

ORDINANCE NO. 43-20

AN ORDINANCE of the City of Richland amending Richland Municipal Code Section 7.03.010 related to the definition of potentially dangerous animal.

WHEREAS, the City has need, from time to time, to amend the Richland Municipal Code (RMC) to eliminate ambiguity or conflict; and

WHEREAS, the Richland City Prosecutor has identified a deficiency in the definition of “potentially dangerous animal” under the City’s Animal Control code; and

WHEREAS, amendment is necessary to correct the deficiency.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City of Richland as follows:

Section 1. Richland Municipal Code Section 7.03.010, entitled Definition of terms, as first enacted by Ordinance No. 32-98, and last amended by Ordinance No. 24-19, is hereby amended to read as follows:

**7.03.010 Definition of terms**

As used in this chapter, unless the context indicates otherwise:

“Abandon” means the knowing or reckless desertion of an animal by its owner or the causing of the animal to be deserted by its owner, in any place, without making provisions for the animal’s adequate care. An animal left without adequate care for three or more days shall be prima facie evidence that the animal has been abandoned.

“Animal” includes but is not limited to dogs and cats.

“Animal control authority” refers to the joint power authority formed by interlocal agreement of the cities of Richland, Pasco and Kennewick to implement and provide animal control and sheltering services within the respective cities.

“Animal control officer” or “chief animal control officer” refers to that person employed by or under contract to the city to enforce the provisions of this title.

At Heel. A dog shall be deemed to be “at heel” during such times as the dog is positioned and controlled in such a manner so as to remain within a distance of two feet from its owner or other competent person having charge of such dog.

“At large” means off the premises of the owner or upon the public streets, alleys, public grounds, school grounds or parks within the city. A dog shall not be deemed at large if:

1. It is attached to a leash or chain of sufficient strength to restrain the dog and not more than eight feet in length, when said leash or chain is held by a person

competent to restrain and control the dog off the owner's premises;

2. It is properly restrained within a motor vehicle or housed in a veterinary hospital;

3. It is accompanied by and at heel beside the owner or a competent responsible person;

4. The dog or dogs are left unattended on the owner's premises, and it or they shall be so confined, tied or restrained as to be unable to range beyond the owner's premises.

"Cat" means and includes female, spayed female, male and neutered male cats.

"Commercial kennel" means any lot, premises, building or structure where six or more dogs, cats, and/or household pets over the age of six months of age are kept.

"Competent person" means any person who, by reason of age and physical ability, and training, is capable of maintaining control of an animal to the extent required by this chapter.

"Dangerous animal" means any animal that:

1. Has inflicted severe injury on a human being without provocation; or

2. Has killed a domestic or livestock animal without provocation; or

3. Has been previously found to be potentially dangerous, the owner having received notice of such, and the animal again aggressively bites, attacks, or endangers the safety of humans or domestic animals.

"Dog" means and includes female, spayed female, male and neutered male dogs.

"Domestic animal" means a tame animal in the house or home, or on the property, living with or used by people for companionship, work and/or a food source.

"Health officer" includes any person designated as such by the Benton-Franklin district health office, or any other person designated as such by the city council.

"Household pets" means any dogs, cats, rabbits, chickens (except for roosters), ducks, geese, pigeons, or other similar domestic animals over the age of six months.

"Livestock" includes, but is not limited to, horses, mules, ponies, cattle, sheep, pigs, hogs, goats, llamas, fowl, oxen or other hoofed animals kept or raised on a farm, ranch or other spread of land which are raised for home use, profit or hobby.

“Owner” means any person, firm, corporation, organization, or department possessing, harboring, keeping, having an interest in, or having control or custody of an animal for three consecutive days or more. An animal is deemed to be harbored if it is fed or sheltered for three consecutive days or more and knowingly permitted to remain on the premises occupied by that person. If the owner of the animal is a juvenile, a parent or other custodian of such juvenile shall, for the purposes of this chapter, be treated as the owner of the animal.

“Person” includes any person, partnership, corporation, trust or association of persons.

“Potentially dangerous animal” means any animal that, without provocation, inflicts injury on a human or a domestic animal or livestock either on public or private property, other than ~~that of~~ the owner's property ~~owner~~; or chases or approaches a person upon the streets, sidewalks, or any public grounds or private property, other than the owner's property, in a menacing fashion or apparent attitude of attack, or any animal with a known propensity, tendency or disposition to attack without provocation, to cause injury, or otherwise to threaten the safety of humans or domestic animals.

“Poundmaster” means the chief officer appointed by the animal control authority for the enforcement of animal control laws and regulations. The poundmaster may include or employ animal control officer(s) and/or a chief animal control officer.

“Proper enclosure” means, while on the owner’s property, a dangerous, or potentially dangerous, animal shall be securely confined indoors or in an outside securely enclosed and locked pen or structure, resistant to tunneling, suitable to prevent the entry of young children and designed to prevent the animal from escaping. Such pen or structure shall have secure sides not less than five feet high and a secure top, and shall provide protection from the elements for the animal. The requirement for a secure top on the enclosure may be waived by the poundmaster upon showing that it is unnecessary.

This definition shall not apply to guard dogs or watch dogs utilized to secure premises enclosed by a fence or wall not less than five feet high and resistant to tunneling, located within an industrial or commercial zone.

“Severe injury” means any physical injury that results in death, broken bones or disfiguring lacerations requiring one or more sutures or cosmetic surgery.

“Show dog or cat” means any dog or cat that meets the requirements as set forth on a form provided by the Richland finance department as a certified/registered show dog or cat.

“Veterinary hospital” means a public establishment regularly maintained and operated by a licensed veterinarian for the diagnosis and treatment of diseases and injuries of animals.

“Welfare check” means tending to the well-being of an animal.

Whenever a power is granted to, or a duty is imposed upon, the poundmaster or chief animal control officer or other public officer, the power may be exercised or the duty performed by an agent of the officer or by any person duly authorized unless this chapter expressly provides otherwise.

All other words or phrases used in this chapter will have their commonly accepted meanings.

Section 2. This Ordinance shall take effect the day following its publication in the official newspaper of the City of Richland.

Section 3. Should any section or provision of this Ordinance be declared by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, that decision shall not affect the validity of the Ordinance as a whole or any part thereof, other than the part so declared to be invalid.

Section 4. The City Clerk and the codifiers of this Ordinance are authorized to make necessary corrections to this Ordinance, including but not limited to the correction of scrivener's errors/clerical errors, section numbering, references, or similar mistakes of form.


PASSED by the City Council of the City of Richland, Washington, at a regular meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of November, 2020.

  
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Ryan Lukson, Mayor

Attest:

  
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Jennifer Rogers, City Clerk

Approved as to form:

  
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Heather Kintzley, City Attorney

Date Published: November 8, 2020