a human, or which is suspected of having been exposed to rabies, for supervised quarantine. The expense shall be borne by the owner, and the animal may be reclaimed by the owner if adjudged free of rabies, upon payment of all cost and fees incurred or charged by Gila County. The animal may be quarantined at the owner's residence with proof of proper vaccination and approval of the County Enforcement Agent.
- C. The Animal Control Officer may assist the County Enforcement Agent in enforcement of State law.<sup>5</sup>

**Section 7-3-7 Reports of Bite Cases**

It shall be the duty of every physician or other practitioner to immediately report to the County Enforcement Agent or Animal Control Officer the names and addresses of persons treated for bites inflicted by animals, together with such other information as will be helpful in rabies control.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> **Editor's Notes:** State law reference: See, A.R.S. 11-1014; 11-1003

<sup>6</sup> **Editor's Notes:** State law reference: A.R.S. 11-1014

### **Section 7-3-8 Responsibilities of Veterinarians**

It shall be the duty of every licensed veterinarian to report to the Animal Control Officer his/her diagnosis of any animal observed by him/her as a rabies suspect.

### **Section 7-3-9 Exemptions**

Hospitals, clinics and other premises operated by licensed veterinarians for the care and treatment of animals are exempt from the provisions of this Chapter, except where such duties are expressly stated.

### **Section 7-3-10 Investigation**

Solely for the purpose of discharging the duties imposed by this Chapter and the enforcement of its provisions, the Animal Control Officer or any Police Officer is empowered to enter upon any premises upon which a dog is kept or harbored and to demand the exhibition of the license for such dog and to examine the animal.

## **Article 7-4 KEEPING OF BEES**

- Section 7-4-1 Unlawful Keeping, Permission of Adjoining Property
- Section 7-4-2 Limitations on Number of Hives
- Section 7-4-3 Location of Hives
- Section 7-4-4 Supplies of Water and Other Nutrients
- Section 7-4-5 City Liability
- Section 7-4-6 License Required

### **Section 7-4-1 Unlawful Keeping, Permission of Adjoining Property**

It is unlawful for any person or entity to keep bees on any lot or parcel of land consisting of less than forty (40) thousand square feet in area. It is unlawful for any person or entity to keep bees on any lot or parcel of land consisting of more than forty (40) thousand square feet of area without first obtaining written permission consenting to the keeping of bees on such lot or parcel from all of the lawful occupants and the lawful owners of adjoining lots or parcels of land which are contiguous to the said lot or parcel. Those desiring to keep bees on a parcel or lot greater than forty (40) thousand square feet in area shall first obtain the prior written consent of seventy-five (75%) percent of the lawful occupants and owners of the lots or parcels of land within three hundred (300) feet of the proposed bee parcel and obtain a license as provided in this Article.

### **Section 7-4-2 Limitations on Number of Hives**

It is unlawful for any person to keep or maintain more than one (1) hive or colony of bees for each two thousand (2,000) square feet of area within any lot or parcel of land upon which bees may be lawfully kept or maintained within the City. However, no more than four (4) hives or colonies will be allowed for each square mile of land area within the City limits. A hive or colony as defined in this Article shall be the prevailing size of hives currently used within the honey industry.

### **Section 7-4-3 Location of Hives**

Any hives or colonies of bees being kept or maintained should be located as far as possible from all exterior property boundaries but in no case shall any hive or colony of bees be kept or maintained within thirty (30) feet of any boundary line of the lot or parcel upon which the bees are kept.

### **Section 7-4-4 Supplies of Water and Other Nutrients**

Any person keeping or maintaining bees within the City shall provide a constant and easily accessible supply of water or other nutrients of sufficient quantity to meet the needs of all bees being maintained or kept.

### **Section 7-4-5 City Liability**

The City shall have no liability or responsibility for the keeping of bees within the City limits.

### **Section 7-4-6 License Required**

- A. Prior to the keeping of bees, a City beekeeping license shall be secured from the City which shall establish a public record containing the following information:
  - 1. Facts and exhibits to show full compliance with all requirements of Section 7-4-1 of this Article and all applicable provisions of State law.
  - 2. The dimensions of the lot or parcel.
  - 3. The exact location of the hive or hives.
  - 4. The local person or entity responsible for the bees together with a current address and telephone number.
- B. The license fee shall be established by Council resolution.
- C. The license shall be renewable annually. The renewal shall include verification by the beekeeper of the requisite neighboring property owners' consent and compliance with all other provisions of this Article.

## **Article 7-5 PENALTIES**

### Section 7-5-1 Penalties

#### **Section 7-5-1 Penalties**

- A. Any person, owner, corporation or business found to have violated any provisions of this Chapter 7 shall be cited for a civil violation and shall be punished as provided in Section 1-5-1(A) of this Code.
- B. Each day a violation continues shall be a separate offense punishable as hereinabove described.
- C. In determining the "owner" of the subject animal, the man and/or woman having control of the premises upon which the animal is possessed, harbored or maintained, shall also be responsible for the provisions of this Chapter and may be cited and punished jointly and severally with any other owner.
- D. Should it be determined that the subject animal belongs to a minor under the age of eighteen (18) years, then the parents or adult owner of the premises upon which the animal is kept, possessed, harbored or maintained shall be responsible for the provisions of this Chapter and may be cited and punished for violation thereof.