

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA) AN ORDINANCE CREATING A STOKES
) COUNTY ANIMAL CONTROL DEPARTMENT,
) PRESCRIBING THE DUTIES OF THE
COUNTY OF STOKES) DEPARTMENT, REGULATIONS REGARDING
) ANIMALS, AND PROVIDING FOR THE
) ENFORCEMENT OF SAID REGULATIONS

ARTICLE 1. IN GENERAL

Nuisance: Any animal is deemed a public nuisance and a threat to public health, welfare, and tranquility if it habitually: chases pedestrians, bicycles, animals, or motorized vehicles; or chases pedestrians, bicycles, animals, or motorized vehicles; or

- (a) chases pedestrians, bicycles, animals, or motorized vehicles; or
- (b) snaps at people; or
- (c) roams in packs; or
- (d) fights with other animals; or
- (e) barks or howls; or
- (f) destroys or defaces lawns, shrubs, trees, agricultural crops or other property; or
- (g) scatters garbage out of cans or other containers; or
- (h) takes personal property from premises where it belongs.

Section 6. General duties of keepers of animals

It shall be unlawful for any person to keep animals under unsanitary or inhuman conditions or to fail to provide proper food and water daily, shelter from the weather (adequate shelter for dogs is defined as: A structure intended for the animal's protection from inclement weather or sun, which consists of the least three sides, a floor and a roof. The structure must be constructed of durable fiber, wood, plastic or other non-metal material) and reasonably clean quarters for such animals, or to fail to provide proper food and water daily, shelter from the weather and reasonably clean quarters for such animals, or to fail to provide proper medical attention for sick, distressed, or injured animals, as well as adequate inoculation against disease, according to the species of animals kept.

Section 14 Inoculation of dogs, cats and other pets.

(a) It shall be unlawful for an owner to fail to provide current inoculation against rabies (hydrophobia) for any dog or cat four (4) months of age or older. Should it be deemed necessary by the County Health Director, the Board of County Commissioners or the State Public Health Veterinarian that other pets be inoculated in order to prevent a threatened epidemic or to control an existing epidemic, it shall be unlawful for an owner to fail to provide current inoculation against rabies for that pet.

(b) A rabies vaccination shall be deemed current for a dog or cat if the first two (2) doses of vaccine are administered (12) twelve months apart and each subsequent booster dose of vaccine administered at thirty six (36) month intervals or administered as per the vaccine manufacturers recommended schedule, if it is less than the required thirty six (36) months.

Section 15. Inoculation tag for dogs.

(a) Upon complying with the provisions of Section 14, there shall be issued to the owner of the dog inoculated a numbered metallic tag, stamped with the number and the year for which issued, and indicating that the dog has been inoculated against rabies.

(b) It shall be unlawful for any dog owner to fail to provide his dog with a collar or harness to which a current tag issued under this section is securely attached. The collar or harness, with attached tag, must be worn at all times, except during the time the dog is performing at shows, obedience trials, tracking tests, field trials, training schools or other events sanctioned and supervised by a recognized organization.

(c) It shall be unlawful for any person to use for any dog a rabies inoculation tag issued for a dog other than the one using the tag.

Section 15.1. Evidence of inoculation of cats.

Cats shall not be required to wear the metallic tag referred to in Section 15, but the owner of the cat shall maintain sufficient written evidence to prove that his cat has a current rabies inoculation.

Section 7. Cruelty to animals.

It shall be unlawful for any person to molest, torture, torment, deprive of necessary sustenance, cruelty beat, needlessly mutilate or kill, wound, injure, poison, abandon or subject to conditions detrimental to its health or general welfare of any animal, or to cause or procure such action. The words "torture" and "torment" shall be held to include every act, omission or neglect whereby unjustifiable physical pain, suffering or death is caused or permitted; but such terms shall not be construed to prohibit lawful shooting of birds, deer, or other game for human food; nor to prohibit the animal control department or its agents or veterinarians from destroying dangerous, unwanted or injured animals in a humane manner.

Section 8. Confinement, muzzling and control of vicious or dangerous animals.

Restraint of a dangerous or potentially dangerous dog: Restraint of a dangerous or potentially dangerous dog is where the dog must be confined in a securely enclosed pen or other structure designed to restrain the dog and having a roof, cement floor and secured by a padlock. When this type of dog is outside this pen or structure, it must be restrained and held by the owner, or one who is in direct control, by an adequate leash, chain or other like device and the dog must be muzzled at all times. At no time shall restraint of this type of dog be accomplished by chaining it outside the pen or structure.

Violators of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor under N.C.G.S. 14-3(a) which states: a misdemeanor for which no specific punishment is prescribed is punishable by a fine in the discretion of the court, imprisonment up to two years, or both.

Section 9. Animals creating nuisance prohibited from running at large.

(a) If an animal is reported to him as being a nuisance, the Animal Control Officer shall investigate to determine whether the animal in question falls within the definition of nuisance in Section 1. If he finds that the animal is a nuisance, he shall order the owner to keep the animal under restraint at all times. The owner shall not permit the animal to be at large. It shall be unlawful for any owner to allow an animal that is a nuisance as defined in Section 1, to be at large after receipt of this order.

(b) It shall be unlawful for any person to own, keep or have within the County, an animal that habitually or repeatedly makes noise or other sounds that tend to annoy, disturb, or frighten neighbors.

Section 10. Dogs Privilege Tax Tag.

(a) It is the purpose of this Section to supplement State Law by providing a procedure for the enforcement of laws requiring dogs to wear a privilege tax tag.

(b) It shall be unlawful for any dog owner or keeper to fail to provide his dog with a dog privilege tax tag to be issued annually by Stokes County and to take such action as is necessary to insure that said privilege tax tag is worn by said dog at all times except as otherwise provided in this ordinance.

(c) It shall be the duty of the Stokes County Tax Department to provide the animal shelter with a privilege tax list so that tags may be mailed. The tag is to be on such color, shape, or in some other way to clearly indicate the year for which the tag has been issued. The tag is to contain a number or other designation, and a record is to be kept of the person to whom the tag has been mailed or otherwise deferred. After the initial mailing by September 1, dog tags may be obtained at the animal shelter only.

Section 22

(b) It shall be unlawful for any owner or his agent to permit a female animal to run at-large during estrus. Any such animal must be kept in a secure enclosure or be, at all times, under restraint or direct control of the owner or agent.