

**DISTRICT OF
COLUMBIA
MUNICIPAL
REGULATIONS
for
ANIMAL CONTROL**

TITLE 24 CHAPTER 9. ANIMAL CONTROL

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900. Dogs

900.1 No person shall own or keep a dog that, by barking or in any other manner, disturbs the quiet of any neighborhood or any person.

900.2 No dog shall be allowed to go at large without a collar or tag, as prescribed by law.

900.3 No person owning, keeping, or having custody of a dog in the District shall permit the dog to be on any public space in the District, other than a dog park established by section 9a of the Animal Control Act of 1979, passed on 2nd reading on September 20, 2005 (Enrolled version of Bill 16-28), unless the dog is firmly secured by a substantial leash. The leash shall be held by a person capable of managing the dog.

900.4 The length of the leash required under § 900.3 shall not exceed four feet (4 ft.).

900.5 No person owning, keeping, or having custody of a dog in the District shall permit the dog to go on private property without the consent of the owner or occupant of the property.

900.6 No person owning, keeping, or having custody of a dog in the District shall permit the dog to be confined in any yard or other enclosure, or on any private property, or in any automobile or other vehicle, in a manner that allows the dog to bite or menace persons lawfully using any public street, highway, or public space.

900.7 No person owning, keeping, or having custody of a dog, except a seeing eye dog, shall allow or permit the dog to defecate or urinate on public parking or any sidewalk or in any and each such person shall immediately remove dog excrement from any curb, gutter, alley or street.

900.8 No person owning, keeping, or having custody of a dog, except a seeing eye dog, shall permit the dog's excrement to remain on private property without the consent of the owner or occupant of the property.

900.9 Any person violating any provision of §§ 900.1 through 900.6 shall be punished by a fine of not more than three hundred dollars (\$ 300), or by imprisonment not exceeding ten (10) days.

900.10 Any person violating §§ 900.7 or 900.8 shall be subject to civil sanctions

provided in the Litter Control Administration Act of 1985.

901. Vaccination of Dogs against Rabies

901.1 Each year, during the period from the last Monday in April through the following Saturday, each person in the District of Columbia who owns, keeps, or has custody of a dog that is three (3) months old or older shall have the dog vaccinated against rabies by a licensed veterinarian.

901.2 The provisions of § 901.1 shall not apply to any dog that has been vaccinated against rabies by a licensed veterinarian within the twelve (12) months immediately preceding the last Monday in April, if the owner, keeper, or person having custody of the dog has secured and kept a valid vaccination certificate and numbered vaccination tag for the dog.

901.3 A dog that has been vaccinated under the provisions of § 901.2 shall be revaccinated each year twelve (12) months after the date of the previous vaccination.

901.4 The anti-rabies vaccine used for the vaccination required under this section shall be of a strength and type approved by the Director of Human Services.

901.5 Vaccination shall be done in either of the following ways:

(a) At the expense of the District by veterinarians designated for that purpose; or

(b) At the expense of the person owning, keeping, or having custody of the dog by a private veterinarian.

901.6 The Mayor shall establish and publicize several school locations throughout the city where free vaccinations shall be provided.

901.7 Dogs shall be brought to the clinics as soon as possible after the opening time. Clinics will not be held during periods of rain.

901.8 Dogs brought to clinics shall be leashed in accordance with the provisions of §§ 900.3 and 900.4.

901.9 The veterinarian administering the anti-rabies vaccine shall execute a certificate of vaccination and furnish the original to the owner or other person presenting the dog for vaccination. The certificate shall be on a form prescribed by the Mayor.

901.10 The veterinarian administering the vaccine shall retain a copy or duplicate of the certificate.

901.11 The copy or duplicate of the certificate of vaccination shall be disposed of in the manner prescribed by the Director of Human Services.

901.12 Each veterinarian practicing in the District shall furnish to the Director of Human Services any reports concerning dogs vaccinated against rabies by the veterinarian that may be required by the Director.

901.13 Upon completion of a rabies vaccination, a veterinarian shall furnish a numbered vaccination tag to the owner or other person presenting the dog for vaccination.

901.14 No veterinarian licensed to practice in the District shall issue a rabies vaccination certificate or vaccination tag for any dog unless the dog has been vaccinated against rabies by him or her.

901.15 Each person owning, keeping, or having custody of a dog in the District shall affix the vaccination tag provided under § 901.13 to the collar or harness of the dog. The owner shall keep the tag affixed to the dog's collar or harness.

901.16 No person owning, keeping, or having custody of a dog in the District shall do either of the following:

(a) Affix or permit to be affixed to the collar or harness of the dog any tag other than a current tax tag, vaccination tag, or owner's identification tag; or

(b) Affix or permit to be affixed to the collar or harness of the dog any vaccination tag not issued for that dog.

901.17 Except as provided otherwise in § 901.18, the owner, keeper, or other person having custody of a dog that is brought into the District shall have that dog vaccinated against rabies within fifteen (15) days after the arrival of the dog in the District.

901.18 If a dog brought into the District has already been vaccinated in accordance with the provisions of this section and the owner, keeper, or other person having custody of the dog has a valid vaccination certificate and tag issued by the veterinarian who performed the vaccination, the dog shall not have to be vaccinated again until twelve (12) months after the date of the last vaccination.

901.19 The Director of Human Services shall have authority to require the following control measures when deemed necessary to control the spread of rabies in the District:

(a) Muzzling;

(b) Leashing;

(c) Confinement; and

(d) Quarantine.

902. Fowl

902.1 No person shall harbor, keep, or caused to be kept any live fowl within the District in a manner that is contrary to the provisions of this section, without a permit from the Mayor.

902.2 A permit to keep live fowl shall be issued only upon the approval of the Director of the Department of Human Services, upon compliance with all terms and conditions of this section.

902.3 Permits shall be dated and shall expire at the end of one (1) year. Permits may be reissued annually after the first year under the same conditions of original approval.

902.4 An application for the renewal of a permit shall be filed within thirty (30) days prior to the expiration of the existing permit. In cases where no violation of these regulations is recorded in the Department of Human Services during the preceding year, permits may be renewed for one (1) year by endorsement by the Director of Human Services.

902.5 Applications for permits shall be furnished by the Director of the Department of Human Services, and shall include the following:

- (a) The name and address of the applicant;
- (b) The proposed location where the fowl will be kept;
- (c) An accurate description of the kind and number of fowl, or the progeny of the fowl; and
- (d) Any other information required.

902.6 Each application shall be accompanied by a plat prepared by the District Surveyor that shows accurately the location of the enclosure for the fowl as the enclosure will be placed on the applicant's property, and the respective distance of the enclosure to adjoining property lines.

902.7 Approval by the Director of the Department of Human Services shall be based upon investigation and a report that the following conditions are met:

- (a) The proposed location is not within fifty feet (50 ft.) of any building used for human habitation;
- (b) The proposed location is not within two hundred and fifty feet (250 ft.) of any property line or, if this is not the case, the applicant has furnished to the Director with the written consents of all householders and owners of property located within one hundred feet (100 ft.) of the boundaries of the premises upon which fowl are to be kept, and within the same square; and
- (c) Adequate coops, pens, cotes, runways, and other enclosures will be provided, subject to approval by the Director upon issuance of the permit.

902.8 No fowl shall be kept or permitted to run, fly, or stray within fifty feet (50 ft.) of any building used for human habitation, or onto property other than the enclosure designated in the application for permit; except where a permit has been approved by the Mayor and issued under § 902.9.

902.9 Notwithstanding the limitations set forth in this section, a permit may be issued to a public vocational school if the Mayor approves the issuance of a permit based on a finding that the keeping of fowl at the school will not affect adversely the health, comfort, and quiet of the neighborhood.

902.10 All coops, pens, cotes, runways, and other enclosures shall be kept clean, dry, and sanitary at all times.

902.11 All droppings shall be composted with twelve inches (12 in.) of earth cover, or stored in watertight metal containers with tight-fitting covers.

902.12 Coops, pens, cotes, runways, other enclosures, and the premises shall be free of rats, places where rats can harbor or obtain food, and conditions conducive to the breeding of flies.

902.13 All buildings or structures on any premise where fowl are kept shall be protected against the ingress of rodents.

902.14 Nothing in this section shall apply to properly licensed commercial fowl establishments keeping, killing, or selling fowl.

903. Pigeons

903.1 No person or persons shall keep or cause to be kept any pigeons within the District, without a permit from the Mayor.

903.2 A permit shall be issued only upon the approval of the Director of the Department of Human Services.

903.3 Before a permit is issued to any person or persons, signatures of fifty-one percent (51%) of the householders within the radius of one hundred feet (100 ft.) from the loft shall first be obtained.

903.4 The permit shall be dated when issued.

903.5 Each permit shall be renewed annually on the anniversary date of issuance.

903.6 In any case where there have been no complaints during the previous year, the permit may be renewed for a corresponding period by endorsement on the back of the permit by the Director of the Department of Human Services.

903.7 Lofts, aviaries, nests, and other places where pigeons are kept shall be kept dry, well ventilated, clean, and sanitary at all times.

903.8 Lofts, aviaries, nests, and other places where pigeons are kept shall be open at all reasonable times to inspectors of the Department of Human Services.

903.9 The permit shall be issued at a fee of two hundred dollars (\$ 200).

904. Bees

904.1 No bees or hives of bees shall be permitted to be kept when there are human habitations within a radius of five hundred feet (500 ft.).

904.2 The provisions of this section shall not apply to bees confined in hives, or to bees kept on property that is enclosed so that the bees cannot stray from the property.

905. Wild Animals

905.1 No person shall keep or display any captured wild animal (such as a bear, monkey, fox, or reptile) on any public space under the supervision of the Mayor, without first obtaining a permit to do so.

905.2 Any person desiring to keep or display any wild animal shall make application to the Mayor or the Mayor's designated agent on a form to be provided for that purpose, stating the place of the proposed display and the duration of the display.

906. Drovers of Animals on Streets

906.1 No person shall drive or conduct sheep, swine, beeves, or other cattle in herds or droves through any improved city street, nor any densely populated suburban street, nor on any suburban paved or board sidewalk, except as provided in this section.

906.2 No person shall drive or conduct swine, beeves, or other cattle between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m.

906.3 No herd or drove shall follow a preceding herd or drove at a distance that is less than one hundred fifty (150) yards, and no less than two (2) drovers shall be in charge of any herd or drove.

906.4 Sheep driven or conducted between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m., and when crossing a bridge, shall be in charge of at least six (6) drovers; and the footway and not less than one-third (1/3) of the roadway of the bridge shall be kept free of obstruction by the sheep.

906.5 No drove of beeves shall consist of more than fifteen (15) beeves.

906.6 Horses and mules shall not be driven loosely through any street under any circumstances, but may be conducted in droves of not more than six (6) haltered together and in charge of at least one (1) person holding the halter.

906.7 No horse, mule, goat, sheep, swine, bovine, or other cattle shall be allowed to run at large in the District, and no person owning or harboring any of these animals shall cause or permit an animal to wander, rove, or run at large unrestrained.

906.8 Horned cattle may be led singly by a rope or halter through any of the streets in the District.

906.9 A cow and calf may be led together, if the cow is secured by a rope or halter.

906.10 No loose herd or flock shall be driven or conducted in the District, except with a permit issued by the Chief of Police.

906.11 A permit to drive or conduct a loose herd of animals shall designate the route and time the herd or flock may be driven or conducted.

906.12 No person under sixteen (16) years of age shall drive or conduct any animals listed in this section.

906.13 No person shall wash or clean any vehicle; or water, feed, or clean any horse, mule, cow, or other animal; within fifteen feet (15 ft.) of any public hydrant or pump within the District.

906.14 No person shall bring into the District from any other state, territory, or jurisdiction, on, over, or along any public street, avenue, highway, road, alley, or place, any animal that is not fit for use or that is not free from lameness, sores, and any vice or disease.

906.15 No person shall bring into the District any animal that is likely to cause delay in traffic; or to obstruct any street, avenue, highway, road, alley, or place; or to cause accident or injury to persons or property using those places.

906.16 No person shall drive or work any unfit or diseased animal on, over, or along any public street, road, alley, or place in the District.

906.17 The owner of any diseased or unfit animal shall not allow or permit it to be driven, worked on, or brought into the District along or over any street, avenue, highway, road, alley, or place from any other chapter 27 of the D.C. Code)