

Chapter 11: Animal Control
(Revised 12/1/97)

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Article I: In General

Sec. 11-101 Purposes To provide for animal control and to prescribe rules and regulations for prevention and control of animal bites and rabies within the Corporate Limits of Woodbine, Georgia by providing for the vaccination, tagging, certification and confinement of dogs and other animals, for the establishment of a full-time animal control program and for other appropriate purposes.

Sec. 11-102 Definitions Unless a different meaning is required by the context, the following terms as used in this ordinance shall have the meanings hereinafter ascribed to them.

1. Animal Shall include companion pets; defined as: dogs, cats, “pet store” birds and rodents (parrots, finches, lovebirds, hamsters, gerbils, ferrets, etc.) of either sex, vaccinated or not against rabies.

Owners of small wild and/or exotic animals shall have proper forms of ownership, licenses, and written permission from the City of Woodbine. As well as approved proper care, upkeep and confinement of such.

Domesticated farm animals shall NOT be permitted to be kept in the City of Woodbine. These shall include but not be limited to, the equine family cows and other members of the bovine family, the goat family, pigs, sheep, and lambs, poultry (chickens, bantams, guinea hens, quail, turkeys, peacocks, emus, and other such fowl from that family).

2. Animal Control Officer Any employee of the City of Woodbine Police Department and/or any other employee of the City of Woodbine duly designated as an Animal Control Officer by the City Administrator to enforce the rules and regulations of this ordinance.
3. Animal License Tag A tag purchased from the City of Woodbine, which tag shall be worn by the registered animal.
4. Confinement Animals shall be restricted at all times, by a fence, leash, cable, or chain. When “walking” animals through the City of Woodbine, the animals shall be on a leash at ALL TIMES. Animals shall NOT be permitted to “run” loose at any time, without immediate supervision and verbal response training. Animals kept on chains, cable runs, or tied in any other manner, shall be confined in an acceptable and humane manner; such as a non-choking collar, or harness, and shall be properly attached to a safe, humane chain, or cable (No ropes, strings, or other non-approved manner). Cable or chain must not permit the animal to get within FIFTEEN (15) feet of property lines, and also restrict the animal from within TWENTY-FIVE (25) feet of any road-way that is public accessible.

Sec. 11-102 Definitions

Hunting dogs shall not be allowed to “run loose” in the City of Woodbine” at any time.

5. Director The Chief Executive of the Camden County Board of Health as defined in Section 31-3-11 and Section 31-3-15 of the Official Code of Georgia, or his designee.

6. Fowl Bird of any kind.

(Delete 6. above in its entirety, as well as the word fowl from the entire ordinance.)

7. Health Department The Camden County Health Department.

8. Rabies Vaccination Tag A tag furnished by the Georgia Department of Human Resources or the supplier of the vaccine, which tag shall be worn by the vaccinated animal.

9. Vaccine An injectable material containing killed or live attenuated rabies virus licensed by the United States Department of Agriculture, Biological Control section, and approved by the Georgia Department of Human Resources. Vaccines used for the purpose of this ordinance shall be stored at the temperature prescribed on the package label. Outdated vaccines shall not be used.

10. Vaccinate of Inoculate The injection of a specified dose of antirabies vaccine by a veterinarian or dog owner into the proper site of an animal, such vaccine having the U.S. Department of Agriculture Biological Control Section license number and approval stamped on the label of the container and having been approved by the Georgia Department of Human Resources.

11. Veterinarian Any person who holds a valid license to practice the profession of veterinary medicine in any state of the United States or any province of Canada.

Article II: Provisions

Sec. 11-201 Vaccination of Animals Within thirty (30) days following the passage of this ordinance or by the expiration date of a prior certificate of vaccination, every owner of dog or other animal three months of age or older shall cause such dog or other animal to be vaccinated against rabies as defined by this ordinance. The first vaccination using a live continued vaccine, or kill vaccine, shall be administered and is good for twelve (12) months only. Thereafter the vaccination shall be made with three (3) years live continued vaccines against rabies as defined by this

Sec. 11-201 Vaccination of Animals (Continued)

ordinance.

However, when a live attenuated vaccine is used, vaccination shall be required at least every three years and the director may issue or cause to be issued an annual certificate of vaccination and a rabies vaccination tag each year for two additional years provided the Health Department's file copy of the certificate of vaccination shows that a live attenuated rabies virus vaccine was used. In the event the Health Department's file copy of the certificate of vaccination is unavailable, the owner's copy or the veterinarian's copy of the same may be substituted therefor.

Sec. 11-202 Certificate of Vaccination

1. Evidence of vaccination shall consist of a certificate of vaccination on a form to be approved by the Board of Health. The certificate with each item answered shall be prepared in triplicate and signed by the veterinarian administering the vaccine or the dog owner administering the vaccine. One copy of the certificate shall be given to the owner, one filed with the Health Department and one copy retained by the veterinarian.
2. Any veterinarian is authorized and required in connection with his practice to issue certificates of vaccination and vaccination tags, provided he furnishes one to the animal's owner, one copy to the Health Department and retains one copy for his files.
3. The certificates of vaccination furnished to the Health Department shall be maintained in an orderly indexed file for a period of not less than three (3) years.
4. Out of state visitors and non-Woodbine residents with animals must comply with local animal control regulations while within the City of Woodbine. Animals with current rabies vaccination certificates from other states or territories will be honored.

Sec. 11-203 Vaccination Tags

In addition to the issuance of the certificates of vaccination, the person authorized to furnish the certificate shall also furnish to the owner of the vaccinated animal, a serially numbered tag bearing the same number and year thereon as the certificate bears. The tag shall be securely attached to the collar or the harness and shall be worn at ALL TIMES by the animal for which the certificate and tag have been issued.

Sec. 11-204 Public Clinics

1. The director may operate or cause to be operated City-sponsored clinics for the vaccination of dogs and other animals against rabies. The veterinarian or veterinarians shall arrange for all such clinics and will coordinate the clinics with the City.
2. Vaccination will be performed by a veterinarian. Payment for services shall be derived from vaccination fees.
3. The vaccination fee for such clinics, including the administering and cost of the vaccine, the issuance of certificates and tags, and other necessary expenses shall be predetermined at least fifteen (15) days in advance of a scheduled clinic. Public notice of the schedule of the clinics shall include the day, hour, place, and the vaccination fee.
4. In emergencies or during quarantine the fifteen (15) days' notice prior to the operation of public clinics shall not apply.

Sec. 11-205 Animal Control Officer

1. The Animal Control Officer will be an employee of the Woodbine Police Department and/or other employee of the City of Woodbine duly designated as an Animal Control Officer by the City Administrator to enforce the rules and regulations of this ordinance.
2. Duties of an Animal Control Officer will include:
 - a. Investigating and maintaining a record of animal bites in the City.
 - b. Providing for proper confinement of an animal involved in a bite; or if the animal is dead or killed, immediate notification of the Health Department.
 - c. Enforcing proper disposition of animals exposed to known rabid animals.
 - d. Providing stray animal pick-up and impoundment.
 - e. Providing for proper disposition of animals not claimed.
 - f. Assisting in rabies immunization clinics.
 - g. Other related duties as stated in the Animal Control Ordinance or as ordered by the director.

Sec. 11-206 Confinement of Animals

1. The Animal Control Officer will enforce all ordinances pertaining to confinement of animals as defined.
2. The owner of any animal, as defined in this ordinance, shall confine or cause to be confined such animal as herein prescribed.
 - a. An animal shall be deemed “vicious” when it has, without provocation, attacked or bitten a person or other animal. No owner or custodian of an animal, having otherwise been notified of said animal’s viciousness by the Animal Control Officer and/or Health Department or having knowledge of said animal to leave his property unless such animal is restrained by a leash as well as being properly muzzled so as to prevent it from biting any person or other animal.

All reports of vicious animals shall be made to the Camden County Board of Health and the Woodbine Police Department.

- b. An animal within the City of Woodbine shall be adequately confined by a fence, leash or other appropriate measure, to the premises of the owner or custodian at all times, which confinement shall be clean and provided adequate and safe food, water and protection from the weather, as well as adequate and clean exercise space. The animal shall not be permitted to leave those premises unless leashed and accompanied by the owner or custodian, and shall not be permitted to run loose on the property of others, nor on streets, alleys, beaches, parks, picnic areas, recreation areas and/or other public sites at any time.

EXCEPTION: Hunting dogs may be loose only while hunting or training during hunting seasons as prescribed by the Game and Fish division of the Department of Natural Resources.

EXCEPTION: Remove this paragraph in its entirety.

- c. An animal, whether vaccinated or not, having bitten a human or having any signs of rabies shall be quarantined in a manner approved by the Animal Control Officer until its death or until its freedom from suspicion of having rabies is established by a veterinarian.
 - d. An unvaccinated animal bitten by a known rabid animal shall be immediately destroyed under supervision of or by an Animal Control Officer.
 - e. Any animal, the rabies vaccination of which is current as evidenced by the certificate of vaccination and which is bitten by a known rabid animal,

Sec. 11-206 Confinement of Animals (Continued)

must be revaccinated, confined in a manner approved by the Animal Control Officer for sixty (60) days and then released only if no signs of rabies are evident.

- f. Any female animal, while it is in breeding season, shall be kept on the premises of the owner, and shall be confined in such place and manner as will avoid nuisances being caused by the attraction of male animals.
- g. Any animal, unconfined and “running” at large, or any animal that is kept in a manner not in keeping with this ordinance shall be impounded, and the owner of the animal may be fined. A reasonable amount of effort shall be made to locate the owner of any REGISTERED and TAGGED animal, all others shall be impounded. The Animal Control Officer may pursue the animal onto private property, including the owner’s or the custodian’s property but not into a human dwelling, to evoke capture of such animal.
- h. Any animal that is found away from the premises of the owner and not under the control of the owner will be classified as being unconfined; therefore, it may be shot with a tranquilizer gun by the Animal Control Officer in an attempt to capture the animal. The Animal Control Officer operating the tranquilizer gun and/or the Camden County Health Department members and staff shall not be held liable for any injury or death to an animal which might occur from the use of the tranquilizer gun or equipment.
- i. It shall be unlawful for the owner or the custodian of an animal or fowl to permit, either willfully or through failure to exercise due care or control such animal or fowl to commit a public nuisance by barking, whining, howling, or making other objectionable noises; by chasing or running after vehicles or persons; by destroying or damaging property of another; by causing annoyance to a neighboring residence and interfering with reasonable use and enjoyment of their property; or by doing any other thing which is so offensive as to create a nuisance.

Should an owner or custodian of an animal or fowl, fail, upon proper notice of not less than seven (7) days, to abate a nuisance created by such animal or fowl to take the necessary steps to provide an adequate confinement area or properly care for the animal, the Animal Control Officer shall be empowered to impound said animal or fowl under the terms and provisions of Paragraph II-206.2(g) above.

Sec. 11-207 Biting Animals

1. All animals known to have bitten a person shall be confined to the owner's or custodian's property for a period of ten (10) days. Any animal under such confinement that is allowed to leave the owner's property within the ten (10) day period shall be immediately impounded by the Animal Control Officer and boarded at the Camden County Humane Society or other designated impoundment area approved by the Animal Control Officer until such confinement period is over. All expenses incurred for this period of time shall be paid by the owner custodian of the biting animal, unless said bite was provoked, in which event, the person provoking the bite shall be responsible for all expenses incurred. At the time confinement is ordered by the Animal Control Officer and/or the director, the animal owner or custodian shall sign a Quarantine Agreement and abide by its regulations.

2. Confinement Area or Facility

The area or facility to which any animal is confined in compliance with the provisions of Section 11-207.1 above shall be subject to the approval of the Animal Control Officer. The confinement area or facility may include a pound, kennel, animal hospital or other place in Camden County which provides:

- a. Construction and management which will keep the animal dry and clean and will prevent its escape or exposure to the public.
- b. A method and procedure for the identification of the animal and the recording of the date of its admission to the area or facility.
- c. Assurance that the animal will have safe and adequate water and food.
- d. Adequate and clean space for the animal to exercise.
- e. Protection against excessive heat, cold and other inclement weather.
- f. Space, cages, pens and other necessary equipment to isolate the animal for its protection against injury and infectious disease.
- g. In the event of a pending natural disaster (rising water, hurricane, etc.) any and all unclaimed animals shall be disposed of in a humane manner.
- h. Any injured animal that a reasonable effort has failed to locate the owner, shall be disposed of in a humane manner to prevent any unnecessary suffering by the animal.

Sec. 11-208 Reporting

1. Any person bitten by an animal shall immediately notify the Health Department and the Animal Control Officer.
2. The owner or custodian of any animal having signs suggestive of rabies shall confine the animal and immediately notify the director and the Animal Control officer reporting any information regarding any person bitten or attacked by said animal.
3. The director shall report all known cases of rabies in the City of Woodbine to the Georgia Department of Human Resources.

Sec. 11-209 Penalties

1. Any person violating any provision of the Animal Control Ordinance shall be fined \$25.00 upon conviction of a first offense.
2. Any person violating any provision of the Animal Control Ordinance shall be fined \$50.00 upon conviction of a second offense.
3. Any person violating any provision of the Animal Control Ordinance shall be fined \$100.00 upon conviction of a third offense.
4. Any person upon a fourth conviction of violating any provision of the Animal Control Ordinance shall be declared a Habitual Violator and shall have their entire history of ownership of animals reviewed by the City of Woodbine City Council, Chief of Police, the Animal Control Officer and, if necessary, the Manager of the Camden County Humane Society. Upon reviewing the case, the above listed City officials shall determine at that time if the Habitual Violator may keep animals in the City of Woodbine from that time forward.
5. Any violation of the Animal Control Ordinance of the City of Woodbine shall be triable in the Municipal Court of the City of Woodbine.

Sec. 11-210 Dangerous Dog Control Act

See back of ordinance section for copy of actual law.

Sec. 11-211 Pet Registration

Any animal at least three (3) months of age within the City of Woodbine as defined by the ordinance, shall be required to be registered with the City of Woodbine, and have purchased for said animal an annual license from the City,

Sec. 11-211 Pet Registration (Continued)

said license to be valid through December 31 of the year in which the tag was purchased. The cost of the registration license shall be \$5.00, and shall be purchased on or before January 31 of each new year thereafter. New pets and/or owners new to the City of Woodbine, shall register their pets within thirty (30) days from the date residence is established or within thirty (30) days of receiving new pet into the household. Should pets be acquired or residence is established after July 1 of any given year, the cost shall be \$3.00. Failure of the owner to register any animal shall subject the offender to the penalties under this ordinance. If convicted, the payment of registration fee(s) and penalties shall be due immediately.

In addition, it shall be necessary for the animal owner to exhibit to the proper city official, the current rabies inoculation certificate or record for said animal upon registering the animal with the City of Woodbine, under the terms of this ordinance.

All animals subject to the above described registration shall be required to wear a collar or harness to which a current rabies tag and registration tag shall be securely attached at all times. Failure of the owner to comply with this regulation shall subject the offender to the penalties under this ordinance.

Sec. 11-212 Enforcement

No person shall resist, interfere, hinder, molest, cause harm or damage to the Animal Control Officer or any person of the Health Department, or any persons charged with enforcement of any part of this ordinance, or with any equipment, documents, traps, vehicles, or any other equipment used by or belonging to said enforcement persons; nor shall any person seek to release, remove or assist any animals captured in the enforcement officers humane traps, animal carriers, or impounded pursuant to the provisions of this ordinance.

Damaging or removal of a trap or any other piece of Animal Control equipment is strictly prohibited.

Any persons violating any part of this ordinance section shall be fined under Sec. 11-209 Penalties of the Animal Control Ordinances.

Sec. 11-213 Severability

If any section or paragraph of this ordinance should be declared unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such declaration shall not affect the validity of the other portions hereof not so declared unconstitutional or invalid shall remain in full force and effect as if separately adopted.

Sec. 11-214 Repeal

All ordinances or any part thereof in conflict with the terms of this ordinance are hereby repealed.

Adopted by Woodbine City Council meeting in regular session on December 1, 1997.