

## Title 6 ANIMAL CONTROL<sup>1</sup>

### Chapter 6.04 ANIMAL CONTROL<sup>2</sup>

#### 6.04.010 Purpose.

The purpose of this title is to establish regulations for the keeping of animals within the city of Boardman including standards and enforcement authority. Specific animals addressed within this title are dogs and chickens. (Ord. No. 6-2025, § 1(Exh. A), 8-5-2025)

#### 6.04.020 Definitions.

As used in this chapter, except where the context indicates otherwise:

"Aggressive dog" means any dog that has been found to have engaged in any of the behaviors specified in BMC 6.04.080(A)(1).

"Animal shelter" means facility designated or recognized by the city of Boardman for the purpose of impounding and caring for animals.

"At-large" means that a dog is off or outside of the premises from which the keeper of the dog may lawfully exclude others, or is not in the company of and under the control of its keeper.

"Chicken" means the common domestic fowl or its young.

"Chicken run" means an outdoor enclosed or fenced area where chickens feed or exercise.

"City" means the city of Boardman, Oregon.

"Coop" means a cage or roofed enclosure in which chickens are kept.

"Council" means the governing body of the city.

"Dangerous animal" means any animal, other than a dog, that constitutes a physical threat to human beings or domestic animals.

"Dangerous dog" means any dog that has been found to have engaged in any of the behaviors specified in BMC 6.04.080(A)(2).

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<sup>1</sup>Editor's note(s)—Ord. No. 2-2024, § 1(Exh. A), adopted Feb. 6, 2024, amended Tit. 6 in its entirety, in effect repealing and reenacting said Tit. 6 to read as set out herein. The former Tit. 6, §§ 6.04.010—6.04.110, 6.08.010—6.08.090, pertained to Animals and derived from Ord. 141 §§ 1—11, adopted 1985; Ord. 1-2005 §§ 1, 2 (part), adopted 2004; Ord. 2-2007 § 3 (part), adopted 2007.

<sup>2</sup>Editor's note(s)—Ord. No. 6-2025, § 1(Exh. A), adopted Aug. 5, 2025, amended Ch. 6.04 in its entirety, in effect repealing and reenacting said Ch. 6.04 to read as set out herein. The former Ch. 6.04, §§ 6.04.010—6.04.110, pertained to similar subject matter and derived from Ord. No. 2-2024, § 1(Exh. A), adopted Feb. 6, 2024.

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"Dog run" means a secured structure not less than twelve (12) feet by five feet in size with a concrete floor, fencing surrounding and secured into the concrete and over the top of the enclosure, lockable gate and provisions for maintaining the animal in a humane manner.

"Euthanized" means put to death in a humane manner by a licensed veterinarian or certified euthanasia technician.

"Exotic animal" means any lion, tiger, leopard, cheetah, ocelot or any other cat not indigenous to Oregon, except the species *Felis catus* (domestic cat); any monkey, ape, gorilla or other nonhuman primate; any wolf or any canine not indigenous to Oregon, except the species *Canis familiaris* (domestic dog); any bear except the black bear (*Ursus americanus*); any venomous or poisonous reptile, any reptile of the order Crocodylia (crocodiles, alligators and caimans), or any snake of the family Pythonidae or Boinae capable of obtaining eight feet or more in length.

"Hen" means a female adult chicken.

"Kennel" means an establishment kept for the purpose of breeding, selling or boarding dogs or engaged in training dogs.

"Licensing authority" means the agency or department of the city of Boardman or any designated representative thereof charged with administering the issuance and/or revocation of permits and licenses under the provisions of this chapter.

"Livestock" includes, but is not limited to, any horse, mule, burro, llama, cow, goat, sheep, swine, or poultry such as roosters, chickens, geese, turkeys, or other domestic fowl, regardless of age.

"Minimum care" means care sufficient to preserve the health and well-being of an animal and, except for emergencies or circumstances beyond the reasonable control of the owner, includes, but is not limited to, the following requirements:

- A. Food of sufficient quantity and quality to allow for normal growth or maintenance of body weight.
- B. Open or adequate access to potable water in sufficient quantity to satisfy the animal's needs. Access to snow or ice is not adequate access to potable water.
- C. For a domestic animal other than a dog engaged in herding or protecting livestock, access to adequate shelter.
- D. Veterinary care deemed necessary by a reasonably prudent person to relieve distress from injury, neglect or disease.
- E. Domestic animal shall not be confined to an area without adequate space for exercise necessary for the health of the animal or which does not allow access to a dry place for the animal to rest. The air temperature in a confinement area must be suitable for the animal involved. Confinement areas must be kept reasonably clean and free from excess waste or other contaminants which could affect the animal's health.

"Neutered" or "Spayed" means rendered permanently incapable of reproduction.

"Officer" means any person employed by the city of Boardman as a Police Officer, Code Compliance Officer, or Animal Control Officer.

"Owner" or "keeper" means any person, firm, association or corporation that owns, possesses, controls or otherwise has charge of a dog.

"Pet" or "domestic animal" means an animal, other than livestock or equines, that is owned or possessed by a person, that lives and breeds in a tame condition and can be handled by an owner to the extent that minimum care is provided.

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"Physical control device" means a sufficiently strong collar connected to a leash or tether made of chain links, or other material as strong, or fenced or enclosed in a structure so as to prevent the escape of an animal by breaking of the device.

"Physical injury" means impairment of physical condition or substantial pain.

"Possess" means to have physical possession or otherwise to exercise dominion or control over property. The act of providing food and water for feral animals is not sufficient grounds to claim possessory right.

"Public nuisance" means a dog is a public nuisance if it:

- A. Bites a person;
- B. Chases or menaces persons or chases vehicles on-premises other than premises occupied exclusively by the keeper of the dog;
- C. Damages or destroys property of persons other than the keeper of the dog;
- D. Scatters garbage on-premises other than premises occupied exclusively by the keeper of the dog;
- E. Trespasses on private property of persons other than the keeper of the dog;
- F. Disturbs any person by frequent or prolonged noises;
- G. Is a female in heat and running at large; or
- H. Injures or kills a domestic animal.

"Restraint" means a dog will be considered under "restraint" if it is within the real property limits of the keeper of the dog and is under control of a responsible person, or it is contained with a fence that maintains control of the animal. While off of the property of the keeper of the dog, the animal must be on a leash or lead under control of a responsible person or be contained within a portable kennel. If the dog has been determined, by the city, to be a dangerous or aggressive dog, consistent with the definitions of this chapter, restraint shall mean contained by means of city approved kennel or dog run, chained and muzzled, securely fenced and muzzled, inside of a secure structure, or leashed and muzzled when off the premises of the premises occupied by the keeper of the dog.

"Rooster" means a male adult chicken.

"Serious physical injury" means physical injury, which creates a substantial risk of death or that causes protracted disfigurement, protracted impairment of health or protracted loss or impairment of the function of a limb or bodily organ.

"Targeted grazing" means the application of goats [or sheep] to accomplish a defined vegetation or landscape goal.

"Targeted grazing area" means the area within a specific property on which targeted grazing occurs.

"Targeted grazing days per acre" means the number of goats [or sheep] applied to a specific property for targeted grazing multiplied by the number of days of targeted grazing on that property and divided by the size of the grazing area in that property in acres. For example, forty goats that graze a five-acre grazing area for ten days is eighty targeting days per acre.

"Tethering" means to restrain a domestic animal by tying the domestic animal to any object or structure by any means. Tethering does not include using a handheld leash for the purpose of walking a domestic animal.

"Wildlife" means any undomesticated wild mammal or reptile that is wild by nature.

(Ord. No. 6-2025, § 1(Exh. A), 8-5-2025)

**Commented [EG1]:** Industry standard definition. I've included [or sheep] in brackets here and throughout because sheep are also used for targeted grazing. Feel free to omit or retain sheep.

**Commented [EG2]:** See sample language for explanation of this "grazing days per acre" measurement.

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#### 6.04.030 Licensing and rabies vaccinations for dogs.

- A. No person shall own, keep, or harbor any unvaccinated or unlicensed dog over six months of age within the city unless a licensed veterinary doctor provides written documentation stating reasons the doctor will not vaccinate the dog. In no instance will an unvaccinated or unlicensed dog over one year of age be allowed within the city. The provisions of this section do not apply to animals owned by a licensed research facility or held in a veterinary medical facility or government operated or licensed animal shelter.
- B. All dogs shall be vaccinated against rabies by a licensed veterinarian, in accordance with the latest Compendium of Animal Rabies Vaccines and Recommendations for Immunization published by the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians.
- C. A certificate of vaccination shall be issued to the owner of each animal vaccinated on a form recommended by the compendium. Each keeper of a dog shall also receive a durable vaccination tag indicating the year in which it was issued.
- D.
  1. Application for a license must be made within thirty (30) days after obtaining a dog over six months of age, except that this requirement will not apply to a nonresident keeping a vaccinated dog within the city of Boardman for no longer than sixty (60) days.
  2. Application for a dog license can be made to the city on the city of Boardman dog license application form online via Citizenseve, which includes the name, address, phone and other contact information of the keeper of the dog and the name, breed, color, age, sex and history of the dog. Applicants also shall pay the prescribed licensing fee and provide proof of current rabies vaccination.
- E. The standard licensing period shall be for two years. License renewal may be applied for within sixty (60) days prior to the expiration date. New residents must apply for a license within thirty (30) days of establishing residence.
- F. A dog determined, by the city or designee, to be a dangerous or aggressive dog as defined by Section 6.04.010 of the Boardman Municipal Code shall have a licensing period of six months. Proof of liability insurance or a bond in the amount of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) covering the actions of the dog is required for the length of the licensing period. Failure to renew the license for a dangerous or aggressive dog will be a violation of this code and the keeper of the dog can be issued a citation with penalties which can include humane euthanizing of the dog.
- G. Upon acceptance of the license application and fee, the city shall issue a durable license tag including an identifying number. Both rabies and license tags must be attached to the collar of the dog. Tags must be worn at all times and are not transferable. The city shall maintain a record of all licenses issued.
- H. A license shall be issued after payment of a fee in an amount established by resolution of the city council. Persons who fail to obtain a license as required within the time period specified will be subjected to a delinquent fee.
- I. The city may revoke any license if the person holding the license refuses or fails to comply with this chapter, the regulations promulgated by the city or any other law governing the protection and keeping of animals.
- J. If any applicant is shown to have withheld or falsified any material information on the application, the city may refuse to issue or may revoke a license. The city will attempt to notify the respective license holder by certified mail within ten (10) working days after refusing to issue a license, or revoking any license previously issued.

(Ord. No. 6-2025, § 1(Exh. A), 8-5-2025)

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#### **6.04.040 Standards for chickens in residential use zones.**

The keeping and raising of chickens shall be allowed on properties zoned Residential subject to the following conditions and limitations:

- A. Hens are allowed only in a fully fenced rear yard and shall be always confined within a coop, pen, or chicken run, except when under the direct personal supervision of an owner or custodian.
- B. Roosters are prohibited.
- C. A coop shall not exceed eighty (80) square feet in area and will not exceed eight feet in height. It shall be set back at least three feet from any building on the subject property and five feet from all neighboring property lines. It must have a secure roof to prevent the escape of the chickens and the intrusion of predators.
- D. Coops and runs, depending on the size, may be subject to development review through the planning department.
- E. Coops and runs shall be kept clean, free of vermin, and in good condition. Coops shall be kept dry. Chicken feed will be kept in waterproof containers and secured from pests. Noticeable odors will be found to be a nuisance.
- F. The maximum number of hens shall be six.
- G. The raising of chickens is for the personal use of the owner and the selling of eggs, poultry breeding, or fertilizer production is prohibited.
- H. Poultry may not be slaughtered on property except pursuant to the lawful order of state or county health officials, or for the purpose of euthanasia.
- I. The city will not be responsible for at large chickens.

(Ord. No. 6-2025, § 1(Exh. A), 8-5-2025)

#### **6.04.050 Disease control.**

- A. No owner shall permit any animal or bird that is afflicted with a communicable disease to come in contact with another animal, bird, or human that is susceptible to the affliction.
- B. No owner shall permit the body of an animal to remain upon the public streets or private property for a period of time longer than is reasonably necessary to remove such carcass.
- C. Any owner or person having custody or control of an animal shall immediately remove excrement or other solid waste deposited by the animal on public or private property. Nothing in this chapter authorizes a trespass by an animal or its owner onto private property of another or the creation of an unsanitary condition on private property of another or on public property. Excrement shall be removed from primary enclosures and areas as often as necessary to prevent contamination, reduce disease hazards and minimize odors.
- D. No owner shall cause or allow any place or location where an animal is or may be kept, to become unclean or unwholesome. Storage of food supplies and bedding materials shall be designed to prevent vermin infestation.
- E. An animal that is placed under quarantine by the city shall be kept separated from any other animals or people other than the owner's family or pets for a period of not less than ten (10) days.

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F. Whenever any animal bites a person, the owner of said animal shall immediately notify animal control. Animal control shall order the animal held on the owner's premises or shall have it impounded for a period of not less than ten (10) days if it has been determined that there is no proof of proper rabies inoculation which is current.

G. No person shall own, keep, or harbor any dog over six months of age unless the dog is vaccinated for rabies.

(Ord. No. 6-2025, § 1(Exh. A), 8-5-2025)

#### **6.04.060 Owner responsibility.**

A. All dogs shall be kept under restraint as defined in this chapter.

B. Every dog determined by the city to be a dangerous or aggressive dog shall be confined by the keeper of the dog, within a secure building, secure kennel or dog run. Whenever off the premises, the dog shall be securely muzzled and leashed or muzzled and caged.

C. No dog shall be allowed to cause a public nuisance. The keeper of every dog shall be held responsible for every behavior of such dog under the provisions of this chapter.

D. Any person responsible for any dog, shall remove excrement deposited by the dog:

1. In any public area not specifically designated to receive those wastes, including, but not limited to, streets, sidewalks, parking strips, city parks, trails or pathways paralleling swales, ditches, culverts or other similar facilities operated by the city; or

2. On any private property, other than property owned by or controlled by the owner or keeper of the dog, without prior permission by any other property owner where said excrement is deposited by the dog.

E. A person commits the offense of unlawful tethering if the person tethers a domestic animal in the person's custody or control:

1. With a tether that is not reasonable length given the size of the domestic animal and available space that allows the domestic animal to become entangled in a manner that risks the health or safety of the domestic animal;

2. With a collar that pinches or chokes the domestic animal when pulled;

3. For more than ten (10) hours in a twenty-four (24) hour period; or

4. For more than fifteen (15) hours in a twenty-four (24) hour period if the tether is attached to a running line, pulley or trolley system.

(Ord. No. 6-2025, § 1(Exh. A), 8-5-2025)

#### **6.04.070 Animal restrictions and prohibitions.**

A. Exotic Animals. No person shall possess, maintain, or keep any exotic animal in the city limits.

B. Livestock. No person shall possess, maintain, or keep any livestock in the city limits except for those outlined within this title.

C. Wildlife. No person shall possess, maintain, or keep any wildlife in the city limits.

D. Dangerous Animals. No person shall possess, maintain, or keep any dangerous animals inside city limits.

(Ord. No. 6-2025, § 1(Exh. A), 8-5-2025)

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### 6.04.080 Dangerous or aggressive dog.

- A. Classification of Levels of Dangerousness of Dogs.
1. A dog shall be classified as aggressive if it bites, causes physical injury, or otherwise threatens or endangers the safety of any person or domestic animal while:
    - a. It is at-large;
    - b. It is off the property of the owner and on a physical control device;
    - c. It is on the property of the owner but not restrained or contained in a manner that would reasonably prevent incidental contact by any person; or
    - d. It is in or on a motor vehicle and not restrained or otherwise physically prevented from reaching any area outside the perimeter of the vehicle.
  2. A dog shall be classified as dangerous if:
    - a. It causes the serious physical injury or death of any person;
    - b. While at-large or off the property of the owner it kills any domestic animal; or
    - c. Causes physical injury to any person after the owner has received notice of the aggressive dog classification because of causing physical injury to a person.
  3. A dog shall not be classified as dangerous or aggressive, even if the dog has engaged in these behaviors, upon a determination that the behavior was caused by abuse or torment of the dog, or criminal activity on the part of any victim.
  4. No dog shall be found to be dangerous or aggressive if it is a dog trained for law enforcement purposes and is on duty under the control of an officer.
- B. Identification of Dangerous or Aggressive Dogs—Appeals—Restrictions Pending Appeal.
1. An officer shall determine whether any dog has engaged in the behaviors specified in subsection A of this section. The determination shall be based upon an investigation that includes observation of the dog's behavior by an officer, or by other witnesses who personally observed the behavior. Observations must be in writing attesting to the observed behavior.
  2. The officer shall give the dog's owner written notice by certified mail or personal service that includes:
    - a. The dog's specific behavior;
    - b. The dog's classification as a dangerous or aggressive dog; and
    - c. Additional restrictions applicable because of the dog's classification.
    - d. The owner may appeal the officer's decision to the city clerk by filing within ten (10) days of the date the notice was mailed or the owner was personally served, a written request for a hearing with the city council.
- C. Regulation of Aggressive Dogs. In addition to complying with all other requirements of this section, the owner of an aggressive dog shall comply with the following by:
1. Restraining the dog to prevent it from interfering with the public's legal access to the owner's property or from reaching any public sidewalk or road or adjoining property;
  2. Notifying the city where the dog is kept and renotify within ten (10) days of any change; and

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3. Posting warning signs in a conspicuous place visible from the public sidewalk, the road adjoining the property, or the boundary line of the property where access is provided to the property.
  4. The requirements of this section shall apply to any person who is transferred ownership or who keeps an aggressive dog within city limits.
- D. Euthanasia for Dangerous Dogs. Any dangerous dog causing serious physical injury to a person shall be euthanized. The court may order that any dangerous dog be euthanized in addition to penalties for separate chapter violations.
- E. Dog Owner Regulations. It is unlawful for any person to:
1. Be an owner of a dangerous dog;
  2. Fail to comply with the requirements applicable to aggressive dogs.

(Ord. No. 6-2025, § 1(Exh. A), 8-5-2025)

#### **6.04.090 Declassification of aggressive dogs.**

- A. An owner or keeper of an aggressive dog may file a petition with the city clerk requesting an order declassifying a dog as aggressive if the following conditions have been met:
1. The dog has been classified for one year without further incident; and
  2. There have been no violations of the animal control regulations; and
  3. All other conditions ordered at the time of classification have been met.
- B. The city clerk shall forward such petition to an officer who may condition declassification on the following provisions:
1. The owner or keeper provides the officer with written certification of satisfactory completion of obedience training for the dog classified;
  2. The officer may require the dog owner or keeper to provide written verification that the classified dog has been spayed or neutered.
- C. If the request is denied. The owner may appeal the officer's decision to the city clerk, by filing within ten (10) days of the date the notice was mailed or the owner was personally served, a written request for a hearing with the city council.

(Ord. No. 6-2025, § 1(Exh. A), 8-5-2025)

#### **6.04.100 Impoundment.**

- A. A dog found running at large may be impounded by the city, and restrained in the city's designated animal shelter. Within a reasonable time following the impounding of a dog, the city shall make every reasonable effort to notify the keeper of the dog and inform the keeper of the dog of the conditions for release of the animal. Any animal not claimed by the keeper of the dog within a period of five full days in which the shelter is open to the public shall become the property of the city.
- B. In the event that the city finds dogs to be suffering, it shall have the right forthwith to remove or cause to have removed any such animals to a safe place for care at the expense of the keeper of the dog or to euthanize them, at the expense of the keeper of the dog, when necessary to prevent further suffering. Return to the keeper of the dog may be withheld until the keeper of the dog shall have made full payment for all expenses so incurred.

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- C. In the event the city determines a dog to be a dangerous or aggressive dog as defined in this chapter, the city may impound the dog from the premises of the keeper of the dog to prevent further attacks on domestic animals or humans.
- D. Disposal of an animal by any method specified herein does not relieve the keeper of the dog of liability for violations and any accrued charges.

(Ord. No. 6-2025, § 1(Exh. A), 8-5-2025)

**6.04.110 Redemption.**

- A. Any animal impounded may be redeemed by the keeper of the dog thereof within five days of impounding upon payment of an impoundment fee.
- B. Any animal confined for rabies quarantine, evidence, dangerous or aggressive dog as defined in this chapter, or other purpose may be redeemed by the keeper of the dog, after release is authorized by the investigating officer, upon payment of an impoundment fee, which may include all associated costs at the impoundment or veterinary facility.
- C. No animal required to be licensed or vaccinated under this chapter may be redeemed until the animal has been vaccinated and the appropriate license has been issued by the city.

(Ord. No. 6-2025, § 1(Exh. A), 8-5-2025)

**6.04.120 Interference.**

- A. A person commits the crime of interfering with an officer if the person, knowing that another person is an officer as defined in this chapter.
  - 1. Intentionally acts in a manner that prevents, or attempts to prevent, the officer from performing the lawful duties of the officer with regards to another person; or
  - 2. Refuses to obey a lawful order by the officer.

Interfering with an officer shall be punishable as a Class A misdemeanor as defined by Oregon Revised Statutes.

(Ord. No. 6-2025, § 1(Exh. A), 8-5-2025)

**6.04.130 Targeted Grazing**

Notwithstanding Section 6.04.070(B), goats [or sheep] may be present on [zoning restriction] properties within the City for the purpose of targeted grazing, subject to the following restrictions:

- A. The property is at least [SIZE].
- B. The duration of a targeted grazing period is for no more than 400 consecutive grazing days per acre of grazing area.
- C. There are no more than [two] targeted grazing periods per property per calendar year.
- D. There are at least thirty consecutive calendar days of no targeted grazing between targeted grazing periods.
- E. During targeted grazing, goats [or sheep] must be contained in the grazing area through fencing. [Electric fencing may not be used.]

**Commented [EG3]:** This sample language passively regulates the presence of goats/sheep on properties for the purposes of targeted grazing. It does not create a permit system that would require a person to go apply for a permit to conduct targeted grazing. From my research, I've seen some cities use this passive regulation and others use a permit system. Still others impose a special business license requirement on targeted grazing businesses. There are pros/cons to all of these methods: A method that requires a business license or permit allows more hands-on regulation and enforcement, but is more administratively burdensome. This passive regulation method is less hands-on (enforcement would likely be complaint-driven) but is less administratively burdensome.

**Commented [EG4]:** Can allow targeted grazing only on properties within specific zones.

**Commented [EG5]:** Can require properties to be a certain size in order to be eligible to use targeted grazing. This could be useful to reduce harmful effects on neighboring properties. Note that this would limit the property size, not the size of the grazing area within the property.

**Commented [EG6]:** Industry recommends using "grazing days per acre" to regulate the amount of time spent targeted grazing rather setting a discrete period of time (for example, 21 days no matter what). This is because the negative impacts that grazing has on land are caused more by the amount of time that the animals graze the land rather than the sheer number of animals on the land. Using "grazing days per acre" allows a higher number of animals and then reduces the total amount of time commensurately.

**Commented [EG7]:** Industry recommends at least two targeted grazing periods per year in order to best kill targeted vegetation.

**Commented [EG8]:** This would give neighboring properties a break between targeted grazing periods.

**Commented [EG9]:** Your code generally prohibits electric fencing along a street, sidewalk, or adjoining property line. But that language would not prohibit electric fencing used to contain grazing animals within a grazing area on a property if the grazing area was not along a street, sidewalk, or adjoining property line. If the City wants to prohibit electric fencing used for grazing areas no matter what, would need this specific language here.

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F. During targeted grazing, signs must be posted on the property lines of all sides of the property subject to targeted grazing that are adjacent to public property or a public right-of-way. The signs must be legible from the adjacent public property or public right-of-way. The signs must contain the following information:

1. A statement that the property is conducting targeted grazing pursuant to [code reference].
2. A statement that worrying, molesting, harassing, or otherwise interacting with the goats [or sheep] is prohibited.
3. [If electric fencing is used to contain goats [or sheep], a warning that the fence is electrified and must not be touched].
4. The name and contact information of the vendor providing the goats [or sheep] for targeted fencing or of the owner of the goats [or sheep].

G. Only female or castrated male goats [or sheep] may be used for targeted grazing.

H. Sufficient water must be available to goats [or sheep] during targeted grazing.

#### **6.04.1430 Penalties.**

Any person violating any of the provisions of this chapter is liable for a citation for a Class B violation consistent with Boardman Municipal Code Chapter 1.16.

(Ord. No. 6-2025, § 1(Exh. A), 8-5-2025)