

## CHAPTER 212: CATS

### SECTION 212.010: APPLICABILITY

This Chapter shall apply to cats as they are defined in Chapter 210. The definitions contained in Chapter 210 and 211 shall also apply to this Chapter.

### SECTION 212.020: DEFINITIONS

**ATTACK:** Means aggressive behavior by a cat that involves repeatedly biting or scratching its victim.

**DANGEROUS CAT:** Means a cat that has been designated as dangerous pursuant to the standards and administrative procedures identified in this article or that has been given another designation pursuant to similar standards and procedures in another jurisdiction.

**FREE ROAMING CAT:** Means a cat that is not kept inside of a house, business or other legal occupancy structure or kept in a fenced area enclosed with a top and containing a shelter as described in this article. A cat that is allowed to go outside of such structure or fenced area is considered a free-roaming cat.

### SECTION 212.030: MAXIMUM NUMBER.

No more than three (3) cats may be kept or harbored at a household or business within the city limits. This section does not apply to veterinarians, licensed breeders or pet stores. Kittens under the age of four (4) months which were born to a cat which has a City license shall be exempt from this section.

### SECTION 212.040: CONFINEMENT

- A. For any cat newly licensed after January 1, 2016, cat owners shall identify their free-roaming cats by means of a microchip that registers the owner with a national computer recovery network. This shall not apply to cats which have been registered with the city prior to said date.
- B. All free-roaming cats shall be sterilized unless the owner's veterinarian, licensed by the state, certifies in writing that the animal is physically unable to reproduce or that the animal is medically compromised to the extent that it cannot be sterilized safely.
- C. Direct-point chaining or tethering of cats to a stationary object is prohibited.

### SECTION 212.050: DANGEROUS CATS

- A. It shall be unlawful for any person to keep within the city limits any dangerous cat, except in compliance with the provisions of this section. A cat is considered dangerous for purposes of this section if:
  1. Without provocation, it attacks or bites a person; or
  2. Acts in a manner which the owner knows, or reasonably should know, is an indication that the cat is dangerous and is not merely acting in self defense under a particular set of circumstances; or
  3. Has been declared dangerous, or has been given some other designation by another governmental body under circumstances that would meet the grounds for dangerous cat designation under the provisions of this ordinance.
  4. If the animal control officer has cause to believe that a cat is dangerous, the animal control officer may find and declare such cat a dangerous cat. The animal control officer shall give notice of the declaration and the reasons for it in writing to the person who owns, keeps, or otherwise maintains the cat. The notice shall inform the owner or

custodian of the cat that a hearing to contest the declaration shall be held before the animal control board, if a request for a hearing is submitted in writing to the city within five (5) days from receipt of the notice of dangerous cat declaration.

- B. Hearing. The hearing required pursuant to this subsection shall be held no more than five (5) week days from the date of receipt of the request. The hearing shall be before the animal control board.
- C. In the event a cat is designated as dangerous, it shall not be allowed to be a free roaming cat. Any cat found to be kept in violation of this section shall be subject to seizure and impoundment.

**SECTION 212.060: PENALTIES**

Penalties for violations of any provision herein shall be as set forth in Section 100.160 unless otherwise set forth. Each day that a violation of any provision of this chapter continues shall be deemed a separate offense.