

## CITY OF TWO RIVERS

### ORDINANCE

**AN ORDINANCE** to amend Municipal Code Sections Sec. 6-5-7. Restrictions on keeping dogs, cats, and other animals.

The Council of the City of Two Rivers ordains as follows:

**SECTION 1.** That Section 6-5-7D of the Municipal Code shall hereby be amended as follows:

D. Restricted Species.

- (1) Exotic or Wild Animals Prohibited. No person may bring into or keep, raise, possess or have under such person's control, either temporarily or permanently, any bat species, venomous reptile or snake, constrictor snake or any nonvenomous snake more than five feet in length at maturity, lizard up to more than five feet in length at maturity, poisonous insect or arachnid, Carnivores (excluding domestic cats, dogs, and ferrets), Marsupials, Primates, animals that fall under Order Edentatia, Perissodactyla, or Proboscidae, or other wild animal, or bird of prey which can normally be found in the wild state, without the approval of City Council.
- (2) Certain Domestic Species Prohibited. No person may bring into or keep within the corporate limits of the City, either temporarily or permanently, gamecocks and other fighting birds, cows, cattle, horses, sheep, swine, pigs, goats, turkeys, geese, or any other domesticated livestock including those that fall under Order Artiodactyla, without the approval of City Council.
- (3) Dangerous Animals Prohibited. No person may bring into or keep within the corporate limits of the City, either temporarily or permanently, a prohibited dangerous animal. Prohibited dangerous animal means any of the following:
  - (a.) Any animal that, while off the owner's or caretaker's property, has inflicted serious injury to or killed a domesticated animal without provocation;
  - b. Any animal that inflicts bodily harm to a person on public or private property;
  - (c.) Any animal brought from another city, village, town or county that has been declared dangerous or vicious by that jurisdiction;
  - (d.) Any animal that is subject to being destroyed under Wis. Stat. § 174.02(3);
  - (e.) Any dog trained, owned, or harbored for the purpose of dog fighting.
- (4) In considering any request for permission under subsection (2)(a) or (b) of this section, the City Council shall consider the number and type of animals or creatures, their location, the facilities to be used for such purpose, the likelihood of a public or private nuisance being created or a health hazard, and the ability of the owner to responsibly control and care for the creatures.
- (5) Compliance with Federal Regulations. It shall be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation to buy, sell or offer for sale a native or foreign species or subspecies of mammal, bird, amphibian or reptile, or the dead body or parts thereof, which appears on the endangered species list designated by the United States Secretary of the Interior

and published in the Code of Federal Regulations pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1969 (Public Law 135, 91st Congress).

(6) Exemption. The provisions outlined in this section shall not be deemed to prevent the lawful importation, possession, purchase or sale of any species by a public agency; licensed veterinary clinics; pet shops; zoological gardens; public or private educational institutions; agricultural fairs; shows or projects of the 4-H Clubs; a display for judging purposes; circuses and professional animal acts; research purposes; persons holding Federal permits; or by a person holding a scientific collector's permit issued by the Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources of the State; or to any person or organization licensed to present a circus or similar recreational event.

(7) Prohibited Animals. The Chief of Police may determine an animal to be a prohibited animal whenever he finds that an animal meets the definition of a prohibited exotic or wild animal as set forth in (1) of this section, a prohibited domestic species as set forth in (2) of this section, or a prohibited dangerous animal as set forth in (3) of this section.

(a) Upon conducting an investigation and finding an animal meets the definition of a prohibited animal, the Chief of Police or his designee may issue an order declaring an animal to be a prohibited animal. Whenever an owner or caretaker wishes to contest an order, he or she shall, within 72 hours after receipt of the order, deliver to the Chief of Police a written objection to the order stating specific reasons for contesting the order. Upon receipt of the written objection, the matter shall be placed on the agenda for the City council to be reviewed at the next regular meeting. The City council shall act as a quasi-judicial body allowing the animal's owner or caretaker an opportunity to present evidence as to why the animal should not be declared a prohibited dangerous animal.

(b) Pending the outcome of the hearing, the animal may be confined subject to Wis. Stat. § 173.21 or held at a location outside the limits of the City.

(c) After the hearing, the owner or caretaker shall be notified in writing of the City Council's determination. If a determination is made that the animal is a prohibited dangerous animal, the owner or caretaker shall remove the animal from within the City within five days after the date of the determination. If the owner or caretaker further contests the determination, he or she may, within five days of receiving the panel's decision, seek review of the decision by the Circuit Court.

(d) Destruction. Any animal that has caused bodily harm to a person, persons, or a domestic animal on two separate occasions, without reasonable cause, may be destroyed as a result of a judgment rendered by a court of competent jurisdiction, as specified under Wis. Stat. § 174.02(3). The City Attorney may petition an appropriate court to obtain a court order to destroy such an animal.

(e) Exemptions.

(1.) The Chief of Police may waive the provisions of this section for a law enforcement or military animal upon presentation by the animal's owner or handler of a satisfactory arrangement for safe keeping of the animal.

(2.) No animal may be declared dangerous if death, injury or damage is sustained by a person who, at the time such injury or damage was sustained, was committing a trespass on the land or criminal trespass on the dwelling upon

premises occupied by the owner of the animal; was teasing, tormenting, abusing or assaulting the animal; or was committing or attempting to commit a crime or violating or attempting to violate an ordinance which protects persons or property.

(3.) No animal may be declared dangerous if the animal was protecting or defending a human being within the immediate vicinity of the animal from an unjustified attack or assault.

(f) Enforcement. The Chief of Police may make whatever inquiry is deemed necessary to ensure compliance with this section.

(g) Costs of Disposition. Any owner or caretaker of a prohibited dangerous animal shall pay the costs for the animal's removal, impoundment, destruction or other disposition.

and to renumber subsequent sections as appropriate.

**SECTION 3.** This ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after its date of passage and publication of same.

Dated this 6th day of May, 2024.

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Scott Stechmesser  
President, City Council

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Gregory E. Buckley  
City Manager

Attest:

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Amanda Baryenbruch  
City Clerk

Approved as to form and legality:

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John M. Bruce  
City Attorney