

ORDINANCE NO. 06-24

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE II OF CHAPTER 5 OF THE
CAMDEN CODE REGARDING DOGS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

WHEREAS, the City considers animal control to be important; and

WHEREAS, the City has reviewed its animal control ordinance for possible areas of improvement and clarification; and

WHEREAS, the City desires to amend the animal control rules pertaining to dogs contained in Article II of Chapter 5 of the Camden Code of Ordinances.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CAMDEN, ARKANSAS, THAT:

SECTION 1: Section 5-16 of the Camden Code of Ordinances (Definitions) is amended by deleting the current definition of “Owner” and replacing it with the following:

Owner. Any person having a right of property in or custody of a dog or who keeps or harbors a dog or intentionally entices a dog to remain on or about any premises occupied by that person over which that person has substantial control. “Owner” shall include a parent, guardian, or other adult residing at the premises where a dog is located.

SECTION 2: Section 5-112 of the Camden Code of Ordinances (Impoundment fees) is deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following:

Any dog impounded hereunder may be redeemed, as provided above, upon payment by the owner to the City of Camden the sum of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) for each dog, and the additional sum of five dollars (\$5.00) per day for each day such dog has been maintained by the city animal shelter. Impoundment fees set forth herein shall be collected for the city and maintained in the fund for the maintenance of the city animal shelter. In addition, if the animals have not been licensed and/or vaccinated, the dog shall be licensed and/or vaccinated prior to being released by the animal control officer, either to the owner thereof or otherwise. The burden of proof as to the vaccination and licensing shall be upon the party attempting to redeem the dog from the animal control officer under this article.

Any person redeeming unvaccinated and unlicensed dogs, shall after payment of the fee assessed herein and prior to taking possession of the dog, cause such dog to be vaccinated and licensed in accordance with the regulation of the city, and the cost for expense of such vaccination or license fee shall be paid by the party redeeming such dog and shall be in addition to the fees herein set.

The animal control officer shall keep complete and accurate records of all dogs impounded; and should an owner's dog be impounded a second time, then in such event, the animal control officer prior to releasing such dog, shall require a fee of fifty dollars (\$50.00) to be paid by such owner, plus five dollars (\$5.00) per day. Upon each subsequent impoundment of the

owner's dog, the animal control officer shall not release such dog until the owner shall have paid a fee of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) plus five dollars (\$5.00) per day. Such subsequent impoundments shall required compliance with the above licensing and vaccination fees. The fees described herein shall be in addition to whatever penalties might be assessed for misdemeanor violations described in other sections of this article.

SECTION 3: Section 5-21 “Condition of pen and premises” is deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following:

Sec. 5-21. Humane Treatment of Animals.

It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation to keep or confine an animal other than in a humane manner.

- a. Any person owning, possessing, keeping or harboring a dog shall confine such dog within a fence or enclosure of adequate construction for such purpose.
- b. Sufficient space should be provided to stand up, lie down and turn around without touching the sides or top of animal shelter.
- c. Animal pens and runs shall provide adequate exercise areas for said animals.
- d. Dogs may be temporarily placed outside on a chain, cable or a runner/zipline where it is ensured the dog will not become entangled by trees or obstructions. “Temporarily” shall mean a few hours at a time, not to be all day or overnight, and under the direct control of a competent person during the time the dog is outside.
- e. Such temporary chains shall never include any device which operates to choke a dog (“choke chain”).
- f. When an animal is temporarily confined by chain or cable, the restraint must be at least ten feet (10’) long on a center pivot of fifteen feet (15’) on an anchored point, and so placed as to prevent the animal leaving the property, as well as to provide adequate room for normal postural adjustments and for exercise. Any area where the animal is confined in such a manner must drain so that the animal is not confined to an area of standing water. And chain or cable shall not exceed one-fourth (1/4) of the animal’s total body weight. Any chain used shall not be larger than one-half inch (1/2”) link, measured from outside to outside of the link. No chain or cable shall be wrapped directly around the neck of an animal. All chains and cables shall be affixed to a collar on the animal.
- g. All animals must have access to fresh, plentiful water, present at all times.
- h. All animals must have fresh, wholesome daily food.
- i. The animal shelter must include adequate light, ventilation, and protection from the elements. The enclosed structure shall be kept in a clean and sanitary condition.
- j. The premises where an animal is kept must be kept free from offensive odors to the extent that such odors are a nuisance and disturb any neighbors.
- k. The animal waste from animals must be diligently and systematically removed from the premises to prevent it from becoming a nuisance to neighbors.
- l. Any person owning or possessing a domestic animal in his custody shall not neglect or fail to render medical aid to said animal.
- m. It is unlawful for any person, firm or corporation to abandon, cast out, leave or discard any dog which they own or possess because such dog has become unwanted, ill or aged, or to misrepresent their intent and purpose in order to obtain the services of the City Animal Control Officer or avoid financial responsibility associated with the humane treatment of the animal.

- n. Any person, firm or corporation found to have violated this section shall be fined the sum of Two-Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$250.00).
- o. Any person, firm or corporation found to have violated this section shall be fined the sum of Five-Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) for a second offense occurring within five (5) years.
- p. Any person, firm or corporation found to have violated this section for a third or subsequent offense within five (5) years shall be fined up to the sum of One-Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00).

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2024.

Mayor

City Clerk