

RESPONSIBLE

pet OWNERSHIP

Laws for responsible pet owners in the City of Burnet



THIS DOCUMENT IS NOT INTENDED TO BE A COMPLETE LIST OF ALL REGULATIONS REGARDING ANIMALS IN THE CITY OF BURNET. SEE THE "FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION" SECTION.

GENERAL REGULATIONS

Identification for animals: Except for mice, rats, rabbits, guineas, hamsters, gerbils, ferrets, fowl and snakes, all animals within the city shall be marked by some type of identifying license, tag, band, tattoo or brand by which the animal's owner can be identified.

Running at large: It shall be unlawful for any person who owns, keeps, harbors or otherwise has control over any animal within the city to allow or permit such animal to run or be at large in the city, except for domestic cats which have been vaccinated and is wearing the required vaccination tags.

Snakes: It shall be unlawful for any person to have a snake in any public place unless it is within some type of cage, pen or enclosure.

Pens and Coops: All fowl and rabbits shall be kept within a pen, coop or hutch. A fenced yard shall not qualify as a pen or coop.

Livestock: The City ordinances allow for certain livestock to be kept within the City limits provided they meet specific requirements as to manner of location and confinement. Review Chapter 14 of the Burnet Code of Ordinances for more information. The keeping of hogs or any member of the swine family is prohibited.

ANIMAL PROTECTION



No person shall beat, cruelly treat, torment, mentally abuse, overload, overwork or otherwise abuse an animal or cause, instigate or permit any dog fight, cock fight, bull fight or other combat between animals or between animals and humans. No person shall abandon an animal in

his/her custody.

It is unlawful for any person to fail, refuse or neglect to provide any animal in his charge or custody, as owner or otherwise, with proper food, water, shade, adequate shelter, veterinary care when needed to prevent suffering, grooming when lack thereof would adversely affect the health of the animal, and with humane care and treatment.

It is unlawful for any person to leave any animal in any standing or parked vehicle in such a way as to intentionally, knowingly, recklessly, or with criminal negligence, endanger the animal's health, safety or welfare.

An animal control officer or police officer is authorized to use reasonable force to remove the animal from a dangerous situation. The animal shall be taken to the animal shelter or to a veterinarian if the animal is in distress. If the owner of an animal is not known and an animal is without a license tag or other identifying marker is found in a state of pain and suffering or becomes so during confinement, the animal control officer may dispose of the animal in any humane manner without complying with the standard three-day (72-hour) waiting period.

Any person who shall harbor or keep animals on his/her premises, or in or about a premises under his/her control, and who allows such premises to become a hazard to the general health and welfare of the community, or who shall allow such premises to give off obnoxious or offensive odors due to the activity or presence of such animals, shall be guilty of a class "C" misdemeanor.

IMPOUNDMENT

Animals owned or harbored in violation of city ordinances or laws of the State of Texas shall be taken into custody by an animal control officer or other designated official and impounded. Current shelter fees will be charged for the housing of your animal. Animals are housed at the Christ-Yoder Animal Shelter and Adoption Center. In the event your pet is picked up by Animal Control, you can contact the shelter at 512.793.5463. The shelter is located at 9150 Highway 1431 West in Buchanan Dam. Hours are 10-3 Sat.—Wed, closed on Thursday and Friday. Animals are held for a maximum of five days.

RABIES CONTROL

All dogs or cats four months of age or older within the city shall be vaccinated against rabies. It shall be unlawful for any person within the city to own, keep, possess, harbor or allow to remain upon premises under his control any dog or cat which has not been vaccinated as required herein. Any person establishing residence within the city shall comply with this requirement within ten days of establishing such residency.



LICENSING

All animals four months of age or older which are kept, harbored or maintained within the corporate limits of the city shall be licensed. Licenses shall be provided by the animal control officer or his agent upon payment of the required fee for each animal. Before a city license will be issued for a cat or dog, the owner must present a certificate from a licensed veterinarian showing that such cat or dog has been vaccinated for rabies within the preceding 12 months. Contact your veterinarian to schedule your pet for vaccinations.



ADOPTION



Animals may be adopted from the Christ-Yoder Animal Shelter and Adoption Center which is operated by the Hill Country Humane Society/SPCA at Buchanan Dam. You can contact the shelter at 512.793.

5463. The shelter is located at 9150 Highway 1431 West in Buchanan Dam. Hours are 10-2 Monday through Saturday.

PENALTIES

Any person who shall violate any of the provisions of Chapter 14 or shall fail to comply therewith, or with any of the requirements thereof, within the city limits shall be deemed guilty of an offense and shall be liable for a fine, depending upon the type of offense, of up to \$500/day/offense and/or a penalty of up to \$10,000 (Dangerous Animals.) Each day the violation exists shall constitute a separate offense. Such penalty shall be in addition to all other remedies provided.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

This pamphlet is not a complete list of regulations regarding animals in the City of Burnet. For the complete Code of Ordinances on Animals go to www.cityofburnet.com, click on Code of Ordinances, and navigate (or search) for Chapter 14, or contact the City Secretary at 512.756.6093.



Contact info and numbers:

Code violations should be reported to the Animal Control Officer at 830.798.3971 or call the Burnet Police Department at 512.756.6404.

To report **DANGEROUS ANIMALS** call **911** to have an officer dispatched to your location.



This brochure is a product of the City of Burnet, Texas.
www.cityofburnet.com 512.756.6093

DO YOU HAVE A Dangerous Animal?



What is a dangerous animal?

A dangerous animal is defined as an animal which:

- (1) Has inflicted injury on a human being without provocation on public or private property; or
- (2) Has killed or severely injured a domestic animal without provocation while off the owner's property; or
- (3) Is trained or harbored for fighting which may be determined based on whether the animal exhibits behavior and/or bears physical scars or injuries which indicate that the animal has been trained or used for the purpose of fighting; or
- (4) Is a warm-blooded mammal which is known to carry or be susceptible to the rabies virus and which cannot be effectively vaccinated against that virus with any vaccine approved by the Texas Department of Health (prohibited under section 14-123 of the Code of Ordinances); or
- (5) Is a hybrid animal or any pet wildlife which has attacked a human or which is apprehended or observed unrestrained; or
- (6) Is a venomous or carnivorous fish or reptile or any fish or reptile that grows over six feet in length (prohibited under section 14-123 of the Code of Ordinances).

What if my animal has not actually attacked?

If the animal control officer believes that an animal has exhibited behavior indicating that it represents a potential danger, the animal control officer may initiate an investigation to determine whether or not the animal is potentially dangerous. Your animal may be defined as "potentially dangerous" if it has engaged in the following behavior:

- (1) When unprovoked, chases or approaches a person upon the streets, sidewalks or any public or private property in a menacing fashion or apparent attitude of attack; or
- (2) Has a known propensity, tendency or disposition to

attack unprovoked, to cause injury or to otherwise threaten the safety of human beings or domestic animals.

What happens if my animal is found to be dangerous?

If an animal acts or is defined as stated in subsection (b) of Chapter 14 of the Code of Ordinances, the animal control officer shall impound the animal immediately if it is at large; or if it is in the possession of some person, the animal control officer may declare the animal dangerous and as such shall issue a notice requiring immediate remedial or safeguard measures be taken, or if necessary for public safety, that the animal be taken to a designated location for impoundment.

The owner of an animal that has been determined as dangerous may file a written appeal clearly stating the reason(s) for disputing the remedial action(s) or the determination of the animal being deemed a dangerous animal. Such appeals shall be directed to a court of law within 15 days of being served. If no written appeal is received by the court within the prescribed appeal period, the dangerous animal determination of the animal control officer is presumed to be valid. If the animal control officer's determination is appealed, the judge shall conduct a hearing to determine the validity of the animal being determined a dangerous animal.

It shall be unlawful for the owner or harbored of an animal determined a dangerous animal to permit continued or future "at large" behavior or to disregard valid remedial requirements imposed or safeguard requirements imposed under the processes described herein this section. Any person who shall violate this provision shall be deemed guilty of an offense.

If the owner of a dangerous animal cannot be

determined after reasonable efforts to do so and after holding the animal for 72 hours, the animal may be disposed of in a humane manner. If the owner of a dangerous animal which has been impounded cannot be located for the delivery service of the notice required herein either in person or by mail, the animal may be disposed of in a humane manner after all reasonable effort has been made to locate such owner.

Once a dog has been determined to be a dangerous dog, the owner of the dog is required to notify the animal control officer of any attacks the dog makes on people or animals.

What is a "nonregisterable dangerous dog" and what does it mean?

In certain cases, a dog may be found to be so dangerous that it poses a significant danger to the public. This is considered to be a "nonregisterable dangerous dog." It is unlawful for any person to own a nonregisterable dangerous dog within the city limits.

A dog is automatically determined to be nonregisterable if it commits any of the following acts.

- (1) When unprovoked, severely attacked or inflicted serious injury or death to a person, whether on public or private property; or
- (2) Has been deemed nonregisterable by the animal control officer and upheld or unchallenged by any court of jurisdiction; or
- (3) The dog has been registered as, or finally determined or declared to be, a dangerous dog, either in Burnet or in another city or county in Texas, or has made an unprovoked attack on another person outside the dog's enclosure, or causes injury to such person or a person assisting or intervening on behalf of such person.

A dog owner may appeal the determination of their dog as nonregisterable through a court of law, however, if the judge upholds the determination by the animal control officer, the court shall order the dog to be euthanized. In certain cases the dog may be destroyed without notice to the owner. For more information on the appeal process, contact the Burnet Municipal Court at 1001 Buchanan Drive, Suite 4, Burnet, Texas.

The penalty for violation of the dangerous dog provisions may include criminal prosecution and a penalty of up to \$10,000.