

PART SIX - GENERAL OFFENSES CODE CHAPTER 618. ANIMALS Bellbrook, Ohio, Code of Ordinances Created: 2021-07-26 19:25:41 [EST] (Supp. No. 5) Page 1 of 5 CHAPTER 618. ANIMALS1 Secs. 618.01, 618.02. Reserved. Editor's note(s)—Ord. No. 2016-6 , § 3, adopted July 11, 2016, repealed §§ 618.01, 618.02 which pertained to: dogs and other animals running at large; nuisance, dangerous and vicious dogs; hearings; abandoning animals; respectively; and derived from the 1985 Codified Ordinances. Sec. 618.03—618.06. Reserved.

Sec. 618.07. ~~Barking or howling dogs~~ Nuisance Animal Noise.

(a) No person shall keep or harbor any ~~dog~~ animal within the Municipality which, by frequent and habitual barking, howling or yelping, creates unreasonably loud and disturbing noises of such a character, intensity and duration as to disturb the peace, quiet and good order of the Municipality. Any person who allows any ~~dog~~ animal habitually to remain or be lodged or fed within any dwelling, building, yard or enclosure, which he or she occupies or owns, shall be considered to be harboring such ~~dog~~ animal.

(b) No person shall be convicted under division (a) of this section unless the noises created by such ~~dog~~ animal are heard or detected by at least one or more residents in the vicinity or a City police officer.

(c) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.

Secs. 618.08—618.11. Reserved. Editor's note(s)—Ord. No. 2016-6 , § 3, adopted July 11, 2016, repealed §§ 618.08, 618.09, 618.095, 618.10, 618.11 which pertained to: registration of dogs required; hindering capture of unregistered dog; dogs required to wear tags; unlawful tags; rabies quarantine; respectively; and derived from the 1985 Codified Ordinances and Ord. Ord. 80-15, passed 10-13-80.

Sec. 618.12. Hunting and Slaughtering prohibited.

(a) The hunting of animals or fowl within the Municipality is prohibited. No person shall hunt, kill or attempt to kill any animal or fowl by the use of firearms or any other means.

(b) No person shall slaughter any animal, for any purpose whatsoever in a residential district, except for pet cemeteries and veterinarian purposes. Slaughter shall mean the killing of any animal, by any person, group, firm or corporation. However, nothing in this section shall be deemed to prohibit the killing of rats and other undesirable rodents

authorized to be killed by the Chief of Police using means for such killing which are also authorized by the Chief.

(c) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.

Sec. 618.13. Nuisance conditions prohibited.

(a) No person shall harbor, keep or maintain an animal in such a manner as to be injurious to the health, comfort or property of individuals or the public. 1Cross reference(s)—Driving animals upon roadway, see Secs. 404.05; Animals in parks, see Secs. 1062.08, 1062.09. Created: 2021-07-26 19:25:41 [EST] (Supp. No. 5) Page 2 of 5

(b) No owner, keeper or harbinger of any **dog** **animal** or animal approved and/or licensed by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources shall fail at any time to do either of the following:

(1) Keep the animal physically confined or restrained upon the premises of the owner, keeper or harbinger by a leash, tether, adequate fence, supervision or secure enclosure to prevent escape.

(2) Keep the animal under the reasonable control of some person.

(c) Subject to division (a) of this section, and without in any way limiting the applicability thereof, any of the following acts committed in connection with the harboring, keeping or maintaining of an animal shall constitute maintenance of a public nuisance and is hereby prohibited:

(1) Permitting offensive or obnoxious odors to be released and carried to the property of another; or

(2) Permitting loud, offensive and regularly repeated barking or howling by an **animal** **dog**.

(d) Any violation of ORC Chapter 955 within six months of a previous violation thereof shall be a prima-facie violation of this section.

(e) The Municipal Attorney may proceed by civil action in any court of record to obtain an abatement order under this section.

(f) Whoever violates any of the provisions of this section is guilty of maintaining a public nuisance, a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. The penalty shall be as provided in ORC Chapter 2929. In addition to imposing the appropriate punishment the court shall order such nuisance to be abated. (Ord. 78-16, passed 4-24-78; Ord. 99-10, passed 8-9-99; Ord. No. 2014-6 , § 1, 9-8-2014; Ord. No. 2017-3 , § 1, 3- 27-2017)

Sec. 618.14. Impounding and redemption. A police officer or Animal Warden contracted with or hired by the Municipality, or any other person appointed by the Manager, may pick up and impound ~~any dog, licensed or unlicensed, or any other~~ animal found running at large on any street or on any public or private property within the Municipality. Such officer, Animal Warden or other person shall have the right to go onto private property to capture the dog or other animal. The ~~dog or other~~ animal shall be released to the owner or to the person entitled to the possession of the same upon payment by the owner or such other person to the Municipality of a pick-up fee of ten dollars (\$10.00) for the first offense and twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) for each offense thereafter. If the dog has been placed in the County Dog Pound, the owner shall also be required to pay charges assessed by the County. (Ord. 78-17, passed 4-24-78)

Sec. 618.15. Certain animals prohibited.

(a) No person shall keep within the Municipality any horse, cow, pig, goat, ~~or any other agricultural animal or livestock or chicken~~ on any parcel of property, except in agricultural zoning districts on parcels of five acres. **See Bedford vs Deal. No. 99071. Ohio State Court of Appeals and ORC 959.131(A)(1).**

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. (Ord. 2007-4, passed 8-27-07; Ord. 2010-7, passed 9-13-10) Created: 2021-07-26 19:25:41 [EST] (Supp. No. 5) Page 3 of 5

Sec. 618.16. Dead animals.

(a) When any animal dies in the possession of any person in the Municipality, no such person shall fail to remove such animal or cause the same to be removed outside the limits of the Municipality or to be buried, so that the same does not corrupt the air or cause any injury to the health of any other person in the Municipality.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. (Ord. 118, passed 2-19-36; Ord. 74-38, passed 11-11-74)

Secs. 618.17, 618.18. Reserved. Editor's note(s)—Ord. No. 2016-6 , § 3, adopted July 11, 2016, repealed §§ 618.17, 618.18 which pertained to: dogs with blind, deaf or hearing impaired, or mobility impaired person, or trainer with assistance dog; animal fights; respectively; and derived from the 1985 Codified Ordinances.

Sec. 618.19. Dangerous, wild and undomesticated animals or pets prohibited.

(a) For the purposes of this section, a household pet is a dog, cat or other species of animal, fish, fowl, amphibian or reptile which is normally deemed to be tame and domesticated or which is commonly kept as a pet inside a residence.

(b) A wild, dangerous or undomesticated animal is an animal that is not defined as a household pet and that would be ordinarily confined to a zoo, farm or the wilderness, or that otherwise causes fear to the general public.

(c) No person shall harbor, maintain or control a wild, dangerous or undomesticated animal within the City.

(d) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. (Ord. 2007-4, passed 8-27-07)

Sec. 618.20. Reserved. Editor's note(s)—Ord. No. 2016-6 , § 3, adopted July 11, 2016, repealed § 618.20, which pertained to dangerous and vicious dogs, and derived from the 1985 Codified Ordinances.

Sec. 618.21. Beekeeping. The keeping of bees in residential areas is permitted under the following conditions:

(a) Definitions.

(1) Bee means any stage of any species of the genus *Apis*.

(2) Hive means any modern frame hive, box hive, box, barrel, log gum, skep or any other natural or artificial receptacle, or any part thereof, that may be used as a domicile for bees.

(3) Colony means any hive and its equipment, including bees, combs and brood.

(4) Equipment means any used hives or parts thereof, used frames, used honey houses, used tools, used machines, or used devices employed in the handling or manipulation of bees, honey, or beeswax, or any used container for honey or beeswax.

(5) Swarm means a population of bees that is not permanently established.

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(6) Beekeeper means the person who takes care of and/or registers the apiary where the honey bee colonies are kept.

(b) In order to have beekeeping privileges within the City, all beekeepers are required to maintain and register their hives as set forth in ORC Chapter 909 Apiaries.

(c) All beekeepers are required to register with the City, setting forth the location of their hives and number of colonies of bees.

(d) Any lot used for beekeeping must have a minimum size of 14,000 square feet. There shall be no more than two hives established on any lot used for beekeeping, except two additional temporary hives are allowed for hive separation or new swarm establishment purposes. Such temporary hives shall be removed from the property within two weeks.

(e) Hives shall be placed in the rear yard of the property and in no case shall the hives be closer than 30 feet from a public or private street, sidewalk or roadway. In no case shall the hives be closer than 25 feet to an abutting property line.

(f) A fresh water source shall be maintained within 15 feet of the hives.

(g) The owner of the hive(s) must be a resident in a dwelling located on the same lot on which the hive(s) are registered. Hives are only permitted on lots with single family residential units located on them.

(h) The maintenance of each colony shall meet the following conditions:

(1) Colonies shall be maintained in readily movable frame hives.

(2) Each hive must conspicuously display the Apiary Identification Number assigned pursuant to ORC Chapter 909 on no less than the base and the box. The identification number shall be on a side that is visible without moving or lifting of said hive.

(3) Adequate space shall be maintained in the hive to prevent overcrowding and swarming.

(4) Colonies shall be re-queened following any swarming or aggressive behavior or seized and destroyed without remuneration. (i) A certificate or permit providing the privilege to keep bees within the City may be provided by the City to a beekeeper once it is established that the necessary requirements outlined in this section are satisfied.

(j)

(1) Beekeeping privileges may be revoked from any property by written notification to the property owner by the City. Revocation must be done with cause, however, the cause needs not to be the fault of the beekeeper, nor be a

factor that is under the control of the beekeeper. The City may revoke beekeeping privileges for any condition or combination of circumstances that jeopardizes, endangers or otherwise constitutes an actual, potential or perceived menace to public health or safety. Once beekeeping privileges have been revoked on a particular property, such privilege may be reestablished only upon written request. Additionally, a permit or certificate may be revoked by the City due to a failure to satisfy any of the requirements of this section.

(2) A perceived menace to public health may also include, but is not limited to: A. Written documentation over a medical doctor's signature certifying that the medical condition caused by bee stings to a resident of an abutting property would constitute a higher than normal health hazard will constitute sufficient cause to withdraw beekeeping privileges from any specific property. B. Abnormally aggressive behavior by bees defending their hive beyond the property lines may constitute sufficient cause to withdraw beekeeping privileges from any specific property. Created: 2021-07-26 19:25:41 [EST] (Supp. No. 5) Page 5 of 5 (k) The City may revoke a beekeeper's privilege to maintain hives within the City by revoking the beekeeper's permit or certificate. If such revocation occurs, the permit holder will be given an opportunity for a hearing before the City Council to determine whether cause exists for revoking the beekeeping privileges. (Ord. 2010-7, passed 9-13-10)

Sec. 618.22. – Backyard Chickens and Rabbits

The keeping of chickens and rabbits in a residential area is permitted under the following conditions:

TYPE AND NUMBER OF ANIMALS

(a) Limitations

- (1) No person shall own, keep, harbor, or permit more than six (6) live chickens, rabbits, or combination of the two on each parcel of land under five (5) acres with a single-family dwelling.
- (2) Roosters are prohibited.
- (3) These restrictions do not apply to parcels of land of 5 acres or greater.

SHELTER

(a) Structure

- (1) All chickens and rabbits shall be kept in a sheltering structure or fenced outdoor area at all times. They shall not be allowed to roam "at large" in the city.
- (2) Chickens and rabbits shall be provided with a covered, predator-proof sheltering structure, which shall be kept in sound and usable conditions. Sheltering structures shall be thoroughly ventilated, designed to be easily accessed and cleaned, and of sufficient size to permit free movement of the animals.
- (3) Chicken coops, runs, and rabbit hutches shall be regularly cleaned to control dust, odor, and waste. See **Sec. 618.13**.
- (4) If the total area of sheltering structure does not exceed 65 square feet or if the sheltering structure does not otherwise meet the definition of a building, the structure shall not be considered an accessory building.
- (5) There shall be no more than one (1) sheltering structure 65 square feet or smaller in size.

(b) Yards and Location on Lot

- (1) Any sheltering structure and outdoor areas used for keeping chickens or rabbits shall comply with the following yard and setback requirements:
- (2) Be located on a property containing a single-family dwelling structure.
- (3) Be in the rear yard.
- (4) Be located at least 25 feet from any residential structure on an adjacent property.
- (5) Control of chickens and rabbits will comply with **Sec. 618.13**.

MANURE

(a) Manure from chickens and rabbits must be disposed of in one of the following manners:

- (1) Manure may be bagged, placed in a waterproof container, and disposed of with household trash.
- (2) Composted and applied onsite. Manure applied directly onsite must be done in such a way as to prevent nuisance and polluted stormwater runoff.

(3) Must comply with Sec. 618.13.

ANIMAL PRODUCTS AND PROCESSING

(a) The sale of animal products including but not limited to meat, eggs, and fur shall be prohibited unless in conformance with all local and state law.

ZONING PERMIT

(a) Certificate of Zoning Compliance Required

(1) Information required

(a) Applicants seeking to engage in keeping chickens or rabbits must apply for and receive a certificate of zoning compliance. If the applicant is someone other than the property owner, the application must include a notarized statement of support, signed by the property owner.

(b) Application for Certificates,

(1) The following information must be included on the site plan or in accompanying documentation:

(a) A description of the type and number of animals to be kept

(b) Coop or shelter type

(c) Location of coop or shelter with all setbacks from property lines

Indicated. If using a portable coop or shelter, indicate the yard area in which the coop or shelter will be kept.

(d) Location and manner of containment of outdoor areas with all setbacks from property lines indicated. If using a portable containment system, indicate the yard area in which the system will be kept.

(e) Any other relevant information related to keeping the animals, if requested.

(c) Rights and responsibilities

(1) The person or persons that keep the chickens or rabbits shall be the person or persons who own or otherwise have the present right of possession of the parcel upon which coops or shelters are situated.

(2) Notwithstanding compliance with the various requirements of this ordinance, chickens and rabbits shall not be kept in such a manner or of such disposition as to cause any unhealthy condition, interfere with the normal use and enjoyment of human or animal life of others or interfere with the normal use and enjoyment of any public property or property of others.

(3) It is the responsibility of the person keeping chickens and/or rabbits to be aware of and abide by all applicable local, state, or federal requirements including but not limited to the Ohio Department of Agriculture's Ohio Livestock Care Standards and private deed or covenant restrictions.

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