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ORDINANCE NO. 6  
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**ROSCOMMON COUNTY ORDINANCE NO. 6**  
**ANIMAL CONTROL ORDINANCE**  
County of Roscommon, State of Michigan

An amendment to Roscommon County Ordinance No. 5, relating to and providing for animal control within the boundaries of Roscommon County; providing for the employment of a County Animal Control Officer and describing the duties, authority and responsibilities of that office; prescribing the licensing and vaccination of dogs and the confinement of animals under certain circumstances; authorizing the establishment of a County Animal Shelter for the impoundment of dogs and other animals and their redemption; permitting the killing and seizing of dogs and other animals; providing special controls and penalties for keeping animals; authorizing an annual census to be made of dogs; enumerating certain violations and penalties; prescribing the County Treasurer's duties with regard to animal control; authorizing certain fees and expenses and the receipt and disbursements of funds; and repealing other inconsistent ordinances.

**THE PEOPLE OF THE COUNTY OF ROSCOMMON, STATE OF MICHIGAN DO HEREBY ORDAIN:**

**ARTICLE I**  
**PURPOSE, FINDINGS, AND POLICY**

The County of Roscommon deems that the ownership of an animal carries with it responsibilities to the County and its residents with regard to care and control of such animals. In interpretation and application, the provisions of this Ordinance shall be construed to impose a primary responsibility for compliance by the owner of such animal. The County of Roscommon concludes it advisable to adopt a revised Animal Control Ordinance in the interest of protecting public health and safety, promoting the welfare of animals within Roscommon County, and providing for the orderly and uniform administration of the provision of Act 339 of the Public Acts of 1919, as amended, as well as all other Public Acts adopted in Michigan in relation to animals where applicable. The Board of Commissioners finds that the presence of aggressive animals, as defined, within Roscommon County creates an increased danger to public health and safety and to the welfare of other animals. The Board of Commissioners, in recognition of the reallocation of governmental functions brought about by Act 139 of the Public Acts of 1973, assigns the Animal Control Division, under the direction of the Animal Control Officer, to the Department of Administrative Services. It is the policy of the Board of Commissioners that this Ordinance shall be vigorously enforced to the extent that financial means permit such enforcement, whenever the activities of animals and their owners within Roscommon County directly endanger human life and whenever animals subject to protection by state law or this Ordinance are cruelly or inhumanely treated.

**ARTICLE II**  
**DEFINITIONS**

For the purposes of this Ordinance, the following terms shall have the following meanings respectively designated for each:

**ALLOW OR PERMIT:** Action or inaction by an owner that results in movement or activities by his animals beyond the area or power of his control of said animals.

**AGGRESSIVE ANIMAL:** means any animal that has:

- a. Been declared a “Dangerous animal” under this Ordinance or under MCL 287.321.
- b. A propensity, tendency, or disposition to attack, to cause injury, or to otherwise endanger the safety of human beings or domesticated companion animals.
- c. Previously attacked or bitten a human being or other domestic animal other than under the type of circumstances that would be justifiable.
- d. Behaved in such a manner that the owner knows or should reasonably know that the animal is possessed of tendencies to attack or bite human beings or other domestic animals other than under the type of circumstances that would be justifiable.

An aggressive animal does not include the following:

- a. An animal that bites or attacks a person or animal that is trespassing on the property of the animal’s owner.
- b. An animal that bites or attacks a person or animal as a result of being provoked, tormented, tortured, or cruel treatment by that person or animal.
- c. An animal that is responding in a manner that an ordinary and reasonable person would conclude was designed to protect a person if that person engaged in lawful activity or is the subject of an assault or batter, or to protect itself or another animal.
- d. Livestock.

**ANIMAL:** unless otherwise stated, the word “Animal” as used in the Ordinance shall mean dogs, cats, birds, fish, mammals, amphibians, and reptiles.

**ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER:** Any person employed by the County for the purpose of enforcing this Ordinance or state statutes pertaining to dogs or other animals as well as persons and deputies employed by the County to act in the Animal Control Division.

**ANIMAL SHELTER:** The grounds and buildings of the Roscommon County Animal Control Division.

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:** The Roscommon County Board of Commissioners.

**COUNTY:** The County of Roscommon, located within the State of Michigan.

**CRUELTY:** Cruelty includes the neglect and mistreatment, as well as inappropriate usage of animals (such as for fighting) and includes all those forms of cruelty set forth in MCL 750.49-50; MSA 28.244-245 and MCL 752.21; MSA 28.161, and in Article VIII of this Ordinance.

**DANGEROUS ANIMAL:** As used pursuant to MCL 287.321: “Dangerous animal” means a dog or other animal that bites or attacks a person, or a dog that bites or attacks and causes serious injury or death to another dog while the other dog is on the property or under the control of its owner. However, a dangerous animal does not include any of the following:

- a. An animal that bites or attacks a person who is knowingly trespassing on the property of the animal's owner.
- b. An animal that bites or attacks a person who provokes or torments the animal.
- c. An animal that is responding in a manner that an ordinary and reasonable person would conclude is designed to protect a person if that person is engaged in a lawful activity or is the subject of an assault.
- d. Livestock.

**DOG:** Any member of the animal species *Canis Familiars* six (6) months or more in age.

**HUNTING:** Allowing a dog to range freely within sight or sound of its owner while in the course of hunting legal game or an unprotected animal.

**KEEPING:** Any person who provided food and shelter for any domesticated animal on other than a temporary basis.

**KENNEL:** Any establishment as defined under MCL 287.270, except a pet shop, animal shelter, or pound or large scale breeding kennel, licensed pursuant to Act 287 of the Public Acts of 1969 as amended, being MCL 287.331-340; MSA 12.481 (101)-(110), wherein or whereon three (3) or more dogs are confined and kept for sale, boarding, breeding, or training, for remuneration, constructed so as to prevent the public or stray dogs from entrance thereto and gaining contact with dogs lodged in kennel. This definition shall not be deemed to apply to a litter of puppies, with their mother, and under four (4) months of age.

**LIVESTOCK:** Horses, stallions, colts, geldings, mares, sheep, rams, lambs, bulls, bullocks, steers, heifers, cows, calves, mules, jacks, jennets, burros, goats, kids, hogs, swine, and furbearing animals being raised in captivity (excluding dogs and cats).

**NEGLECT:** Failure to comply with the minimum requirements for animal care set forth in this Ordinance.

**NUISANCE ANIMAL:** An animal running at large, on public or private property other than that of its owner or keeper, whose behavior constitutes a nuisance. Nuisance behavior shall include, but not be limited to making physical contact with a person or animal in a harassing manner; urinating or defecating; or damaging inanimate personal property.

**NON-AGRICULTURAL AREA:** Any area zoned by a city, village, township, or other governmental body, agency or commission for purposes other than agricultural.

**OWNER:** "Owner" and "persons owning premises," when applied to realty, shall include both the title owner of record and those lawfully occupying or in possession of any property or premises; "Owner," when applied to the proprietorship of an animal, means every person having a right of property in the animal, an authorized agent of the owner, and every person who keeps or harbors the animal or has it in his care, custody, or control, and every person who permits the animal to remain on or about the premises owned or occupied by said person. For purposes of this Ordinance, the records of the

Treasurer's Office show the name of the owner to whom the license number was issued and the license tag affixed to the collar or harness of the animal showing a corresponding number, shall be *prima facie* evidence of ownership of an animal.

**PERSON:** Person shall include individuals, corporations, societies, co-partnerships, associations, and state and local officers or employees.

**POLICE OFFICER, PEACE OFFICER, LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER:** Any person employed or elected by the people of the State of Michigan, or by any city, village, county, or township whose duty it is to preserve peace, to make arrests, and to enforce the law within a specific geographical jurisdiction, and includes game, fish, and forest fire wardens, members of the State Police, and Conservation Officers.

**POULTRY:** All domestic fowl and game birds possessed or being reared under authority of a breeder's license pursuant to Act 191 of the Public Acts of 1929, as amended, being MCL 317.71-84; MSA 13.1271-1284.

**PROVOKE:** To perform a willful act or omission that an ordinary and reasonable person would conclude is likely to precipitate a bite or attack by an animal.

**RABIES SUSPECT ANIMAL:** Any animal which has bitten a human, or any animal which has been in contact with or been bitten by a rabid animal, or any animal that shows symptoms suggestive of rabies.

**RUN AT LARGE:** The unrestrained wandering or roaming of an animal other than a cat on public property or on the private property of other persons, or restrained wandering on a leash held by the owner if the leash is longer than six (6) feet.

**SHELTER:** Adequate protection from the elements and weather conditions suitable for the age, species, and physical condition of the animal so as to maintain the animal in a state of good health. Shelter for livestock includes structures or natural features such as trees or topography. Shelter for a dog includes one or more of the following:

- a. The residence of the dog's owner or other individual
- b. A doghouse that is an enclosed structure with a roof, floor, and of appropriate dimensions for the breed and size of the dog. The doghouse shall have dry bedding when the outdoor temperature is predicted to drop below freezing.
- c. A structure, including a garage, barn, or shed, that is sufficiently insulated and ventilated to protect the dog from exposure to extreme temperatures or, if not sufficiently insulated and ventilated, contains a doghouse accessible to the dog as described in subparagraph (b).

**SERIOUS INJURY:** Permanent, serious disfigurement, serious impairment of health, or serious impairment of a bodily function of a person or domestic companion animal.

**SERVICE DOG:** Any dog which is trained or being trained to aid a person who is blind, deaf, or audibly impaired, or otherwise impaired as per MCL 287.291 (1970 PA 207).

**STATE:** The State of Michigan.

**TORMENT:** To cause, by an act or omission, unjustifiable pain, suffering, and distress to an animal, or cause mental and emotional anguish in the animal as evidenced by its altered behavior for a purpose such as sadistic pleasure, coercion, or punishment that an ordinary and reasonable person would conclude is likely to precipitate a bite or attack.

**TORTURE:** To cause either severe physical or mental suffering.

**WILD ANIMALS:** Also called exotic animals, are animals which are not typically domesticated or found on farms or in residential homes, but which are typically found in the wild, zoos, circuses, wildlife sanctuaries, or nature preserves.

**ARTICLE III**  
**ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER(S)**  
**DUTIES, AUTHORITY, AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

**Section 1.** An Animal Control Officer shall be appointed by the Roscommon County Board of Commissioners and shall serve as the head of the Animal Control Division; provided, however, that said Animal Control Officer shall have and meet the minimum requirements contained in MCL 287.289b; MSA 12.504(2).

**Section 2.** In lieu of all fees and remuneration under the statutes of this State, the Animal Control Officer or his deputies, assistants, and census takers shall be paid a salary or wages as established and determined by the Board of Commissioners.

**Section 3.** The Animal Control Officer (ACO) shall fulfill the following duties:

- a) The ACO shall promptly seize, take up, and place in the animal shelter all animals being kept or harbored or found running at large any place within the County contrary to the provisions of this Ordinance or the statutes of the State.
- b) The ACO shall be properly certified as an Animal Control Officer in accordance with MCL 257.289(b); MSA 12.504(2), and shall be legally authorized to have the power and it shall be his duty to issue appearance tickets, citations, or summonses to those persons owning, keeping, or harboring animals contrary to the provisions of this Ordinance.
- c) The ACO, subject to the limitations contained herein, shall destroy in a humane manner all impounded animals which are not claimed and released within four (4) days of being impounded. However, if a dog has a collar, license, or other evidence of ownership, the ACO shall notify the owner in writing by certified mail of the impoundment. Disposition of the animal shall then not be made until after seven (7) days from the date of mailing the notice. The Animal Control Division shall maintain a record of when the animal was acquired and under what circumstances. This record shall also indicate the date of notice sent to the owner of the animal and any subsequent disposition. This section does not apply to animals which are sick or injured to the extent that the holding period would cause undue suffering, or to animals whose owners request immediate disposal. If in the ACO's judgment an animal is valuable or otherwise desirable for keeping, the ACO may release said animal to any

person who will undertake to remove said animal from the County or keep said animal within the County in accordance with the provisions of this Ordinance and the statutes of the State. The person must be in compliance with licensing and vaccination requirements, and make payment of the proper charge for the care and treatment of said animal while kept in the animal shelter. Regulations regarding the sale of animals from the animal shelter and boarding and other charges shall be posted in a conspicuous place at the animal shelter. The bodies of all animals destroyed at the Animal Shelter or elsewhere in the County shall be disposed of by the ACO in a manner approved by the Roscommon County Health Department and the Board of Commissioners. Any animal voluntarily relinquished to the animal shelter by the owners for disposition (not boarding), need not be kept for the minimum period of four (4) or seven (7) days before release or disposal of such animal by the ACO.

- d) The ACO shall promptly investigate all animal bite cases involving human injury and shall search out and attempt to discover the animal involved. If such animal is found, the ACO shall either impound or quarantine it for examination for disease in accordance with the applicable provisions of this Ordinance and the statutes of the State. He shall also be obliged to seize and impound any rabies suspected animal.
- e) The ACO shall make efforts to determine the number and location of all unlicensed dogs, and issue appropriate citations for unlicensed dogs.
- f) The ACO is hereby authorized and empowered in accordance with the provisions of this Ordinance to enter upon private premises (excepting entry into buildings, unless in possession of a Search Warrant) for the purpose of inspecting those premises in order to determine if the owners of dogs or animals there harbored, kept, or possessed have complied with the provisions of this Ordinance and to apprehend and take with him any dogs for whom no license has been procured in accordance with this Ordinance or for any other violation hereof. The provisions of this section shall include, but not be limited to, investigations of or seizure for cruelty to animals.
- g) The ACO shall have the duty to inspect any kennel, a license for which has been issued by the County or its authorized agents pursuant to this Ordinance and the statutes of this State, and shall have the duty to suspend said license if conditions exist which are unhealthy or inhumane to the animals kept therein, pending correction of such conditions; and further, shall have the duty to revoke said license if such conditions are not corrected within a reasonable period of time.
- h) The ACO shall have the duty to investigate complaints of animals alleged to be dangerous or aggressive to persons or property and shall have the right to seize, take up, and impound such animals pending disposition pursuant to this Ordinance.
- i) The ACO shall have the duty to investigate complaints of cruelty to animals and shall have the duty to seize take up, and impound any animal which has been subject to such cruelty; and said officer shall, when evidence of such cruelty is compelling, seek a warrant charging the owner of said animals with a criminal violation.
- j) The ACO shall be responsible for the sale of licenses and the keeping of appropriate records and books of account.
- k) The ACO shall not sell, give, or make available in any manner any live or dead animals of any species or any animal body parts or organs to be used for research, demonstration,

experimental, or any other purposes by any person, firm, corporation, or institution, except to the extent necessary to comply with health laws and regulations concerning rabies.

- l) The ACO shall have such other duties relating to the enforcement of this Ordinance as the Board of Commissioners or Roscommon County Executive may from time to time provide.

**Section 4.** The ACO, in enforcing the provisions of this Ordinance and the statutes of the State pertaining to animals, may make complaint to the Roscommon County Prosecuting Attorney and to the District Court in regard to any violations.

**Section 5.** All suspensions and revocations of license and all seizures for cruelty, aggressiveness, or dangerousness shall be in accordance with this Ordinance and with such rules and regulations as are adopted from time to time by the Board of Commissioners.

**Section 6.** The ACO shall at all times carry a book issuing of dog licenses as provided in this Ordinance and shall issue such dog licenses as required.

**Section 7.** All fees and monies collected by the ACO as provided shall be accounted for and turned over to the Treasurer on or before the first of each and every month, or more often if reasonably necessary, under the standard practices of the Treasurer's accounting system.

#### **ARTICLE IV LICENSING AND VACCINATION**

**Section 1.** It shall be unlawful for any person:

- a) to own any dog four (4) months old or older unless the dog as required.
- b) to own any dog four (4) months old or older that does not at all times wear a collar with an identifying tag approved by the Director of the Michigan Department of Agriculture (see exception below), and collar shall be attached as required, except when engaged in lawful hunting accompanied by its owner; or
- c) except the owner, to remove any collar and license tag from a dog.

**Section 2.** On or before February 28 of each year, the owner of any dog four (4) months old or older, except as provided in Section 3 of this Article, shall apply to the ACO or Treasurer in writing for a license for each dog owned or kept by said owner. Such application shall state the breed, sex, age, color, and markings of such dog, and the name and address of the last previous owner. Such application for a license shall be accompanied by proof of vaccination of the dog for rabies by a valid certificate of vaccination for rabies with a vaccine licensed by the United States Department of Agriculture, signed by an accredited veterinarian. Dogs attaining the age of four (4) months after February 28, shall have seven (7) days after attaining four (4) months in which to obtain a license.

**Section 3.** No dog shall be exempt from the rabies vaccine requirements as herein set forth unless a registered and practicing veterinarian of the State of Michigan certifies in writing that such rabies vaccine would be detrimental to the health of said dog.



**Section 4.** The license fee for dogs shall be as follows:

- a) For all intact dogs of the age of four (4) months old or older on or before February 28 of each and every year, ten dollars (\$10.00) if said license is obtained on or before February 28.
- b) For all altered dogs, so certified by an accredited veterinarian, of the age of four (4) months old or older on or before February 28 of each and every year, five dollars (\$5.00) if said license is obtained on or before February 28.
- c) For senior citizens with altered dogs, so certified by an accredited veterinarian, of the age of four (4) months old or older on or before February 28 of each and every year, may receive a reduced fee of two dollars (\$2.00) if said license is obtained on or before February 28.
- d) For all dogs which are not licensed within the time period set forth in paragraphs (a) through (c) above, the license will be considered delinquent and the fee shall be Forty Dollars (\$40.00).
- e) Fees for service dogs, as defined, are waived.
- f) For any dog that is dangerous and/or aggressive as defined in Article II and that is subject to Article XI, the license fees scheduled above (and as amended from time to time) shall be increased to \$50.00.
- g) Current licenses issued by other Michigan counties and by other governmental agencies shall be honored in Roscommon County until the following February 28.

**Section 5.** No licenses or license tag issued for one dog shall be transferable to another dog. Whenever the ownership or possession of any dog is permanently transferred from one person to another within the same county, the license of such dog may be likewise transferred by the last registered owner upon proper notice in writing to the Treasurer, who shall note such transfer upon his records. This Ordinance does not require the procurement of a new license, or the transfer of a license already procured, where the possession of a dog is temporarily transferred for the purpose of boarding, hunting game, breeding, trial, or show.

**Section 6.** If any license tag is lost, it shall be replaced without cost by the Roscommon County Treasurer upon application by the owner and upon production of a license receipt and a sworn statement of the facts regarding the loss of such tag.

**Section 7.** Any person who owns, keeps, or operates a kennel shall on or before March 31 of the year following ownership obtain a kennel license from the Treasurer and shall be subject to the following rules:

- a) Any person who owns, keeps, or operates a kennel may, in lieu of individual licenses required under this Ordinance, on or before March 31 of each year, apply to the Animal Control Officer for a kennel license entitling said person to own, keep, or operate such kennel in accordance with the applicable statutes of the State, including Section 10 of Act 339, Public Acts of 1919, as amended, being MCL 287.270; MSA 12.520.
- b) All kennels must be kept sanitary and provide adequate housing for and humane treatment to the dogs kept herein.
- c) Issuance of a kennel license does not relieve or exempt the owner of the kennel from the requirement in Section 3 of this Article that all dogs of licensing age have a current rabies

vaccination, with a vaccine license by the United States Department of Agriculture evidenced by a valid certification of vaccination for rabies, signed by a licensed veterinarian.

- d) The Animal Control Officer shall not issue to any person a kennel license unless such person complies with this Ordinance and the laws of the State of Michigan, including but not limited to Michigan Department of Agriculture Regulation No. 129 governing dog kennels, PA 339 of 1919, being MCL 287.261-293; MSA 12.511-543, and obtains the written approval for the issuance of a kennel license from the appropriate township, village, and/or city zoning administrator.
- e) The fees for said kennel license shall be Twenty-Five Dollars (\$25.00) for three (3) to five (5) dogs, Thirty-Five Dollars (\$35.00) for six (6) to ten (10) dogs, Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) for eleven (11) to fifteen (15) dogs, and Twenty Dollars (\$20.00) for each additional ten (10) dogs, unless changed from time to time by a resolution or motion of the Board of Commissioners.

This section shall not apply to a litter of puppies when with the mother of such, so long as said litter of puppies are less than four (4) months of age nor to a duly licensed pet shop. Failure to obtain such kennel license shall be punished as set forth in the penalty provision of this Ordinance.

## **ARTICLE V CONFINEMENT**

**Section 1.** Any animal kept as a pet that shall bite a person, animal, or livestock shall be securely confined by the owner inside an appropriate building or enclosure for a minimum of ten (10) days following the biting of such personal, animal, or livestock. In the event that the owner of such animal shall fail to securely confine the animal for such period of time, the Animal Control Officer, his deputies, and assistants, may take possession and custody of said animal, confine him at the Animal Shelter until the expiration of said ten (10) day period and upon satisfactory evidence that said animal is not suffering from rabies may release the animal. Said animal shall be kept at the Animal Shelter at the expense of the owner in the event that said owner fails to securely confine said animal. Any animal running loose after biting a person, animal, or livestock, and whose owner cannot be determined, shall, if located, be confined for the required ten (10) days at the Animal Shelter or other suitable location. However, the Animal Control Officer, his deputies, and assistants, may humanely destroy the animal upon the recommendation of the victim's medical doctor and a veterinarian; a sample specimen shall be sent immediately to the Michigan Department of Public Virology Laboratory. Nothing contained herein shall require the Animal Control Officer to accept rodents or lagomorphs, either dead or alive, for shipment to the Michigan Department of Public Health Virology Lab.

**Section 2.** Any other animal not kept as a pet, including wild animals, which shall bite a human, animal, or livestock, if located and capable of being seized, shall be sent immediately to the Michigan Department of Public Health Virology Lab, Lansing, Michigan, or similar lab by the Animal Control Officer.

## **ARTICLE VI ANIMAL SHELTER AND IMPOUNDMENT**

**Section 1.** All dogs found running at large and not under the control of their owners may be seized by the Animal Control Officer or any peace officer, impounded, and be sold or disposed of in accordance with Article III of this Ordinance.

**Section 2.** If the Animal Control Officer or other peace officer comes upon a non-aggressive or non-dangerous dog running at large whose ownership is known and the owner is available, said officer shall not seize and impound such animal, but rather cite the owner of such animal to appear in court to answer charges of violation of this Ordinance.

**Section 3.** Animals other than dogs seized and impounded by the Animal Control Officer pursuant to this Ordinance shall be treated in the same manner as dogs pursuant to Section 1 above.

**Section 4.** Immediately upon impounding an animal, the Animal Control Officer shall use reasonable efforts to notify the owner of such animal so impounded and inform such owner of the conditions whereby custody of such animal may be regained pursuant to the regulations for the operation of the Animal Shelter.

**Section 5.** An owner may claim and obtain release of an animal from the Animal Shelter by executing of ownership, furnishing a license and tag as required by this Ordinance and state law, and paying the fees required by the Board of Commissioners and posted at the Animal Shelter.

## **ARTICLE VII KILLING AND SEIZING OF DOGS AND OTHER ANIMALS**

**Section 1.** Any person, including a law enforcement officer, may kill any dog he or she sees in the act of pursuing, worrying, or wounding any livestock or poultry, or attacking any persons, and there shall be no liability on such persons in damages or otherwise for such killing. Any dog that enters any field or enclosure outside of a city which is owned or leased by any person producing livestock or poultry, said dog not being accompanied by its owner or the owner's agent, shall constitute a trespass, and the owner of said dog shall be liable in damages. In no event shall the provisions of this section exonerate a person from compliance with the criminal laws of this state, including but not limited to, the safe discharge of firearms.

**Section 2.** It shall be lawful for any person to seize any dog running at large in violation of this Ordinance for the purpose of turning said dog over to the Animal Control Officer.

## **ARTICLE VIII ENUMERATION OF CERTAIN VIOLATIONS; CRUELTY; AND PROCEDURE THEREFORE**

**Section 1.** It shall be unlawful for an owner to permit or allow his animal to do any of the following:

- a) For dogs, to run at large; provided however, that working dogs such as leader dogs, farm dogs, hunting dogs, and other trained dogs actively engaged in their trained activities accompanied by their owners need not be leashed when under the reasonable control of their owners;

- b) To permit any female dog to go beyond the premises of such owner when she is in heat, unless the female is held properly in leash;
- c) To be within the confines of any public park when such park, by appropriate signs or notices, prohibits animals, pets, or a specific animal, except a dog assisting its handicapped owner;
- d) To destroy property, real or personal, or to trespass in a manner that causes actual damage to the property of persons other than the owner including, but not limited to, the repetitive depositing of feces or urine on said property;
- e) To attack or bite a person;
- f) To show dangerous or aggressive tendencies or molest passers-by or neighbors when such persons are lawfully on the public highways or rights of way or on their own property.

**Section 2.** It shall be unlawful for any person:

- a) To remove a collar or tag from any animal without the permission of its owner;
- b) To decoy or entice any animal out of its enclosure or off the property of its owner;
- c) To seize, molest, or tease any animal while held or led by any person or while on the property of its owner;
- d) To neglect or cruelly treat any animal under said person's care, custody, or control by:
  - i. Failing to provide adequate shelter, food, and potable water on a regular basis, which caused the animal to suffer exposure, thirst, and hunger;
  - ii. Confining an animal in a fashion that a substantial portion of the animals' living area is contaminated with excreta which the animal directly contacts, or above or below which the animal must live;
  - iii. Confining an animal in a fashion that the animal does not have a dry area on which to exercise and rest;
  - iv. Confining an animal in enclosed quarters without sufficient fresh air or ventilation light;
  - v. Repeatedly allowing an animal who is tied or chained to become entangled so that the animal has less than five (5) feet of lead;
  - vi. Caging or chaining an animal continuously in an area insufficient for the animal to obtain adequate exercise;
  - vii. Placing an animal on a porch or roof at a height of greater than five (5) feet without a protective restraining barrier or without chaining so that the length of lead does not reach any of the edges of the elevated area; or
  - viii. Restraining an animal so that the weight of the animal's tie does not allow the animal to comfortably raise his or her head or move.
  - ix. No animal shall be left without proper attention and care for more than 24 consecutive hours.
  - x. No animal shall be left outside chained or restrained for more than twenty minutes without shelter in extreme weather conditions.
  - xi. No person shall transport an animal in an unenclosed area of a passenger vehicle without confining the animal in a container case, or other device that is of proper and adequate size to prevent the animal from falling from or jumping from the motor vehicle.

- xii. No person shall transport or leave any animal in a vehicle in such a way as to endanger the animal's health, safety, or welfare, including, but not limited to, dangerous temperatures, or a lack of air, food, water, or proper care.
- e) To fail to inquire as to the necessity for medical care when an animal is in obvious pain or distress (example: in a state of emaciation; unable to rise and walk; unable to urinate or defecate; crying out in pain; unable to eat or drink; suffering from unattended broken bones; painful or difficult breathing; wounds; burns; convulsions; passing blood in urine, feces, and/or vomit; infested with maggots; severe skin disease);
- f) To permit or allow an ill, diseased, aged, maimed, or injured animal to suffer unnecessary pain by neglecting to do the following: provide medical treatment; put the animal out of its misery by euthanasia; or give the animal to another person who can provide the proper and necessary care of the animal;
- g) To put any dead animal or part of the carcass of any dead animal into any lake, river, creek, pond, road, street, alley, lane, lot, field, meadow, or common, except the same and every part thereof be buried at least four (4) feet underground; or the owner or owners of the animal to knowingly permit the same to remain in any of the detriment of public health;
- h) To overdrive, overload, drive when overloaded, overwork, torture, torment, cruelly beat, mutilate, or cruelly kill, or cause or procure to be so overdriven, overloaded, driven when overloaded, overworked, tortured, tormented, cruelly beaten, mutilated, or cruelly killed, any animal;
- i) To abandon an animal in the care, custody, or control of said person;
- j) To transport or confine an animal in a cruel manner;
- k) To intentionally injure or poison an animal;
- l) To kill an animal belonging to another without legal authority or the owner's effective consent;
- m) To cause or allow an animal to fight with another animal;
- n) As an owner of an animal that is deceased to knowingly allow the carcass to be left unattended and not properly disposed of for more than seventy-two (72) hours after the death of the animal.

**Section 3.** In the event of any of the above violations or a violation of any other provision of the Ordinance or of the laws of the State, the Animal Control Officer or any peace officer may issue an appearance ticket, citation, or summons to the owner of said animal, summoning the owner to appear before the District Court to answer charges made of violation of this Ordinance or laws of this State, proceed to obtain the issuance of a warrant and cause the arrest of the person against whom said violation is charged in order to bring said person before the Court to answer the charge. The Court, upon conviction, may impose penalties in accordance with the penalty provision of this Ordinance and the laws of the State.

**Section 4.** In all prosecutions for violation of this Ordinance or State law pertaining to animals, the records of the Treasurer showing the name of the owner and the license number which was issued, and the license tag affixed to the collar or harness of the animal showing a corresponding number, or lack thereof, shall be *prima facie* evidence of ownership of any animal and of issuance, or non-issuance respectively, of an animal license or tag.

**Section 5.** Order to Show Cause for Dangerous Animal or Confining a Dog. The provisions of Section 26a of Act No. 339 of the Public Acts of 1919, as amended, being MCL 287.286a; MSA 12.537 are available under this Ordinance and shall be utilized by the Animal Control Officer as determined appropriate.

**Section 6.** The enumeration of certain violations of this Article does not constitute all violations of the Ordinance for which penalties are provided by this Ordinance.

## **ARTICLE IX SPECIAL PROVISIONS REGARDING AGGRESSIVE ANIMALS**

**Section 1.** The keeping of aggressive animals shall be subject to the following standards:

- a) Leash and muzzle. No person shall permit an aggressive animal to go outside of its kennel, pen, or the owner's residence unless such animal is securely leashed with a leash no longer than four (4) feet in length. No person shall permit such an animal to be kept on a chain, rope, or other type of leash outside its kennel or pen unless a person is in physical control of the leash. Such animals may not be leashed to inanimate objects such as trees, posts, buildings, etc. In addition, all such animals on a leash outside of the animals kennel, pen, or the owner's residence must be muzzled by a muzzling device sufficient to prevent the animal from biting persons or animals.
- b) Confinement. All aggressive animals shall be securely confined indoors or in a securely enclosed and locked pen or kennel, except when leashed and muzzled as provided in paragraph (a) above. Such pen, kennel, or structure must have secure sides and a secure top attached to its sides. A fenced-in yard by itself is insufficient to meet this standard. All structures used to confine such animals must be locked with a key or combination lock when such animals are within the structure. Such structure must have a secure bottom or floor attached to the sides of the pen or the sides of the pen must be embedded in ground to a depth of no less than two (2) feet. All structures erected to house such animals must comply with all zoning structures and building regulations of the City or Township where located. All such structures must be adequately lighted and ventilated and kept in a clean and sanitary condition. The house of shelter for said aggressive animal shall be totally enclosed within the confinement structure.
- c) Confinement Indoors. No aggressive animal may be kept on a porch, patio, or in any part of a house or structure that would allow the animal to exit such building on its own volition. In addition, no such animal may be kept in a house or structure where window screens or screen doors are the only obstacle preventing the animal from exiting the structure.
- d) Signs. All owners, keepers, or harbors of aggressive animals within the County of Roscommon shall within ten (10) days of the effective date of this Ordinance display in a prominent place on their premises a sign, easily readable by the public from adjoining public roads or streets, using such words as "Beware of Dog" or other appropriate warning language. In addition, a similar sign must be posted on the kennel or pen of such animal.

**Section 2.** Insurance identification and Reporting Requirements.

- a) Insurance. All owners, keepers, or harbors of aggressive animals must within ten (10) days of the effective date of this Ordinance provide proof to the County of Roscommon at its Animal Control Division at the Animal Shelter of liability insurance in an amount of Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00) for each occurrence for bodily injury or death of any person or persons which may result from ownership, keeping, or maintenance of such animal. Such insurance policy shall provide that no cancellation of the policy will be effective unless ten (10) days written notice is first given to the Animal Control Officer at his business address.
- b) Identification Photographs. All owners, keepers, or harbors of aggressive animals must within ten (10) days of the effective date of this Ordinance provide the Animal Control Officer two (2) color photographs of the registered animal clearly showing the color and approximate size of the animal.
- c) Reporting Requirements. All owners, keepers, or harbors of aggressive animals must within three (3) days of the following incidents report the same in writing to the Animal Control Officer:
  - i. The removal from the County or death of an aggressive animal.
  - ii. The birth of offspring of an aggressive animal.
  - iii. The new address of an aggressive animal should the owner move within County limits.
  - iv. The animal is on the loose, has been stolen, or has attacked a person.

**Section 3.** Rebuttable Presumption as to Pit Bulls. There shall be a rebuttable presumption that Pit Bulls are aggressive animals for purposes of this Article. "Pit Bull Dog" is defined for purposes of this section to mean the Bull Terrier breed of dog, the Staffordshire Bull Terrier breed of dog, the American Pit Bull Terrier breed of dog, the American Staffordshire Terrier breed of dog, dogs of mixed breed or other breeds which breed or mixed breed is known as Pit Bulls, Pit Bull Dogs, or Pit Bull Terriers, and any dog which has the appearance and characteristics of being predominantly of the breeds of bull Terrier, Staffordshire Bull Terrier, American Pit Bull Terrier, American Staffordshire Terrier, any other breed commonly known as Pit Bulls, Pit Bull Dogs, or Pit Bull Terriers, or a combination of any of these breeds.

**Section 4.** Failure to Comply. If the Owner, keeper, or harbor of an aggressive animal resident with the County of Roscommon fails to comply with the requirements and conditions set forth in this Article and this entire Ordinance, said animal shall be subject to immediate seizure and impoundment and further disposition in accordance with this Ordinance, including the procedures set forth in Article VIII, Section 6.

## **ARTICLE X SPECIAL PROVISIONS REGARDING EXOTIC OR WILD ANIMALS**

**Section 1.** Prohibited exotic animals. Wild animals listed in Section "w" of Article II, Definitions above may not be possessed, bred, exchanged, bought, sold, or attempted to buy or sell in Roscommon County under any conditions or circumstances.

**Section 2.** Exceptions. Notwithstanding the above provisions, it shall not be a violation of this Ordinance for a person, persons, corporation, or business entity in lawful possession of an animal to travel through Roscommon County on a public highway for a destination out of the County. Zoological parks and

aquariums that are accredited by the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums, wildlife sanctuaries, nature preserves, circuses, and *bona fide* scientific, medical, or educational research facilities are also an exception.

**Section 3. Non-Predatory and/or Non-Dangerous Animals.** Only certain wild animals which are traditional non-predatory and/or non-dangerous may be possessed in Roscommon County. These include non-poisonous snakes less than three (3) feet in length, quails, pheasants, peacocks, raccoons, skunks, squirrels, wild turkeys, and deer, but may only be possessed if the following conditions are met:

- a) That the animals possessed are possessed under the proper State and Federal permits and/or licenses.
- b) That the animals possessed are properly caged, penned, housed, or secured so as not to leave the property upon which they are possessed.
- c) That the animals possessed do not become excessively noisy, excessively odorous, dangerous, or in any way disruptive to the character of the area in which they are possessed.

**Section 4. Nuisance Per Se.** Any continuing violation or a repeated violation of this Ordinance shall constitute a nuisance per se and may be abated by an action in Circuit court separately or in addition to criminal proceedings.

## **ARTICLE XI VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES**

**Section 1.** The Animal Control Officers, the Sheriff, their deputies, or other law enforcement officers are authorized to issue a notice to any person who violates a provision of this Ordinance or state statutes. The notice shall contain a description of the violation and shall cite the specific sections of the Ordinance or state statutes that apply. The Animal Control Officers, the Sheriff, their deputies, or other law enforcement officers may also order correction of a violation and may specify the nature of corrective action required and a reasonable time limit for the corrective action to be completed. In the case of violations that may present an imminent danger to public health and safety, immediate corrective action may be required.

**Section 2. Enforcement** – This Ordinance may be enforced by criminal proceedings, civil penalties, or both, and any violation may give rise to both criminal and civil liability. The Sheriff is authorized to seek judicial remedies and sanctions for any violations of this Ordinance when administrative efforts to resolve the violations have proven ineffective, inadequate, or otherwise deemed inappropriate.



**ARTICLE XII  
PRESERVATION OF CERTAIN RIGHTS**

**Section 1.** Nothing in this Ordinance shall be construed to prevent the owner of a licensed dog from recovery in an action at law from any peace officer or any other person, except as herein provided.

**Section 2.** Nothing in this Ordinance shall be construed as limiting the common law liability of the owner of an animal for damages committed by said animal.

**ARTICLE XIII  
TREASURER'S RECORDS AND DUTIES; EVIDENCE**

**Section 1.** On June 15 of each year, the Treasurer shall make a comparison of his records of the dogs actually licensed in the County with the report of the Animal Control Officer to determine and locate all unlicensed dogs.

**Section 2.** On and after June 15 of each year, every unlicensed dog subject to license under provisions of this Ordinance or the statutes of this State, is declared to be a public nuisance and the Treasurer shall immediately list all such unlicensed dogs, as shown by the returns in his office of the supervisors and assessors, and shall deliver copies of such lists to the Animal Control Officer and the Director of the Michigan Department of Agriculture as well as those officers listed and set forth in Act 339 of the Public Acts of 1919, being MCL 287.277; MSA 12.527 as amended.

**Section 3.** The Treasurer shall keep a record of all dog licenses and all kennel licenses issued during the year in each city and township in the County. Such records shall contain the name and address of the person to whom each license is issued. In the case of all individual licenses the record shall also state the breed, sex, age, color, and markings of the dog; and in each case of a kennel license, it shall state the place where the business is conducted. The record shall be a public record and open to inspection during business hours. He shall also keep an accurate record of all license fees collected or paid over to him by any city or township treasurer.

**ARTICLE XIV  
FEES AND EXPENSES; DOG CENSUS**

**Section 1.** Every township and city treasurer of Roscommon County shall receive the sum of One Dollar (\$1.00) for each dog license issued and receive the sum of Fifty Cents (.50) for each discounted license issued. The remuneration as herein established shall be deemed additional compensation for additional services for each township or city treasurer who received a salary in lieu of fees, when so designated by the appropriate township or city council.

**Section 2.** It shall be the duty of the Animal Control Office annually to make a census of the number of dogs owned by all persons in the county. The Animal Control Officer is hereby empowered to employ whatever personnel he reasonably believes necessary to conduct this census within the budget

limitations provided by the Board of Commissioners; such personnel shall receive for their services the amount as shall be set from time to time by the Board of Commissioners.

**Section 3.** The duties and obligations herein imposed upon the respective designated officials may be delegated when permitted by law to some other appropriate person or persons by each of said officials with like force and effect.

**Section 4.** The fees and expenses as established by this Ordinance may be changed from time to time by Resolution or Motion of the Board of Commissioners.

#### **ARTICLE XV RULES OF CONSTRUCTION**

**Section 1.** When not inconsistent with the context, words used in the present tense include the future. Words in the singular include the plural and words in the plural include the singular. Masculine includes the feminine and neuter. Words or terms not defined shall be interpreted in accordance with their common meaning. Headings are inserted for convenience and shall not limit or increase the scope of any article or section of this Ordinance.

**Section 2.** The provisions of this Ordinance are minimum standards supplemental to the rules and regulations duly enacted by the Michigan Department of Health and Agriculture and to the laws of the State of Michigan.

**Section 3.** If any part of this Ordinance shall be held unconstitutional or void, such part shall be deemed severable and the invalidity thereof shall not affect the remaining parts of this Ordinance.

#### **ARTICLE XVI REPEAL; SAVINGS**

All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed, and specifically Ordinance 1 of the County of Roscommon adopted August 9, 1988 and amended Ordinance No. 2 adopted August 8, 2000 is repealed; however, any and all actions, civil or criminal, arising out of any Ordinance repealed which are pending in a Court of this State or otherwise vested on the effective date of this Ordinance shall not abate and shall be saved and may proceed to conclusions pursuant to such repealed Ordinance.

#### **ARTICLE XVIII ADOPTION, PUBLICATION, AND EFFECTIVE DATE OF ORDINANCE**

This Ordinance shall not be adopted unless a majority of the commissioners elected and serving shall vote in the affirmative on its adoption. The Roscommon County Clerk shall then engross and certify this Ordinance before it is considered adopted. This Ordinance shall then take effect fifteen (15) days after the day that it is published in a newspaper of general circulation in the County of Roscommon. The County Clerk shall certify such publication.

