

MEEKER COUNTY PET ORDINANCE

THE COUNTY BOARD OF MEEKER COUNTY ORDAINS:

ARTICLE ONE TITLE, INTENT AND PURPOSE

- 1.01. Title. This Ordinance shall be known as the Meeker County Pet Ordinance.
- 1.02. Intent and Purpose. It is the intent and purpose of this Ordinance to enact controls over the controlling of pets by their owners or caretakers in unincorporated yet densely populated areas of Meeker County.
- A. The running loose without adequate controls by pets in populated areas constitutes a potential danger to the safety of persons and property.

ARTICLE TWO AREA OF APPLICATION

- 2.01. This Ordinance shall be effective in the following-described zoning districts of the unincorporated areas of Meeker County, as defined and described in the Meeker County Zoning Ordinance: R-1 – Suburban Residential; R-2 – Rural Residential; C-2 – Neighborhood Commercial.
- 2.02. This ordinance shall be effective in any public park, picnic ground, campground, or wayside rest in the unincorporated areas of Meeker County.
- 2.03. This ordinance shall not be applied to any law enforcement canine units.

ARTICLE THREE DEFINITIONS

- 3.01. “Pet” is defined as including dogs, cats and any other animal that is kept primarily for private, non-commercial or non-agricultural purposes.
- 3.02. “Owner” means any person owning, harboring or keeping a pet.
- 3.03. “At large” means off of the premises of the owner and not under the control of the owner or some other person, either by leash or some other effective means of confinement.
- 3.04. “Premises” means property owned or leased by the owner or property where the owner has obtained express permission from the property owner or leaseholder to allow the pet uncontrolled access.

**ARTICLE FOUR
CONTROLS**

4.01. No pet shall be permitted to run at large within the area of application of this Ordinance at any time.

- A. When a pet is found running at large and no owner is present, it is presumed that the owner permitted the activity.
- B. An owner shall be responsible for the actions of any minors under their control or supervision under the age of 12 years.

**ARTICLE FIVE
VIOLATIONS**

- 5.01. Unless otherwise stated herein, violation of this Ordinance shall be punishable by a fine of \$25.
- 5.02. For any owner with a conviction under this ordinance or Minnesota Statute 346 and 347 within two years preceding the present offense, violation shall be punishable as a petty misdemeanor with a maximum penalty of a fine of \$200.
- 5.03. For any owner with two convictions under this ordinance or Minnesota Statute 346 and 347 within two years preceding the present offense, violation shall be punishable as a misdemeanor with a maximum penalty of \$700 fine and/or 90 days in jail.
- 5.04. If while running at large, the pet causes any injury to any person, violation of this Ordinance shall be punishable as a misdemeanor with a maximum penalty of a \$700 fine and/or 90 days in jail. For purposes of this provision, provocation shall not constitute a defense.

**ARTICLE SIX
ADMINISTRATION**

- 6.01. SEVERABILITY. The provisions of this Ordinance are severable. Should any action, paragraph, sentence, clause, phrase, or portion of this Ordinance be declared invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Ordinance shall not be affected.
- 6.02. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall be effective upon publication.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this Ordinance has been passed by the County Board of Meeker County this 10th day of March 1993.

MEEKER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
By its chairman: s/s Dale Smolnisky

ATTEST: s/s Darlene Groskreutz
Meeker County Auditor