

**ANIMALS, FOWL, AND REPTILES**  
**CHAPTER 4**

Disposition of seized Companion Animals:

- a) If the court finds the owner is not committing companion animal hoarding, the court shall return the companion animals to their owner.
- b) Upon conviction, the court shall place the companion animals for adoption with an animal shelter or animal welfare organization or provide for the humane euthanasia of the companion animals.
- c) In no event shall the owner be permitted to adopt the seized companion animals following a conviction of companion animal hoarding.
- d) An individual who is authorized by the court to care for the companion animals, to treat companion animals or to attempt to restore companion animals to good health is immune from civil or criminal liability resulting from his action.

Forfeiture:

- a) Within fourteen days following the seizure of companion animals from an owner who is alleged to have committed companion animal hoarding, the Department of Animal Services may file a petition for forfeiture prior to trial before the court having jurisdiction over the case. In the petition, the Department of Animal Services may request that permanent forfeiture of the companion animals be granted if the owner of the companion animals is alleged to have committed companion animal hoarding and is also proven to have committed cruelty to animals or extreme cruelty to animals.

Cost:

- a) Upon seizure of the companion animals, the owner shall post a bond or other adequate financial assurance acceptable to the court within fifteen days to cover the cost of the boarding the seized companion animals and all necessary veterinary examinations and care provided to the seized companion animals housed at an animal shelter or animal welfare organization during the pendency of the proceedings. If bond isn't posted, then the animal may be disposed of by sale, adoption or euthanasia.
- b) In the absence of a conviction, the bond or adequate financial assurance acceptable to the court shall be returned to the owner and seizing agency shall bear the cost of boarding the companion animals and all necessary veterinary examinations and care of the companion animals during the pendency of the proceedings.
- c) Nothing in this section shall preclude an owner charged with companion animal hoarding from voluntary, permanent relinquishment of any companion animal to the Department of Animal Services in lieu of posting a bond or other adequate financial assurance. Voluntary relinquishment has no effect on any proceeding filed against a person charged with companion animal hoarding.

**SEC. 4-126.00 Public Nuisance**

- a) Every owner or keeper of animals shall exercise proper care and control of such animals so as to prevent them from creating or becoming a public nuisance.

**ANIMALS, FOWL, AND REPTILES  
CHAPTER 4**

Excessive or untimely barking, howling or yelping so as to disturb the peace and quiet of a neighborhood or its residents or to disturb the health or repose of the residents; attacking or molesting passerby or other animals; being repeatedly at large; chasing vehicles; scratching on or digging into or urinating or defecating upon lawns, shrubs, buildings or any property, either public or private, other than property of the owner or keeper of an animal all shall be deemed to be the creation of a public nuisance and the owner or keeper of an animal causing such public nuisance shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to the penalties of Section 4-134.00 of this article. In the case of nuisance by defecation, the owner or keeper must remove all feces and dispose of them in a sanitary manner or be considered to be further in violation of the provisions of this article and guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to the penalties of this article.

- b) Premises on which animals, including fowl, are kept shall be maintained so as to prevent disagreeable odors arising therefrom, or the presence or breeding of flies, mosquitos and other pests. Provisions shall be made for the removal and disposal of animal and food wastes, bedding, dead animals and debris. Disposal facilities shall be so provided and operated as to minimize vermin infestation, odors and disease hazards.
- c) Upon receipt of a written and signed complaint wherein it is alleged that an animal, or group of animals, is a public nuisance, the Department of Animal Services shall investigate the complaint. If the parties refuse to cooperate, the Department of Animal Services has the right to initiate a complaint in a Court of proper jurisdiction.
- d) In the event revocation of an animal's license or reduction in the number of animals kept is ordered by the St. Tammany Parish Department of Animal Services, the owner shall have fifteen (15) days to dispose of the animal or animals unless otherwise specified by the St. Tammany Parish Department of Animal Services. If the owner fails to take such action, then the St. Tammany Parish Department of Animal Services and/or designated agency may take custody of the animal or animals.
- e) Exemptions - The sounds and noises created by farm animals located on property with an R-Rural Zoning classification shall not be considered a violation of this Section.

**SEC. 4-127.00 Dangerous Animals**

- a) Confinement of Dangerous Animals: Dangerous animals shall be confined within a dwelling or enclosure by their owner and/or keeper. Confinement shall be in such a manner that the animal cannot come in contact with any person or other animal except under supervised conditions.
- b) Destruction of Wild or Dangerous Animals: Agents of the St. Tammany Parish Department of Animal Services shall destroy any wild or vicious dog or other animal found in violation of this ordinance and which cannot be safely taken up or impounded. It shall be unlawful for any person other than agents of the St. Tammany Parish Department of Animal Services to kill any wild or dangerous animal, except under such circumstances where such action is necessary for defense or where such animal is imminently threatening or attacking any person.

This subsection (b) shall not apply to those individuals duly licensed by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to hunt and kill wild game during established hunting seasons in St. Tammany Parish, nor to the killing of wild animals threatening livestock.

**ANIMALS, FOWL, AND REPTILES**  
**CHAPTER 4**

- c) Requirements for Registration and Harboring Dangerous Animals: The owner and/or keeper of a dangerous animal shall secure a permit from the Parish Department of Animal Services, renewable each year from the anniversary date of such issue, provided said owner and/or keeper meets the following requirements:
1. The owner and/or keeper shall have the animal penned in a proper enclosure as defined in Sec.4-121.00 at all times when the animal is not confined and supervised within the owner's and/or keeper's dwelling, or being moved or exercised.
  2. The owner and/or keeper shall display in a prominent place on the premises on which the animal is kept a sign warning that a dangerous animal is housed on the premises. Such sign shall be easily readable by members of the general public and intelligible to young children and/or those who are unable to read or write the English language. A similar sign shall be posted on the animal's pen. These signs shall be provided by the St. Tammany Parish Department of Animal Services.
  3. Prior to the issuance or renewal of a permit for a dangerous animal, its owner or keeper shall sign a statement attesting under oath that:
    - a) The owner and/or keeper shall, on or prior to the effective date of the permit for which application is being made, have a suitable enclosure as required by the provisions of this section for the harboring of the dangerous animal on the premises where the dangerous animal will be kept or maintained.
    - b) The owner and/or keeper shall notify the Parish Department of Animal Services immediately whenever a dangerous animal is on the loose, is unconfined, has attacked another animal or has attacked a human, has died, been sold, or given away, or has been relocated. If the animal has been sold or given away, the owner and/or keeper shall provide the name, address, and phone number of the new owner to the Parish Department of Animal Services.
    - c) The owner and/or keeper shall provide two (2) color photographs of the animal clearly depicting color, approximate size, and facial characteristics.
    - d) The owner and/or keeper shall show proof to the satisfaction of the Department of Animal Services that the animal has received a micro-chip identification tag.

**Control of Dangerous Animals:**

- a) All dangerous animals shall be confined in an enclosure which meets requirements set forth under the provisions of this section if the animal is kept outside of the owner and/or keepers dwelling. It shall be unlawful for any owner and/or keeper to maintain a dangerous animal upon any premises which does not have such a locked enclosure if the animal is kept outside of the owner's or keeper's dwelling.
- b) It shall be unlawful for any owner and/or keeper to allow any dangerous animal to be outside of the dwelling of the owner and/or keeper, or outside of the herein above defined enclosure, unless it is necessary for the owner and/or keeper to exercise the animal or to move the animal. Whenever the said animal is allowed outside the owner and/or keeper's dwelling or outside of its enclosure, the animal shall be restrained on a leash and collar having a minimum tensile strength of three hundred (300) pounds and not exceeding six (6) feet in length. The animal shall be kept under the direct control and supervision of its owner and/or

**ANIMALS, FOWL, AND REPTILES  
CHAPTER 4**

keeper at all times. Further, it shall be unlawful to exercise a dangerous animal upon the public streets, sidewalks, rights-of-way, parks and property of the parish.

- c) The requirements of this section for the maintenance of physical control over the animal shall not be satisfied by the mere chaining, roping, leashing, or similar restraining of the animal to inanimate objects such as stakes, trees, posts, or buildings.
- d) The owner and/or keeper of any dangerous animal shall:

- 1. Upon designation of the animal being dangerous by the Department of Animal Services as a result of a complaint or by other means, will surrender said animal to the Department of Animal Services to be impounded at the parish animal shelter until the owner and/or keeper provides an enclosure for the animal as defined in Sec. 4-121.00 or for a maximum period of thirty (30) days.

- 2. After the thirty (30) day period set forth above, if the owner and/or keeper does not provide for the proper enclosure required by Sec. 4-121.00, then the said dangerous animal may be destroyed.

- 3. Within fifteen (15) days of issuance of a permit, the owner/keeper shall:

- a. Display the warning signs required under the provisions of subsection (C) 3 of this section.

- b. Sign the sworn statement required under the provisions of subsection (C) 3 of this section.

- c. Submit to the Parish Department of Animal Services the photographs of the animal required under the provisions of subsection (C) 3 of this section.

- d. Show proof of a micro-chip identification tag required under the provisions of subsection (C) 3 of this section, or submit the animal to the Department of Animal Services for micro-chip tagging.

- 4. Within ten business days of the declaration that the animal is a dangerous animal, the owner must procure and maintain in effect liability insurance, including coverage of claims arising from the conduct of the owner's animal, in an amount not less than \$100,000.00 or adequate financial assurance acceptable to St. Tammany Parish.

- 5. The animal shall be spayed or neutered, at the owner's expense.

- 6. The owner and the animal must complete a course of animal obedience training approved by the Department of Animal Services.

Applicability: The provisions of this section shall not apply to proprietors of animal hospitals, to veterinarians, or to search and rescue organizations and law enforcement agencies who keep or maintain dangerous animals on their professional premises in the usual and normal course of business, or to zoological gardens, theatrical exhibits, or a circus provided that such animal hospital, veterinarian, zoological garden, theatrical exhibit, or circus possesses all permits required by the laws of this parish and state and complies with all other regulations concerning the keeping and maintaining of such animals.

**ANIMALS, FOWL, AND REPTILES  
CHAPTER 4**

Penalty: Any person found guilty of violating any of the provisions of this section shall, for each violation, be fined not less than two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00) nor more than five hundred dollars (\$500.00), plus court costs, or be imprisoned in the parish jail for not more than sixty (60) days or both. Each separate day on which any violation of the provisions of this section is shown to have continued to exist shall constitute a separate offense.

Appeal Mechanism: In the event that an animal is deemed dangerous by the St. Tammany Department of Animal Services, the owner and/or keeper of said animal can appeal that determination to the Animal Shelter Advisory Board, which shall convene and make a recommendation to be ratified by the Parish President.

**SEC. 4-127.10 Vicious Animals**

Animal determined as Vicious: Any animal previously classified as dangerous which subsequently violates any section of this Article, or whose owner/keeper subsequently violates any requirements established for the harboring of dangerous animals by this Article, may be deemed vicious by the Department of Animal Services.

Removal from Parish: Any animal determined to be vicious shall be subject to immediate impoundment. The owner or keeper of the animal shall have ten (10) days following the date of impoundment to provide a verifiable plan for removal of the animal from the parish. If, after ten (10) days, the owner or keeper has not provided an appropriate plan to the satisfaction of the Department of Animal Services, the animal may be euthanized according to procedures established in this Article. An impounded animal for which no owner or keeper can be located within ten (10) days of impoundment, may be euthanized or otherwise removed from the parish at the discretion of the Department of Animal Services.

Micro-chipping of Vicious Animals required: Any animal determined to be vicious shall be subject to micro-chip identification by the Department of Animal Service prior to release from impoundment. All costs associated with the micro-chipping shall be born by the owner or keeper of the animal.

Appeal Mechanism: In the event that an animal is deemed vicious by the St. Tammany Department of Animal Services, the owner and/or keeper of said animal can appeal that determination to the Animal Shelter Advisory Board, which shall convene and make a recommendation to be ratified by the Parish President.

**SEC. 4-128.00 Exposure or Poisons**

No person shall expose any known poisonous substance, whether mixed with food or not, so that same shall be liable to be eaten by any animal, provided that it shall not be unlawful for a person to expose on his own property common rat poison mixed only with vegetable substances.

**SEC. 4-129.00 Leash Law**

**Confinement by owner:**

- a) All animals owned or kept in the unincorporated portions of St. Tammany Parish shall be confined within a fenced yard, or enclosure meeting or exceeding the standards for runs set forth in section 4-121.10 (b), when not confined within the owner/keeper's dwelling or being exercised or transported outside the owner/keeper's premises. Owners or keepers of

**ANIMALS, FOWL, AND REPTILES**  
**CHAPTER 4**

dangerous animals shall be required to comply with the additional requirements for harboring dangerous animals established in Section 4-127.00.

- b) Fencing must be of a material, style and workmanship reasonably sufficient to restrain the animal, prevent escape and not allow ready and unobstructed access to the animal by the general public.
- c) "Electronic Fences", incorporating the use of electrical charges as a means of restraint of an animal within a yard-like perimeter, may only be used as a secondary means of restraint and not as a replacement for actual fencing material or an enclosure.
- d) Tethering of Animals: An owner or keeper of an animal, other than one deemed dangerous or vicious, may tether said animal only in a fashion conforming to the method indicated below:
  - 1. Tethering shall only be used as a secondary means of restraint and shall not serve as an alternative to fencing or enclosure requirements.
  - 2. Tethering must occur only on a type configuration which permits the animal to move freely in all directions.
  - 3. Tethering must occur only with a lead rope, chain or cable at least twelve (12) feet in length.
  - 4. Tethering must occur in an open area free of any choking hazards such as trees, bushes, poles, or other obstructions, with the exception of the object\_ to which the lead is joined.
  - 5. Tethering of dangerous animals or vicious animals is strictly prohibited.

**Dogs at large; violation notices:** No dogs shall be permitted to run loose, free or at-large, or be upon any street, alleyway, highway, common or public square unless under the immediate control of a competent person and restrained by a substantial chain or leash except for recognizable breeds of hunting dogs when in the process of tracking or retrieving of game, during a properly supervised hunt, said breeds being hounds, retrievers, spaniels, setters and pointers. "Electronic Leashes" utilizing an electrical charge as a means of restraint shall not serve as a replacement for a tangible chain or leash. Dogs found at large by the St. Tammany Parish Department of Animal Services may be seized and impounded; or as an alternative, a notice may be issued to the owner that his dog is in violation of this section. Such notice will impose upon the dog owner a fine of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) and shall be paid to the St. Tammany Parish Department of Animal Services in person or by mail within five (5) days of the time the notice was served. Failure to make such payment shall render such owner subject to the penalties provided for in Section 4-134.00 of this article.

**Redemption of impounded dogs:** The owner shall be entitled to resume possession of any impounded dog upon payment of the impoundment and daily board fees and compliance with vaccination/registration requirements; provided application for such possession, with payment of all required fees, is made within three (3) days, exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays and all legal holidays, after impoundment.

**Escaped dogs:** Should any dog be captured while at large by the St. Tammany Parish Department of Animal Services and escape said agents by entering premises of the owner or keeper, or any other person, and such owner, keeper or person refuses to deliver such dog to such

**ANIMALS, FOWL, AND REPTILES**  
**CHAPTER 4**

agents of St. Tammany Parish Department of Animal Services, such owner, keeper, or person shall be subject to the penalties provided in Section 4-134.00 of this article. The St. Tammany Parish Department of Animal Services or designated agency and/or law enforcement officials may write tickets for any or all violations of this article.

**Dogs on school grounds:** Owners shall not permit their dogs on any school ground when school is in session, or on any public recreation area when an organized activity is being conducted, unless the dog is controlled by a leash or similar device to prevent the dog from biting any person or animal.

**Animals in restaurants:** Dogs or other animals shall not be permitted in restaurants or other places serving food, establishments selling food or edible products, or in any place of business when prohibited by owner of same. This provision shall not apply to "seeing-eye" dogs.

**Animals in heat:** Every female dog or cat in heat shall be confined so that the animal cannot come into contact with an un-neutered male, except for planned breeding.

**SEC. 4-129.01 Animals Restricted from Parades and Other Public Events**

The presence of pets, animals or reptiles, other than those actually participating in a parade or other public event, is prohibited within one hundred fifty (150) feet of a route or site of such function.

Beyond 150 feet of a route or site of a parade or public event, owners shall be required to leash, muzzle, or case pets, animals or reptiles which accompany them to such functions.

Any person violating this section shall be subject to a fine of not more than \$500.00 or imprisonment for not more than six (6) months, or both. In addition thereto, court costs may be imposed.

**SEC. 4-130.00 Impoundment**

**Reasons:** Whenever animals are kept within any building or on any premises without food, water or proper care and attention, or are kept in violation of the provisions of this article, or are infected with disease, or kept under conditions which could endanger public health or create a nuisance, it shall be the duty of any authorized employee of the St. Tammany Parish Department of Animal Services and/or law enforcement official to enter said building or premises to take possession of and remove said animals so abandoned or neglected. Animals so impounded shall not be released before the reason for causing said impoundment has been corrected.

**Disposition of unclaimed animals:** If any impounded animal, other than a dog or cat impounded for being at large, is not reclaimed by the owner upon payment of impoundment and daily board fees and compliance with other legal requirements for keeping an animal, or if the reason for causing said impoundment is not corrected within a reasonable time, the animal shall be held for such time as the St. Tammany Parish Department of Animal Services deems reasonable, considering the animal's probable value, condition to health and suitability for use. Upon expiration of such reasonable time, the St. Tammany Parish Department of Animal Services may offer the animal for adoption, or it may be humanely destroyed.

**Owner notification; holding time, release of animal, adoption and disposal of animal:** Owner notification, holding time, release of animal, adoption and disposal of animals impounded in the animal shelter shall be in accordance with the rules and regulations provided for the operation of said St. Tammany Department of Animal Services.