

CHAPTER 32 ANIMAL CONTROL

[HISTORY: Adopted by the Commissioners (now Town Council) of the Town of Denton as indicated in article histories. Amendments noted where applicable.]

ARTICLE I County Animal Control Standards

[Adopted 11-3-1986 by Res. No. 354]

§ 32-1 Enforcement of county ordinance in Town.

The Commissioners of Caroline County be and they are hereby requested and authorized to administer and enforce the Caroline County Animal Control Ordinance, as amended from time to time, for animals located within the boundaries of Denton, and any future extensions thereof.

Editor's Note: The Caroline County Animal Control Ordinance is designated as Ch. 78 of the Code of Caroline County, Maryland. See also Art. III of this chapter.

§ 32-2 Enforcement of Town legislation by county.

The Commissioners of Caroline County are also empowered to administer Article II, Care of Animals, of this chapter, as amended from time to time.

ARTICLE II Care Of Animals

[Adopted 7-10-1978 as Ord. No. 172]

§ 32-3 Definitions.

As used in this article, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

ANIMAL

Any live, vertebrate creature, domestic or wild.

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

The person designated by the Town Council of Denton as a law enforcement officer qualified to perform the duties under this article.

ANIMAL SHELTER

Any facility operated by a humane society, or municipal agency, or its authorized agents for the purposes of impounding or caring for animals held under the authority of this article.

OWNER

Any person, partnership or corporation owning, keeping or harboring one or more animals. An animal shall be deemed to be harbored if it is fed or sheltered for three consecutive days or more.

PUBLIC NUISANCE

Any animal or animals which:

- A. Molest passersby or passing vehicles.
- B. Attack other animals.
- C. Trespass on school grounds.
- D. Are repeatedly at large.
- E. Damage private or public property.
- F. Bark, whine or howls in an excessive, continuous or untimely fashion.

RESTRAINT

Any animal secured by a leash or lead or under the control of a responsible person and obedient to that person's commands or within the real property limits of its owner.

§ 32-4 Licensing.

- A. Any person owning, keeping, harboring or having custody of any animal over three months of age within this municipality may obtain a license as herein provided. This provision may not apply to keeping of small caged birds or aquatic and amphibian animals solely as pets.
- B. Written application for licenses shall be made to the Municipal Office which shall include the name and address of applicant, a description of the animal, the appropriate fee and rabies certificate issued by a licensed veterinarian or antirabies clinic.
- C. Upon acceptance of the license application and fee, the Municipal Office shall issue a durable tag or identification collar stamped with an identifying number.

- D. The Municipal Office shall maintain a record of the identifying numbers of all tags issued and shall make this record available to the public.
- E. The licensing period shall be indefinite. Persons applying for a license shall be required to pay a fee of \$5 per animal.
- F. A duplicate license may be obtained upon payment of a replacement fee of \$2.
- G. No person may use any license for any animal other than the animal for which it was issued.

§ 32-5 Restraint and control of animals.

- A. All animals shall be kept under restraint.
- B. No owner shall fail to exercise proper care and control of his animals to prevent them from becoming a nuisance to the public.
- C. Every female animal in heat shall be confined in a building in such a manner that such female animal cannot come into contact with another animal except for planned breeding.

§ 32-6 Impoundment.

- A. Unrestrained dogs and nuisance animals shall be taken by the police or Animal Control Officers and impounded in an animal shelter and there confined in a humane manner.
- B. Impounded animals shall be kept for not less than five days.
- C. If, by a license tag or other means, the owner of an impounded animal can be identified, the Animal Control Officer shall immediately upon impoundment notify the owner by telephone or mail.
- D. Any animal not reclaimed by its owner within five days shall become the property of the Town Council of Denton, or humane society, and shall be humanely euthanized.
- E. Any owner of any animal impounded under the provisions of this article may reclaim said animal upon payment of the sum of \$5 to the Town Clerk plus a charge per day for boarding as shall be set by the Town Council.

§ 32-7 Animal care.

No owner shall fail to provide his animals with sufficient good, wholesome food and water, proper shelter and protection from the weather, veterinary care, when needed to prevent suffering, and with humane care and treatment.

§ 32-8 Violations and penalties.

Any person violating any provision of this article shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$100 or imprisonment not exceeding 30 days in the Caroline County Jail, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

ARTICLE III Adoption Of County Regulations

[Adopted 11-20-2000 by Ord. No. 389]

§ 32-9 Animal welfare and control.

The attached bill entitled "Animal Welfare and Control" which was enacted as Chapter [78](#) of the Caroline County Code, is hereby adopted as the Town of Denton's Welfare and Animal Control Law.

Editor's Note: The County's Animal Welfare and Control Law is on file in the office of the Town Clerk. See also Art. [I](#) of this chapter.

ARTICLE IV Removal Of Dog Feces

[Adopted 11-18-2002 by Ord. No. 417]

§ 32-10 Prohibited acts; removal of feces.

No person, agency or institution owning, harboring, keeping or in charge of any dog shall cause, suffer or allow such dog to soil, defile or defecate upon any public or private property whatsoever, except with the express authority or permission of the owner of said property, except if:

- A. The person owning, harboring, keeping or in charge of such dog shall immediately remove all feces

deposited by such dog by any sanitary method approved by the provisions of this article.

- B. The feces so removed from said public or private property shall be disposed of by the person owning, harboring, keeping or in charge of said dog in a sanitary manner by the provisions of this article.

§ 32-11 Methods of disposal.

Sanitary methods of removing all feces shall be approved by the local health authority and include mechanical devices such as pooch scoops, small shovels, etc. All feces removed by the person owning, harboring, keeping or in charge of any such dog shall dispose of all feces in a sealed, nonabsorbent, leakproof container or in another sanitary manner approved by the local health authority.

§ 32-12 Violations and penalties; municipal infraction.

- A. Violations of this article shall be a municipal infraction as provided under § [C4-3B](#) of the Town of Denton Charter.
- B. Any person who violates this article shall, upon conviction thereof, be liable to a penalty of not less than \$10 nor more than \$100 for each offense to be recovered by and in the name of the Town of Denton. The fine is payable by the offender within 20 calendar days of receipt of the municipal infraction citation.
- C. A complaint can be filed by and attested to by three residents in the immediate vicinity of the area in which the dog defecation took place and the feces were not properly disposed of. Upon the proper determination that a violation has occurred, the person owning, harboring, keeping or in charge of any dog shall be issued a municipal infraction.