

FOREWORD

In most every community known to man there exists a relationship with animals. This relationship has been documented in many ways since the caveman first drew pictures on the walls of his cave. Problems occur in the urban community when lovers of animals forget that this kind of love is not necessarily shared by their neighbors. The animals that create most of the problems are cats and dogs. The Cook County Animal and Rabies Control Ordinance was developed and passed to establish guidelines in the development of harmonious relationships between animals and man. This Ordinance is the law in all municipalities within Cook County. Any municipality regardless of its population may pass an ordinance effective within its jurisdiction more strict than the County Ordinance. Rabies, while well controlled, still exists mainly in bats and skunks within Cook County. Prevention of rabies is the basic reason for the Animal Bite Report form. The guidelines offered in this booklet provide information for those most frequently involved with bites by animals.

Finally, Cook County is almost totally urbanized. Each municipality is responsible for the animals in the area under its jurisdiction. Part IV of this booklet outlines one way in which a municipality can establish an Animal Control program.

DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL CONTROL

Dan G. Parmer, D.V.M.

Administrator

Part I.

COOK COUNTY ANIMAL AND RABIES CONTROL ORDINANCE

**APPROVED AS AMENDED
BY THE BOARD OF COOK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SEPTEMBER 21, 2004**

An ordinance relating to animal and rabies control

Be it enacted by the people of the County of Cook represented in the Cook County Board of Commissioners

Section 20-1. Purpose

The purpose of this Ordinance is to provide harmonious relationships in the interaction between man and animal by:

- A. Protecting the citizens of Cook County from rabies by specifying such preventive and control measures as may be necessary;
- B. Protecting animals from improper use, abuse, neglect, inhumane treatment and health hazards, particularly rabies;
- C. Providing security to residents from annoyance, intimidation, and injury from cats, dogs, and other animals;
- D. Encouraging responsible pet ownership;
- E. Providing for the assessment of penalties for violators and for the enforcement and administration of this Ordinance.

Section 20-2. Definitions

As used in this Ordinance the following words are defined:

- A. Administrator means the licensed veterinarian appointed by the Board of Commissioners of Cook County, pursuant to the Illinois Animal Control Act or his authorized representative.
- B. Animal means any live vertebrate creature except man.
- C. Animal capable of transmitting rabies means all animals classified as mammals.
- D. Animal control warden means an employee of Cook County appointed by the Administrator to exercise police powers in the enforcement of this Ordinance.
- E. Bird means any flying vertebrate that is covered with feathers.
- F. Bite means seizure of a person with the jaws or teeth of any cat, dog or other animal capable of transmitting rabies so that the person so seized has been wounded or pierced and further includes contact of the saliva of such cat, dog or other animal with any break or abrasion of skin.
- G. Cat means all members of the classification, Felis catus.

- H. Confined means the restriction of the cat, dog or other animal at all times by the owner in a manner that will isolate the cat, dog, or other animal from the public and other cats, dogs or other animals.
- I. Control means any owned animal that is either secured by a leash or lead, or within the premises of its owner, or confined within a crate or cage, or confined within a vehicle, or within the premises of another person with the consent of that person.
- J. Dangerous or vicious animal means any animal which has known vicious propensities or which has been known to attack or injure any person who was peacefully conducting himself in any place where he may lawfully be.
- K. Dog means all members of the classification, *Canis familiaris*.
- L. Domestic animal means any animal which has been domesticated by man so as to live and breed in a tame condition.
- M. Guard dog means a dog used in a commercial business or by a municipal or police department for the purposes of patrol and protection.
- N. Service animal means any guide dog, signal dog, or other animal individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including, but not limited to, guiding individuals with impaired vision, alerting individuals with impaired hearing to intruders or sounds, providing minimal protection or rescue work, pulling a wheelchair, or fetching dropped items.
- O. Inoculation against rabies means the injection of a rabies vaccine approved by the Illinois Department of Agriculture and administered by a licensed veterinarian in accordance with the company's recommendations for the vaccine used.
- P. Owner means any person having the right of property in an animal, who keeps or harbors an animal, who has it in his care, acts as its custodian or who knowingly permits an animal to remain on or about any premises occupied by him unless possession is prohibited by Federal or State Laws. Native wildlife remaining on or about any premises shall not be included in this definition.
- Q. Person means any individual, firm, corporation, partnership, society, association or other legal entity, any public or private institution, municipal corporation, unit of local government or any other business unit.
- R. Pound means any facility licensed by the Illinois Department of Agriculture and approved by the Administrator for the purpose of enforcing this Ordinance and used as a shelter for seized, stray, homeless, abandoned or unwanted animals.

- S. Stray animal means any owned animal that is not controlled.

Section 20-3. Animal Care

- A. No owner shall fail to provide his animals with sufficient wholesome food and water, proper shelter and protection, from the weather, veterinary care when needed to prevent suffering, and with humane care and treatment.
- B. No person shall beat, torment, overload, overwork or otherwise abuse an animal.
- C. No person shall own, keep, harbor, or otherwise maintain within the County, any breeds of fowl that are or will be used in the pursuit of and staging of cockfighting on any premises.
- D. No person shall promote, stage, hold, manage, conduct, or carry on any animal fight or any other type of contest, game, or fight of a similar nature, nor any simulated version of same that involves baiting or inciting an animal toward intent to fight.
- E. No person shall hold a greased pig contest.
- F. No person shall be permitted to keep animals in violation of the "Illinois Humane Care for Animal Act (510 ILCS 70/1 et seq.) or the "Illinois Animal Welfare Act" (225 ILCS 605/1 et seq.).
- G. No owner may abandon any animal where it may become a public charge or may suffer injury, hunger or exposure.
- H. No person shall keep any animal within a building or upon any premises without food, water, or proper care and attention for a period of time sufficient to cause undue discomfort or suffering. If the owner cannot be located after reasonable search, or if the owner shall be known to be absent due to injury, illness, incarceration or other involuntary circumstances, it shall be the duty of the Administrator or a Humane Investigator to act upon the complaint as directed by the "Illinois Humane Care for Animals Act".
- I. No person shall give away or use any animal as a prize for or as an inducement to enter any contest, game, or other competition or as an inducement to enter a place of amusement or offer such animal as an incentive to enter any business agreement whereby the offer was for the purpose of attracting trade.
- J. No person shall bring or cause to have brought into the County, sell, offer for sale, barter or display living baby chicks, ducklings or other fowl or rabbits which have been dyed, colored or otherwise treated so as to impart to them an artificial color, or give away as pets or sell, offer for sale, barter or give away at no cost or as novelties or prizes.

Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit legitimate commerce in poultry for agricultural or food purposes.

- K. No person may knowingly poison or cause to be poisoned any domesticated animal. The only exception will be written permit from the Illinois Department of Agriculture for the purpose of controlling diseases transmissible to humans or other animals and only when all other methods and means have been exhausted. Such a permit shall name a person or persons conducting the poisoning, specify the products to be used, give the boundaries of the area involved and specify the precautionary measures to be employed to insure the safety of humans and other animals. Any drugs used for euthanasia shall be by or under the direction of a licensed veterinarian.
- L. No person shall kill or wound, attempt to kill or wound, or take the nest or eggs or young of any bird that is protected by Federal or State Law. Birds that are regulated by the Illinois Department of Conservation are excluded from this restriction during the period of regulation.
- M. No person shall keep or permit to be kept or display for exhibition purposes any wild animal contrary to Federal, State and Local laws or regulations.
- N. No person shall permit at any time his animal to:
 - 1. Run uncontrolled;
 - 2. Molest persons or vehicles by chasing, barking or biting;
 - 3. Attack other animals;
 - 4. Damage property other than the owner's; or
 - 5. Bark, whine, howl or make excess noises so as to cause a nuisance.
- O. No person shall allow animal feces to accumulate in any yard, pen or premises in or upon which an animal shall be confined or kept so that it becomes offensive to those residing in the vicinity or a health hazard to the residing animal.
- P. No person shall fail to remove feces deposited by his animal, except service animals, upon the public ways or within the public places of the County or upon the premises of any person other than the owner without the person's consent.
- Q. No person shall leave any animal unattended in a motor vehicle or enclosed trailer when the outside temperature shall exceed 30 degrees Celsius (86 degrees Fahrenheit) or contain any animal in such manner that said animal does not have proper air circulation while confined in a motor vehicle, trailer, kennel, dog house, or any type of container or structure in which an animal may be confined.

- R. No person shall own any animal which is known to be infected with any disease transmissible to other animals or man, including severe parasitism, unless such animal shall be confined in such a manner as not to expose other animals or man.
- S. Any animals which is on any public way or public place and which appears to be injured or severely diseased and for which care is not being provided on the scene by the owner or any injured or severely diseased animal that has strayed onto private premises shall be removed, if possible, to the care of the Cook County Department of Animal and Rabies Control, to the nearest humane society, to the nearest municipal pound, or to the nearest veterinarian or veterinary hospital willing to accept same without guarantee of payment. If immediate removal shall not appear practical or possible or if the removed animal is in critical condition such animal may be deprived of life by the most humane method available on the scene unless the owner shall come forward beforehand and assume responsibility for immediate removal and care.
- T. Any person who, as the operator of a motor vehicle, strikes an animal shall stop at once and render such assistance as may be possible; or shall immediately report such injury to the animal owner, if known; or the appropriate law enforcement agency; or to the local humane society.
- U. Any person having a dead animal within his possession or control or upon any premises owned or occupied by such person without the proper permit shall dispose of the dead animal in compliance with the Illinois Dead Animal Disposal Act (225 ILCS 610/1 et seq.).
- V. Every person in possession or control of any stable or place open for public use where any animals are kept, shall maintain the stable or place at all times in a clean, sanitary condition and conform to Illinois fire prevention regulations.

Section 20-4. Rabies Vaccination

- A. Every owner, except animal shelters, animal impounding facilities, and laboratory animal facilities, of an animal four months or more of age shall cause such animal to be inoculated with rabies vaccine by a licensed veterinarian at such intervals as approved by the Illinois Department of Agriculture. The rabies vaccine shall be licensed by the United States Department of Agriculture and approved by the Illinois Department of Agriculture.
- B. Evidence of such rabies inoculation shall be entered on a certificate approved by the Cook County Board of Commissioners. Veterinarians who inoculate an animal shall procure from the Cook County Department of Animal and Rabies Control serially numbered tags, one to be issued with each inoculation certificate. Only one animal shall be included on each certificate. Upon change of ownership application shall be made for a new inoculation certificate. Such tags shall be attached to the collar or harness worn by the animal for which the tag was issued when the animal is off the property of the owner. The cost of the tags shall be \$6 for a one-year tag and \$18 for a three-year tag. The tag

fees shall be paid to the Department and transferred to the County Treasurer on the last day of each month.

Section 20-5. Biting Animal Capable of Transmitting Rabies

- A. It shall be unlawful for any person knowing that an individual has been bitten by an animal to refuse to notify, within twenty-four hours, the police or other officer with the delegated authority who are responsible for the area in which the bite occurred.
- B. When the Administrator receives information that any person has been bitten by an animal the Administrator shall have the owner confine the biting animal under observation of a licensed veterinarian for a period of ten days beginning within twenty-four hours of the biting incident. The biting animal may be confined in the house of its owner in a manner which will prohibit it from biting any person or animal if the animal is currently vaccinated with an approved rabies vaccine. Caged animals such as rats, guinea pigs, rabbits, etc. can be placed under home confinement.
 - 1. When the biting animal is currently inoculated with rabies vaccine the animal's health shall be reported by the veterinarian to the Cook County Department of Animal and Rabies Control on the first and tenth days of the observation period of rabies.
 - 2. When the biting animal is not currently inoculated with rabies vaccine the animal shall be confined for 10 days in a veterinary hospital or animal control or humane shelter provided there is a veterinarian daily on the premises.
- C. Confirmation of the health of the biting animal shall be sent by the veterinarian to the Cook County Department of Animal and Rabies Control within 24 hours of the first and final examinations. Official forms shall be provided by the Department.
- D. When an animal confined for biting shows signs of rabies or acts in a manner which would lead a person to believe that an animal may have rabies, the owner or veterinarian shall notify the Administrator immediately by telephone or in person of these signs. The Administrator shall immediately notify the physician attending the bitten person or responsible health agency as soon as he receives notice of such signs and shall securely confine the animal.
- E. If the animal confined is determined not to be infected with rabies at the end of the period of confinement, it shall be released from quarantine. The animal owner shall show proof of rabies inoculation for the animal and shall pay any fee, charge or penalty including any fee for veterinary services attributed to the bite. A confined animal, when not redeemed by the owner may be disposed of in accordance with the Illinois State Law.
- F. It shall be unlawful for the owner of a biting animal to euthanize, sell, give away or otherwise dispose of, or have inoculated against rabies the animal know to have bitten a

person until it has been released from confinement for observation for rabies by the Administrator. It shall be unlawful for the owner of such animal to refuse or fail to comply with the written or printed instructions made by the Administrator. If such instructions cannot be delivered in person they shall be mailed to the owner of such animal by regular mail, postage prepaid, return receipt requested. The affidavit of testimony of the Administrator delivering or mailing such instructions is prima facie evidence that the owner of such animal was notified of his responsibilities.

Section 20-6. Rabies Case Procedure

- A. It shall be unlawful for the owner of an animal which shows signs of rabies or which acts in a manner which would lead a person to believe that such animal may have rabies to fail to notify the local police or the Administrator immediately by telephone or in person.
- B. The Administrator shall investigate each report of an animal which shows signs of rabies or acts in a manner which would lead a person to believe that the animal may have rabies. Upon determination by the Administrator or a licensed veterinarian that an animal may be infected with rabies, the owner of such animal shall be required by the Administrator to surrender the animal to the Administrator or a licensed veterinarian for confinement for a period of time as determined by the Illinois Department of Agriculture.
- C. When the animal confined is determined to be infected with rabies by the examining veterinarian the Administrator shall order the animal humanely destroyed. A copy of this order shall be given to the owner of the animal or mailed to the last known address of the owner. Any animal capable of transmitting rabies in direct contact with the rabid animal whether or not the exposed animal has been inoculated with rabies shall be confined as recommended by the Administrator. The Administrator may order the exposed animal euthanized.
- D. If the animal confined is determined not to be infected with rabies at the end of the period of confinement it shall be released to the owner of such animal upon presenting proof of a current rabies inoculation certificate for the animal and payment of any fee, charge or penalty including any fee for veterinary services. If the animal is not redeemed by the owner, the animal may be disposed of in accordance with Illinois State Law.
- E. Whenever a case of rabies has occurred in a locality, or whenever the proper officials of a government unit are apprehensive of the spread of rabies, the Administrator shall act as directed by the rules and regulations of the Illinois Department of Agriculture.

Section 20-7. Stray Animals

- A. Whenever an Animal Control Warden observes or is informed that an animal is a stray or is running at large and not under the control of the owner, the animal shall be immediately apprehended and impounded. Any person may apprehend a stray animal and

inform the local police or the Administrator so that the stray animal can be impounded. Stray animals impounded by the Department of Animal and Rabies Control shall be kept at a location closest to the point at which the stray animal is apprehended. A minimum of two impoundment locations shall be used by the Department, one optimally convenient to that portion of Cook County outside the City of Chicago lying north of the Eisenhower Expressway and one optimally convenient to that portion of Cook County outside the City of Chicago lying south of the Eisenhower Expressway.

- B. All stray animals impounded shall have a record. The record shall include the owner's name, address and telephone number, if known; species or breed, color, sex, and physical condition of the animal; license or tag number, if known; and the time and date impounded.
- C. When owners of stray animals impounded are known, notice shall be given by mail to the last known address. Stray animals shall be held not less than seven days, if the owner is known. All unclaimed apprehended animals shall be placed for adoption, humanely euthanized or otherwise disposed of in accordance with the Illinois State Law.
- D. The stray animal owner is responsible for all costs relating to the apprehension and impoundment of the animal found not under control.

Section 20-8. Restrictions on Controlled Animals

- A. Animals shall not be permitted to enter any place where food is processed for human consumption. Service animals and guard dogs used in food establishments are exempt from this restriction.
- B. Animals, except service animals, shall not be present at or upon any school premises, public playground or public swimming pool unless official written permission has been granted by the public agency or its agent owning the property. At no time shall animals be permitted in any sand box or sand piles in which children play.

Section 20-9. Female Animals in Heat

- A. The owner of any female animal in heat (estrus) shall confine such animal in a building or secure enclosure and shall attend the animal in such a manner that such female animal cannot come into contact with a male of the same species except for planned breeding.

Section 20-10. Dangerous or Vicious Animals

Dangerous or vicious animals shall be confined by the owner within a building or secure enclosure and shall be muzzled or caged whenever off the premises of its owner.

A. Definitions:

- 1) Bodily Organ includes but is not limited to skin, which is considered the largest of the human organs.
- 2) Cat for purposes of this Section means all members of the family Felidae.
- 3) Dangerous dog for purposes of this Section means any individual dog when unmuzzled, unleashed, or unattended by its owner or custodian that behaves in a manner that a reasonable person would believe poses a serious and unjustified imminent threat of serious physical injury or death to a person or a companion animal in a public place.
- 4) Dog for purposes of this Section means all members of the classification, *Canis Familiaris*.
- 5) Enclosure for purposes of this Section means a fence or structure of at least 6 feet in height, forming or causing an enclosure suitable to prevent the entry of young children, and suitable to confine a vicious dog in conjunction with other measures that may be taken by the owner or keeper, such as tethering of the vicious dog, within the enclosure. The enclosure shall be securely enclosed and locked and designed with secure sides, top, and bottom and shall be designed to prevent the animal from escaping from the enclosure. If the enclosure is a room within a residence, the door must be locked. A vicious dog may be allowed to move about freely within the entire residence if it is muzzled at all times.
- 6) Ferret for purposes of this Section means all members of the classification, *Mustela putorius furo*.
- 7) Impounded for purposes of this Section means taken into the custody of the public animal control facility in the city, town, or county where animal is found.
- 8) Muzzle means a fastening or covering for the mouth of an animal used to prevent biting and eating.
- 9) Owner means any person having a right of property in an animal or who keeps or harbors an animal, or acts as its custodian, or who has it in his care.
- 10) Physical injury for purposes of this Section means the impairment of physical condition.
- 11) Police animal means an animal owned or used by a law enforcement department or agency in the course of the department or agency's work.
- 12) Serious physical injury means a physical injury that creates a substantial risk of death or that causes death, serious disfigurement, serious impairment of health,

impairment of the function of any bodily organ, or injury requiring plastic surgery, or injury or injuries that when viewed by a reasonable person are considered significant and substantial.

- 13) Vicious dog for purposes of this Section means a dog that, without justification, attacks a person and causes serious physical injury or death or any individual dog that has been found to be a “dangerous dog” upon 3 separate occasions.

B. Declaration of a “vicious” dog.

A dog may be declared vicious if the Court determines that without justification, the dog attacks a person causing serious physical injury or death, or any individual dog that has been found to be a “dangerous dog” upon 3 separate occasions.

In order to have a dog deemed “vicious”, the County Animal Control Administrator must give notice of the infraction that is the basis of the investigation to the owner, conduct a thorough investigation, interview any witnesses, including the owner, gather any existing medical records, veterinary medical records or behavioral evidence, and make a detailed report recommending a finding that the dog is a vicious dog and give the report to the State’s Attorney’s office and the owner.

- a) the investigation must be thorough and include interviews with witnesses to the conduct in question;
- b. medical records concerning the injuries inflicted on the person of the alleged vicious conduct and veterinary records of the dog regarding behavioral evidence must be gathered and reviewed;
- c) a detailed report must be provided to the Office of the State’s Attorney and the owner of the dog recommending a finding that the dog is or is not vicious;
- d) the Animal Control Administrator shall determine whether the dog shall be confined, and if so where, during the pendency of the case.

In order to have a dog deemed “vicious” a complaint must be filed by the Cook County Department of Animal Control, the Office of the State’s Attorney, any citizen of Cook County, or any victim of a dog attack if such attack occurred within Cook County, in the Circuit Court of Cook County to deem a dog a “vicious” dog.

Testimony of a certified applied behaviorist, a board certified veterinary behaviorist, or another recognized expert, may be relevant to the court’s determination as to whether the dog’s behavior was vicious or justified.

The petitioner must establish by clear and convincing evidence that the dog is vicious. If the burden of proof is met, the court shall deem the dog to be a vicious dog.

A dog shall not be declared vicious if the court determines the conduct of the dog was justified because:

- 1) The threat, injury, or death was sustained by a person who at the time was committing a crime or offense upon the owner or custodian of the dog; or upon the property of the owner or custodian of the dog; or
- 2) The injured, threatened, or killed person was tormenting, abusing, assaulting, or physically threatening the dog or its offspring, or has in the past tormented, abused, assaulted, or physically threatened the dog or its offspring; or
- 3) The dog was responding to pain or injury, or was protecting itself, its owner, custodian or member of its household, kennel, or offspring.
- 4) No dog shall be deemed vicious if it is a professionally trained dog for law enforcement or guard duties.
- 5) Vicious dogs shall not be classified in a manner that is specific as to breed.

Guide dogs for the blind or hearing impaired, support dogs for the physically handicapped, and sentry, guard or police-owned dogs are exempt from this Section; provided, an attack or injury to a person occurs while the dog is performing duties as expected. To qualify for exemption under this Section, each such dog shall be currently inoculated against rabies in accordance with this ordinance. It shall be the duty of the owner of such exempted dog to notify the Administrator of changes of address. In the case of such exempted dogs, the owner shall register the animal with the Administrator and keep the Administrator advised of the location where such dog will be stationed. The Administrator shall provide police and fire departments with a categorized list of such exempted dogs, and shall promptly notify such departments of any address changes reported to him.

C. Finding of a vicious dog.

If a dog is found to be a vicious dog, the dog shall be spayed or neutered and microchipped within 10 days of the finding at the expense of its owner. The dog shall be subject to enclosure. A dog found to be a vicious dog shall not be released to the owner until the Administrator approves the enclosure. No owner or keeper of a vicious dog shall sell or give away the dog without court approval. Whenever an owner of a vicious dog relocates, he or she shall notify both the Administrator of the County Animal Control where he or she has relocated and the Administrator of the Cook County Department of Animal Control.

D. Confinement of a vicious dog.

It shall be unlawful for any person to keep or maintain any dog which has been found to be a vicious dog unless the dog is kept in an enclosure. The only times that a vicious dog may be allowed out of the enclosure are (1) if it is necessary for the dog owner or keeper of the dog to obtain veterinary care for the dog, (2) in the case of an emergency or natural disaster where the dog's life is threatened, or (3) to comply with the order of a court of competent jurisdiction, provided that the dog is securely muzzled and restrained with a leash not exceeding 6 feet in length, and shall be under the direct control and supervision of the owner or keeper of the dog or muzzled in its residence.

Any dog which has been found to be a vicious dog and which is not confined to an enclosure shall be impounded by the Administrator or the law enforcement authority having jurisdiction in such area.

If the owner of the dog has not appealed the impoundment order to the Circuit Court of Cook County within 15 working days, the dog may be euthanized.

Upon filing a notice of appeal, the order of euthanasia shall be automatically stayed pending the outcome of the appeal. The owner shall bear the burden of timely notification to the Cook County Department of Animal Control in writing.

E. Dangerous dog determination.

After a thorough investigation including: sending within 3 days of the Administrator becoming aware of the alleged infraction, notifications to the owner of the alleged infractions, the fact of the initiation of an investigation, and affording the owner an opportunity to meet with the Administrator prior to the making of a determination; gathering of any medical or veterinary evidence; interviewing witnesses; and making a detailed written report, an animal control warden, deputy administrator, or law enforcement agency may ask the Administrator, or his designee, to deem a dog to be "dangerous". No dog shall be deemed a "dangerous dog" without clear and convincing evidence. The owner shall be sent immediate notification of the determination by registered or certified mail that includes a complete description of the appeal process.

A dog shall not be declared dangerous if the Administrator, or his designee determines the conduct of the dog was justified because:

- 1) the threat was sustained by a person who at the time was committing a crime or offense upon the owner or custodian of the dog; or upon the property of the owner or custodian of the dog;
- 2) the threatened person was tormenting, abusing, assaulting, or physically threatening the dog or its offspring;

- 3) the injured, threatened, or killed companion animal was attacking or threatening to attack the dog or its offspring; or
- 4) the dog was responding to pain or injury or was protecting itself, its owner, custodian, or a member of its household, kennel, or offspring.

Testimony of a certified applied behaviorist, a board certified veterinary behaviorist, or another recognized expert may be relevant to the determination of whether the dog's behavior was justified pursuant to the provisions of this Section.

Guide dogs for the blind or hearing impaired, support dogs for the physically handicapped, and sentry, guard or police-owned dogs are exempt from this Section; provided an attack or injury to a person occurs while the dog is performing duties as expected. To qualify for exemption under this Section, each such dog shall be currently inoculated against rabies in accordance with this ordinance. It shall be the duty of the owner of such exempted dog to notify the Administrator of changes of address. In the case of such exempted dogs, the owner shall keep the Administrator advised of the location where such dog will be stationed. The Administrator shall provide police and fire departments with a categorized list of such exempted dogs, and shall promptly notify such departments of any address changes reported to him.

F. Finding of a dangerous dog.

If deemed dangerous, the Administrator, or his designee, shall order the dog be spayed or neutered within 10 days at the owner's expense and microchipped, if not already, and one or more of the following as deemed appropriate under the circumstances and necessary for the protection of the public.

- 1) Evaluation of the dog by a certified applied behaviorist, a board certified veterinary behaviorist, or another recognized expert in the field and completion of training or other treatment as deemed appropriate by the expert. The owner of the dog shall be responsible for all costs associated with evaluations and training ordered under this subsection; or
- 2) Direct supervision by an adult 18 years of age or older whenever the animal is on public premises.

The Administrator may order a dangerous dog to be muzzled whenever the animal is on public premises in a manner that will prevent it from biting any person or animal, but that shall not injure the dog or interfere with its vision or respiration.

G. Control of a dangerous dog.

Dangerous dogs; leash. It is unlawful for any person to knowingly or recklessly permit any dangerous dog to leave the premises of its owner when not under control by leash or other recognized control methods.

H. Appeal of dangerous dog determination.

Dangerous dog; appeal. The owner of a dog found to be a dangerous dog pursuant to this ordinance by Administrator may file a complaint against the Administrator in the Cook County Circuit Court within 35 days of receipt of notification of the determination, for a de novo hearing on the determination. The proceeding shall be conducted as a civil hearing pursuant to the Illinois Rules of Evidence and the Code of Civil Procedure, including the discovery provisions. After hearing both parties' evidence, the court may make a determination of dangerous dog if the Administrator meets his or her burden of proof of clear and convincing evidence. The final order of the circuit court may be appealed pursuant to the civil appeals provisions of the Illinois Supreme Court Rules.

The owner of a dog found to be a dangerous dog pursuant to this ordinance by the Director, may, within 14 days of receipt of notification of the determination, request an administrative hearing to appeal the determination. The administrative hearing shall be conducted pursuant to the Department of Agriculture's rules of application to formal administrative proceedings, 8 Ill. Adm. Code Part 1, Subparts A and B. An owner desiring a hearing shall make his or her request for a hearing to the Illinois Department of Agriculture. The final administrative decision of the Department may be reviewed judicially by the Circuit Court of Cook County. If the plaintiff in a review proceeding is not a resident of Illinois, the venue shall be in Sangamon County. The Administrative Review Law and all amendments and modifications thereof, and the rules adopted thereto, apply to and govern all proceedings for the judicial review of final administrative decisions of the Department hereunder.

Until the order has been reviewed and at all times during the appeal process, the owner shall comply with the requirements set forth by the Administrator, the court, or the Director.

At any time after the final order has been entered, the owner may petition the circuit court to reverse the designation of dangerous dog.

I. Expenses of microchipping.

A clinic for microchipping companion animals of Cook County residents should be conducted at least once a year under the direction of the Administrator at the animal control facility, animal shelter, or other central location within the county. The maximum amount that can be charges for microchipping an animal at this clinic shall be \$15. Funds generated from this clinic shall be deposited in the Cook County Animal Control Fund.

J. Violations.

Any person violating or aiding in or abetting the violation of any provision of this ordinance, or counterfeiting or forging any certificate, permit, or tag, or making any misrepresentation in regard to any matter prescribed by this ordinance, or resisting, obstructing, or impeding the Administrator or any authorized officer in enforcing this ordinance, or refusing to produce for inoculation any dog in his possession or who removes a tag from a dog for purposes of destroying or concealing its identity, or who removes a tag, microchip, or tattoo, is guilty of a Class B misdemeanor. A second offense will constitute a Class A misdemeanor.

Each day a person fails to comply constitutes a separate offense. Each State's Attorney to whom the Administrator reports any violation of this ordinance shall cause appropriate proceedings to be instituted in the proper manner provided by law.

K. Penalties: vicious dog.

If the owner of a vicious dog subject to enclosure:

- 1) fails to maintain or keep the dog in an enclosure or fails to spay or neuter the dog; and
- 2) the dog inflicts serious physical injury upon any other person or causes the death of another person; and
- 3) the attack is unprovoked in a place where such person is peaceably conducting himself or herself and where such person may lawfully be; the owner shall be guilty of a Class 4 felony unless the owner knowingly fails to comply with any order of the court of the Administrator regarding the dog and the dog inflicts serious physical injury on a person or a companion animal, the owner shall be guilty of a Class A misdemeanor. If the owner of a dangerous dog knowingly fails to comply with any order regarding the dog and the dog kills a person the owner shall be guilty of a Class 4 felony.

Section 20-11. Violations-Punishments

- A. Any person violating any provision of this Ordinance or counterfeiting or forging any certificate, permit or tag, or resisting, obstructing or impeding any authorized officer in enforcing this Ordinance is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars or by imprisonment for a period not exceeding six months or both such fine and imprisonment. Each person shall be guilty of a separate offense for every day in which any violation of any of the provisions of this Ordinance is committed or permitted to continue and shall be punished as provided in this Ordinance.
- B. The Administrator, State's Attorney or any citizen of the County may maintain a complaint in the Circuit Court of Cook County to enjoin all persons in the control of a dangerous animal from allowing or permitting such animal to leave his premises when

not under the control of a leash and muzzle or other recognized methods of physical restraint.

- C. If any owned animal injures another animal which is under control, the owner of the attacking animal is liable for the full amount of the injuries sustained.
- D. If any owned animal, without provocation, attacks or injures any person who is peacefully conducting himself in any place where he may lawfully be, the owner of such animal is liable for damages to such person for the amount of the injury sustained.

Section 20-12. Duties of Administrator-Police Power-Cooperation of Sheriff and Police

- A. It shall be the duty of the Administrator, through public education, rabies inoculation, stray control, impoundment, quarantine and other means deemed necessary to control and prevent the spread of rabies in the County.
- B. The Administrator and Animal Control Wardens are for the purpose of enforcing this ordinance and the Illinois Animal Control Act (510 ILCS 5/1 et seq.), clothed with full police power.
- C. The Sheriff and his deputies and municipal police officers shall cooperate with the Administrator in carrying out the provisions of the Illinois Animal Control Act (510 ILCS 5/1 et seq.).
- D. The Administrator shall be authorized to develop new programs to implement the animal control goals of this ordinance and the Illinois Animal Control Act. Such programs may include but are not limited to: programs to aide in the elimination of uncontrolled and/or stray animals in the community, programs to educate the public on issues pertaining to animal control and rabies, programs to impound stray animals, and programs to fund surgical treatment to render animals unable to reproduce. The Administrator is further authorized, subject to annual budget approval by the Board of Commissioners of Cook County, to use Animal Control Funds collected from the issuance of annual animals tags as authorized in section 20-4(B) of this Ordinance, to fund such programs.

Section 20-13. Power of Municipalities and Other Political Subdivisions to Regulate Animals

Nothing in this Ordinance shall be held to limit the power of any municipality or other political subdivision to prohibit animals from running at large, nor shall anything in this Ordinance be construed to limit the power of any municipality or other political subdivision to further control and regulate animals in such municipality or other political subdivision by enacting stricter requirements, including a requirement of inoculation with rabies vaccine.

Section 20-14. Responsibilities

The Administrator or police officer or anyone enforcing the provisions of this ordinance shall not be held responsible for any accident or disease that may happen to any animal.

Section 20-15. Administrator Authority-Dog Parks or Areas

No person including a municipal corporation, forest preserve district or park district shall designate within the County any outdoor area, even if fenced, as an area where dogs may run off leash unless such person, municipal corporation, forest preserve district or park district complies with such regulations as may be issued by the Administrator for the operation of outdoor leash areas.

Section 20-16. Supervision by Department-Rules and Regulations

The Administrator may issue regulations, consistent with the provisions of this Ordinance, for their administration and enforcement, and may prescribe forms which shall be used in connection therewith.

Section 20-17. Effect of invalid section, part of section, rule or regulation

The sections of this Ordinance are severable, and if any section herein or any portion thereof is held to be invalid, such invalidity shall not affect any other section or portion of section herein, or any rule or regulation.

Section 20-18. Repeal of Conflicting Ordinances

Any portion of any other ordinance or resolution of the Board of Commissioners of Cook County, to the extent that such portion conflicts with the provisions of this Ordinance, is hereby repealed.

Section 20-19. Effective Date

This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect upon its passage.

Section 20-20. Effective Date-Amendments

The above amendments to this Ordinance shall be effective December 1, 2004.

Approved and adopted this 3rd day of November 2004.

JOHN H. STROGER, JR., President
Cook County Board of Commissioners

Attest: DAVID ORR, County Clerk

Part II.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS TO
THE COOK COUNTY ANIMAL AND RABIES
CONTROL ORDINANCE**

Regulation I-Animal Bite Report Procedures

- A. Animal Bite Report Form – The Cook County Department of Animal and Rabies Control shall be the official form used within the county for the recording of information when an animal capable of transmitting rabies bites a person.
- B. Animal Bite Investigation Responsibilities – Municipal police or other municipal officers with the delegated authority or the Sheriff’s Police in unincorporated Cook County shall investigate and complete each animal bite report. They shall notify the owner of the biting animal that the animal must be taken to a Veterinarian within twenty-four hours after the bite. All police departments and the Sheriff’s Police shall accept bite reports from medical authorities, bite victims and their families, animal owners and any other person having knowledge of a bite.
- C. Department Notification of Animal Bite – Time Limit – The animal bite report form shall be mailed and transmitted via facsimile to the Cook County Department of Animal and Rabies Control within 24 hours after the receipt of a report. The animal bite report shall be mailed to health departments recognized by the State of Illinois within Cook County also within 24 hours of the examination, when directed by the Administrator.

Regulation II – Biting Animal Examination Form – Procedures for Veterinarians

- A. First Veterinary Examination – Exam Ten or More Days After Bite. Veterinarians performing the first examination of an animal that has bitten a person shall complete the county rabies observation confinement notice form. However, if the veterinarian has proof (police animal bite report) that the first examination is taking place ten or more days after the bite, and the animal is currently vaccinated against rabies, the veterinarian shall at that time also complete the county rabies observation confinement release form. All forms shall be mailed, preferably faxed to the Cook County Department of Animal and Rabies Control within 24 hours of the examination. If not currently vaccinated, must confine the animal for 10 days regardless of the date of the first examination.
- B. Final Veterinary Examination – Failure to Return. Ten days after the bite, if known, or ten days after the first examination the veterinarian shall complete the county rabies observation confinement release form. If an owner of a biting animal fails to return on the final day of the rabies observation period the veterinarian shall return the signed form with the notation “Failure to Return” place thereon. This form shall be mailed, but facsimile preferred to the County Department of Animal and Rabies Control within 24 hours of the release date.

All animals not currently vaccinated must be vaccinated prior to release from confinement.

Regulation III – Special Procedures for Groups of Unusual Biting Animals

- A. Family Bite – Family Defined. Owners of animals capable of transmitting rabies that have bitten members of the immediate family are encouraged to submit the biting animal for veterinary examination. Immediate family is defined as mother, father, children, husband, or wife residing at the same address. The biting animal shall be confined so as not to expose people or other animals.
- B. Caged Animals. Owners of caged rabbits, guinea pigs, gerbils, rates and mice that have been owned over thirty days shall not be required to obtain a veterinary examination when their caged animal has bitten a person, but shall report the health of the biting animal by telephone or in person to the County Department of Animal and Rabies Control on the first and tenth day following the bite.
- C. Guard Dogs. Owners of guard dogs that have bitten a person in performance of guard duty and have been officially registered shall not be required to obtain a veterinary examination of the dog but shall report the health of the biting animal by telephone or in person to the County Department of Animal and Rabies Control on the first and tenth days following the bite. Guard dogs that are not officially registered shall be confined under observation of a licensed veterinarian for a period of 10 days within 24 hours of the biting incident. If the guard dog is currently vaccinated it may be confined on the premises of the owner in a manner which will prohibit it from biting any person or animal and the guard dog's health shall be reported by the veterinarian to the Cook County Department of Animal and Rabies Control on the first and tenth days of the observation period. When the guard dog is not registered and not currently inoculated with rabies vaccine, the guard dog shall be confined for 10 days in a veterinary hospital or animal control or humane shelter provided there is a veterinarian daily on the premises.
- D. Large Animals. Cattle, sheep swine and horses that have bitten a person shall be confined to the owner's property and examined by a veterinarian on the first and tenth days after a bite.
- E. Stray Animals. Stray animals that have bitten a person shall be apprehended and held for ten days or less. When the biting stray animal is not held for ten days, it shall be humanely euthanized, unless otherwise directed by the Administrator and head submitted for rabies examination.
- F. Death Before Confinement Period Expires. Any animal, including caged animals, that has bitten a person and dies, is accidentally killed or is humanely euthanized, before the tenth day following the bite shall have the head removed and sent to the local public health laboratory for rabies virus analysis. (FRA Test).

Regulation IV – Guard Dog Registration Certificates

- A. Eligibility – Application Form. Owners of dogs used in commercial business for the purpose of patrol and protection shall send a request to the County Department of Animal and Rabies Control for an application form for a Guard Dog Registration Certificate. To be eligible, guard dogs must be inoculated with rabies vaccine that is effective through 1 December of the year which the application is made, and must be subcutaneously injected with a microchip for identification purposes. All guard dogs shall be registered with the County Department of Animal Rabies and Control each and every year.
- B. Registration Fee-Exceptions. Guard Dog Registration Certificates will be mailed upon the receipt of a properly completed form and a \$10 registration fee. The fee will be waived for police and municipal departments.
- C. Expiration Date. Registration certificates shall expire on 31 December of each year.

Regulation V. Rabies Vaccination Certificates

- A. Filing of Certificates-Date Due. Veterinarians shall send to the County Department of Animal and Rabies Control Certificates of animals inoculated with rabies vaccine by the 15th and 30th of each month following information. Hospitals using ACE program must back up certificate information daily.
- B. Vaccination Certificate File in the Animal Hospital. Veterinarians shall maintain their own rabies vaccination file for three years past the date of inoculation.

Regulation VI. Submission of Specimens for Rabies Virus Analysis

- A. Specimen to be Submitted. Only the head of animals that are capable of transmitting rabies and that have bitten a person, shall be submitted for rabies virus analysis except those in which the suspect animal weighs approximately five hundred grams or one pound (bats, mice, gerbils, hamsters, etc.) In the latter case the entire animal shall be submitted.
- B. Time Limit for Submission: Specimens shall be submitted with 24 hours of the bite whenever possible or within 24 hours of the receipt of the specimen.
- C. Refrigeration. All specimens shall be refrigerated (not frozen) until received by the public health laboratory.
- D. Packaging. Specimens shall be shipped or sent by messenger only in leak proof (double wrapped in plastic) containers accompanied by an information card indicating the species and number of specimens submitted, name, address and telephone number of the bite

victim and the name, address and telephone number of the person submitting the specimen.

- E. Location for Submission. Residents of the county shall submit specimens to the Illinois Public Health Laboratory at 2121 West Taylor in Chicago, during the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:40 p.m. on Monday through Friday. On weekends and holidays the specimens should be refrigerated and submitted to the Illinois Public Health Laboratory on the next working day. Emergency service on weekends and holidays is provided by calling County Department of Animal and Rabies Control. A fee of \$30 will be charged for this service, as set forth in subsection F.
- F. Fee for Transporting Specimens. The County Department of Animal and Rabies Control will transport specimens to the Public Health Laboratory from facilities such as veterinary hospitals and humane societies and from individual residents of Cook County, for a fee of \$30.

Regulation VII. Redemption of Apprehended Animals

- A. Place of Impoundment. Animals apprehended by the County Department of Animal and Rabies Control shall be impounded in facilities designated by the department.
- B. Duration of Impoundment. The impoundment period shall be four days at which time animals impounded become the property of the department.
- C. Redemption of Impounded Animals-Conditions. Owners of apprehended animals prior to release of the animal shall present proof of current rabies inoculation for animals and pay the following redemption fee:
 - 1. \$20 to cover the pick-up service and the requirement under the Illinois Animal Control Act.
 - 2. Boarding fees as determined by the holding facility for each day or part of day that the animal is held.
 - 3. Rabies inoculation fee for animals as determined by the holding facility if no current rabies inoculation is present.

Regulation VIII. Dog Pars and Areas

A. Definitions

Terms not defined in this Regulation VIII shall be defined in Section II of the Cook County Animal and Rabies Control Ordinance.

Dog Park means an enclosed area of land where dogs are permitted to be off leash.

Leash means a cord, rope, strap, or chain which shall be securely fastened to the collar or harness of a dog or other animal and shall be of sufficient strength to keep such dog or other animal under control.

Operator means any Person who owns, operates or provides for use by patrons a Dog Park.

B. Requirements

1. No person shall be an Operator of a Dog Park unless such Dog Park is in compliance with this Regulation VIII.
2. A Dog Park must be completely enclosed by a contiguous fence with each entrance designed in such a manner as to secure against accidental opening.
3. There must be prominently displayed at each entrance to a Dog Park a sign that sets forth the Operator's rules for use of the Dog Park by patrons which rules shall not be inconsistent with these regulations.
4. Dogs must be on a Leash when entering into and leaving a Dog Park. They may be taken off a leash while within the Dog Park except as necessary for the safety of the dog or patrons.
5. The Operator must institute a plan (e.g. licensing/permitting and/or use of a key or keycard system) satisfactory to the Administrator for each Dog Park that reasonably ensures that access to the dog park is limited to dogs:
 - a. for whom there is written proof of an examination within the past year for any communicable diseases including an examination of a stool specimen for internal parasites, and current vaccinations or titers if possible for Distemper, Hepatitis, Parainfluenza, Parvovirus and Bordetella (kennel cough) unless an exemption to this requirement has been granted by the Administrator upon the written recommendation from the Owner's veterinarian; and
 - b. who are in compliance with rabies vaccination requirements of the Illinois Animal Control Act (510 ILCS 5); and
 - c. who are currently licensed by the local government where the Dog's Owner lives.

6. The plan required by B (5) above shall be filed in writing with and must be approved by the Administrator prior to the Operator permitting patrons to use a Dog Park after the effective date of these regulations. Once approved by the Administrator, any proposed change in the plan must be approved by the Administrator prior to such change becoming effective.

7. The Operator must institute a system of periodic surveillance to monitor compliance by Dog Park Patrons with the Operator's Dog Park plan and rules. The Operator shall have a policy for those instances in which a patron does not observe the Operator's rules. The Operator shall permit the Administrator to monitor and enforce compliance by Dog Park Patrons with the Operator's Dog Park plan and rules.

8. The Dog Park must have covered leak-proof containers available for storage of waste materials for disposal to control vermin and insects, which containers shall be periodically emptied and maintained in a sanitary condition.

9. Patrons shall comply with the Operator's rules and regulations.

A. Violations

A Violation of these regulations by an Operator or Patron shall be punishable as set forth in Section XI of the Cook County Rabies and Animal Control Ordinance.

Effective Date:

These regulations shall become effective on June 1, 2005

Part III.

WHEN AN ANIMAL BITES

1. These guidelines are based on requirements and recommendations of the Illinois Department of Agriculture and Public Health, the Illinois Animal Control Act and the Cook County Department of Animal and Rabies Control for:
 - a. Biting Animal Owners
 - b. Bite Victims
 - c. Physicians and other Medical Personnel
 - d. Police Officers
 - e. Veterinarians

2. Animal bites can cause rabies and other serious infections and scarring. These truths should be known about rabies:
 - a. Rabies is a fatal disease that affects all mammals including man.
 - b. Rabies vaccination is safe for all animals. To be effective, rabies vaccine must be given at least four weeks before an animal is exposed to rabies.
 - c. Rabies is decreasing as a human disease because there has been an increasing number of cats and dogs inoculated with the rabies vaccine and there are improved Public Health Programs stressing the need for stray control and rabies vaccination for cats and dogs.
 - d. In spite of vaccination programs, rabies is still very prevalent in wildlife. It will continue to be a serious public health problem for many years to come.

Section I. Guidelines for Owners of Biting Animals

A. LAW ENFORCEMENT-LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The Cook County Department of Animal and Rabies Control is the organization that is given the authority to enforce the laws relating to biting animals (510 ILCS 5/1 et seq.). The basis for these laws is protection of the health of the bite victim through the control rabies. The health of the biting animal is determined by an examination and through the observation of the biting animal by a veterinarian for ten days following the bite.

The need to impound a biting animal is dependent upon the laws of the County in which the biting animal owner lives.

A more direct and effective method of determining rabies in the biting animal is through the examination of the brain of the killed animal. This method is less than pleasing to most animal owners.

B. REPORT EACH BITE

Owners of biting animals, regardless of the reason for the bite, must recognize that all bites must be reported to protect the bite victim's health. All confirmed cases of rabies in man have been fatal. All bite report forms are forwarded to the Cook County Department of Animal and Rabies Control. When the Department receives an Animal Bite Report form without the additional veterinary health evaluation of the biting animal, the biting animal owner is contacted by telephone or by mail and informed of this requirement.

C. LOCAL POLICE ACCEPT ALL BITE REPORTS-CORRECTED REPORTS

Police personnel are trained to complete the Animal Bite Report form. Information for this report form is supplied to the local police department in which the owner of the biting animal lives by: medical personnel, bite victims, animal owners and other persons who have knowledge of a bite. Whenever there is controversy about the Animal Bite Report, the local police district shall be called so that a corrected report can be filed. Disputes not resolved in the local police district will require the bite victim to request a court appearance by the owner of the biting animal.

D. EXCEPTION

Owners of biting caged rabbits, hamsters, guinea pigs, gerbils, rates and mice (if ownership can be established over thirty days duration) and biting registered guard dogs are only required to call the Cook County Department of Animal and Rabies Control on the first and tenth day after the bite and report the health of the biting animal.

E. DEATH OF BITING ANIMAL

Whenever a biting animal dies within ten days of the bite, the head of the animal must be submitted to the local public health laboratory for rabies virus analysis. If the death of a biting animal other than a dog or a cat occurs for any unspecified reason within thirty days of a bite, it is advisable for the animal owner to submit the animal head for laboratory evaluation.

F. COURT APPEARANCES

Owners of biting animals shall be required to appear in court for violation of the law whenever any of the following occur:

1. If the biting animal is not currently vaccinated against rabies.
2. If the biting animal is allowed to bite a person when under the ten day home confinement.
3. If the biting animal is given away or sold, is allowed to roam, escapes or is otherwise disposed of during confinement period.
4. If the biting animal is not submitted for the required veterinary examination after the bite.

Section II. Guidelines for Bite Victims

A. HOME CARE FOR BITE WOUNDS-MEDICAL ADVICE

Awareness of the importance of the care of animal bite wounds will help prevent infection and rabies and relieve much of the anxiety about animal bites. It is essential that all bite wounds receive immediate attention. An immediate thorough flushing of the wound with water while allowing the wound to bleed freely, followed by a scrubbing with soap or a good disinfectant agent will minimize serious side effects of a bite. Following the first aid treatment of the animal caused wound, medical advice should then be sought to determine the most effective final treatment.

B. REPORT ALL BITES TO LOCAL POLICE-CAPTURE OF THE BITING ANIMAL- SCRATCHES

All bites (breaks in the skin) shall be reported to the local police, but those bites caused by at large (stray) and high risk kinds (species) or wild animals, such as the skunk and bat, shall be immediately reported to the police while it is possible to capture the biting animal. Because of the risk involved, the at large (stray) or wild animal should be continually observed until it is captured by the local police or authorized officer.

C. REDUCE THREAT OF RABIES

The threat of rabies to the life of the bite victim also will be minimized if the biting animal is captured and placed under observation of a veterinarian. The bite victim must recognize that the medical decision to administer anti-rabies injections (shots) is based mainly on these facts:

1. Capture and clinical evaluation of the health status of the biting animal by a veterinarian.
2. Kind (species) of biting animal.
3. Circumstances surrounding the biting incident.
 - a. Was the bite provoked?
 - b. Was the wound caused by the animal's nails or claws?

In addition the bite victim must understand that any break in the skin caused by an animal should not be regarded lightly. Death is the result of clinical rabies in animals or humans.

Section III. Guidelines for Medical Doctors and Associated Medical Personnel

A. REQUIREMENT TO REPORT ANIMAL BITES-CONTENTS OF ANIMAL BITE REPORT FORM

All medical personnel are required under the Cook County Animal and Rabies Control Ordinance to report all animal bites. Within Cook County the animal bite incident is reported to the police or other authorized personnel in the area in which the biting animal owner lives. If the biting animal was a stray or wild animal, the bite report should be given to the police or other authorized personnel in the area in which the bite occurred. The Animal Bite Report form requires this information.

1. Name, address and telephone number of the animal owner;
2. Name, address and telephone number of the bite victim;
3. Address where the bite happened;
4. Type, breed, sex and color of the biting animal;
5. Rabies Vaccination status of the biting animals (Cook County Rabies Vaccination tag number is necessary);
6. Community animal license number (not a Cook County requirement);
7. The name of the veterinarian who examined or will examine the biting animal;

8. Date the bite occurred;
9. Notation if a ticket was issued for any violation.

B. **RATIONALE OF TREATMENT FOR BITTEN PERSONS** (As adapted from the U.S. Public Health Service) Every exposure to possible rabies infection must be individually evaluated. Over eight thousand (8,000) animal bites are reported each year in Cook County. The following factors should be considered before anti-rabies treatment is initiated:

1. Species of biting animal

Carnivorous animals (within Cook County, skunks, raccoons, coyotes, stray dogs, stray cats, ferrets) and bats are more likely than other animals to be infected with rabies. However, any warm blooded animal can be infected with the rabies virus.

2. Circumstances of the biting incident

An UNPROVOKED ATTACK is more likely to mean the animal is rabid. Bites inflicted on a person attempting to feed or handle an apparently healthy animal should generally be regarded as PROVOKED.

3. Types of exposure

Rabies is commonly transmitted by the inoculation of infectious saliva through the skin. The possibility infection will result from exposure to a rabid animal varies with the nature and extent of exposure. Two categories of exposures should be considered:

- a. Bite, any penetration of the skin;
- b. Non-bite, scratches, abrasions, open wounds or mucous membranes contaminated with saliva.

4. Vaccination status of the biting animal

A properly immunized animal has only a small chance of developing rabies and transmitting the virus.

5. Presence of rabies in the area

Cook County is endemic for skunk and bat rabies.

C. **MANAGEMENT OF THE BITING ANIMAL**

The Cook County Department of Animal and Rabies Control is the department that administers the Cook County Animal and Rabies Control Ordinance. Each animal, except as noted below, that bites a person must be examined within twenty-four hours of the bite and placed under observation of a veterinarian for ten days. Owners of laboratory type animal pets (rabbits, guinea pigs, hamster, gerbils, rates and mice) owned over thirty days and registered guard dogs are required to call the Cook County Department of Animal and Rabies Control on the first and tenth day following a bite. Strays or unwanted animals may be killed immediately and their heads submitted for rabies examination by fluorescent microscopy. Signs of rabies in wild animals cannot be interpreted reliably; therefore, any wild animal that bites or scratches a person shall be killed at once (without necessary damage to the head) and the brain examined for evidence of rabies.

D. RABIES CASE PROCEDURE

Whenever a biting animal develops signs suggestive of rabies, the animal will be euthanized and the head removed and taken to the Illinois Public Health Laboratory. In all cases positive for rabies the medical personnel or health facility reporting the bite will immediately be notified through a telephone call from the Administrator.

E. POST EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS

The latest recommendation for post exposure prophylaxis are published by the United States Public Health Service Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices found in the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report of the U.S. Department of Health Education and Welfare. The report is dated 31 December 1976 – Volume 25 – Number 51. If questions persist after reviewing these recommendations, consultation can be sought at the full time local Public Health Department of the Cook County Department of Public Health.

F. LOCAL TREATMENT OF WOUNDS

Immediate and thorough local treatment of all bite wounds and scratches is perhaps the most effective rabies preventive. The wound shall be thoroughly cleansed with soap and water. When the wound treatment is under the direction of a physician, tetanus prophylaxis and control of bacterial infection should be given as indicated. Experimentally, the incidence of rabies in animals can be markedly reduced with local therapy alone.

Section IV. Guidelines for Police Personnel

A. METHOD OF ENFORCEMENT

All police officers are sworn to uphold all Federal, State and Local Laws. Within Cook County, the local police are usually designated to investigate each animal bite. In some communities, special police officers are assigned to this duty.

B. PURPOSE OF ANIMAL BITE REPORTS

The purpose of the animal bite investigation is to determine if a bitten person has been exposed to rabies. The question of rabies exposure can best and most quickly be determined by killing the biting animal, removing the head and submitting it to an approved public health laboratory for rabies virus analysis. Killing of all biting animals, particularly domestic pets, is not generally acceptable. Therefore, the biting animal that is not killed and checked at the laboratory must be examined by a veterinarian within twenty-four hours of the bite.

C. ANIMAL BITE PROCEDURE

1. Assist the bite victim to a medical facility or advise the victim to seek medical advice.
2. Inform the owners of the biting animals that the animal must be examined by a veterinarian within twenty-four hours of the bite.
3. Capture or keep under continuous surveillance all wild animals and other biting animals that are at large (stray).
4. Complete and mail within twenty-four hours an Animal Bite Report form to the Cook County Department of Animal and Rabies Control. In Chicago the police officer must complete form CPD-34.226 and call 311 to report bite and make bite report available to the Cook County Department of Animal and Rabies Control.

D. CONTENTS OF AN ANIMAL BITE REPORT FORM

Information required to complete the Animal Bite Report form is as follows:

1. Name, address and telephone number of the animal owner
2. Name, address and telephone number of the bite victim
3. Address where the bite happened
4. Type, breed, sex and color of the biting animal.
5. Rabies Vaccination status of the biting animal (Cook County Rabies Vaccination Tag Number is necessary)
6. Community animal license number (not a Cook County requirement)
7. The name of the veterinarian who examined or will examine the biting animal
8. Date the bite occurred

9. Notation if a ticket was issued – for any violation.

E. LEGAL GUIDELINES FOR IMPOUNDMENT

The County Ordinance applies throughout Cook County including within a home rule municipality. Any municipality, regardless of its population may pass an Ordinance effective within jurisdiction more strict than the County ordinance.

F. FACTS ABOUT ANIMAL BITES AND RABIES

All animal bites involving a person must be reported, but the break-down into high risk and low risk bites is intended to aid the police officer in determining the need for animal capture and the urgency for rabies treatment of a bitten person.

1. High risk bites (victims commonly receive shots)

- a. Stray (at large) animals where ownership is not known.
- b. Wild animals. Within Cook County the bat and the skunk are the species most often involved.
- c. Sick animals not under the care of a veterinarian.
- d. Any pet animal that attacks a person for no known reason (UNPROVOKED BITE).

2. Low risk bites (victims rarely receive shots).

- a. Pet animals that bite as a result of an action of a person (PROVOKED BITE).
- b. Bites inflicted by rabbits, squirrels, guinea pigs, hamsters, gerbils, chipmunks, rats, mice and other rodents. Within the United States human rabies has never resulted from a bite from these animals.
- c. Bites that in fact are wounds caused by the animal's claws or nails (scratches) without contamination by the animal's saliva.

Section V. Guidelines for Veterinarians

A. VET EXAM REQUIRED – EXCEPTIONS

All biting animals except those listed below must receive a veterinary examination within twenty-four hours of a bite. Guard dogs registered with the Cook County Department of

Animal and Rabies Control, and laboratory pet type animals (rabbits, hamsters, guinea pigs, gerbils, rats and mice) owned over thirty days are exempt from veterinary examination, but their owners must contact the Department within twenty-four hours after the bite.

B. PROCEDURE FOR RABIES OBSERVATION HOME CONFINEMENT AGREEMENT – SPECIAL PROCEDURES

1. Instruct the animal owner to read the Rabies Observation Home Confinement Agreement.
2. Complete the forms.
3. Have owners sign the Rabies Observation Confinement Notice.
4. Mail the Rabies Observation Confinement Notice within twenty-four hours after the time of the examination.
5. Mail the Rabies Observation Release Notice within twenty-four hours of the date listed as the tenth day on the Rabies Observation Confinement Agreement (Section 4B).
6. Details regarding special procedures are incorporated in Regulation 2 and Regulation 3 of the Cook County Animal and Rabies Control Ordinance.

C. RABIES IN ANIMALS

Rabies in animals is sporadic and found mainly in wild animals. Whenever wild animals lose their natural fear of people in the wild state and are involved in an animal or person bite, rabies should be considered a possibility. Specific symptoms of rabies in wild animals are varied so that other is not one reliable symptom to assist in the diagnosis. All biting wild animals should be killed, and the head should be removed and sent to the public health laboratory for rabies virus analysis.

Symptoms of rabies in domesticated animals are more reliable and include the following: in coordination, lethargy, dilated pupils, futile attempts to eat and drink, excessive salivation with frothy accumulation about the mouth, change in voice, change in disposition, restlessness, progressive aggression, paralysis and death. While rabies transmission is possible because of a bite, in most cases, the animal is showing symptoms one or two days after the bite and is dead by the fifth day.

D. LEGAL GUIDELINES FOR IMPOUNDMENT

The County Ordinance applies throughout Cook County including within home rule municipalities. Any municipality regardless of its population may pass an ordinance effective within its jurisdiction more strict than the County ordinance.

Part IV.

**ANIMAL CONTROL THROUGH THE FORMATION OF A COMMUNITY
DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL CONTROL**

1. Introduction
2. Community Governmental Participation
3. Animal Control Advisory Committee
4. Department of Animal Control
5. Improvement of Local Animal Control Ordinance
6. Training of Police and/or Animal Control Personnel
7. Public Education in Animal Control
8. Summary

1. Introduction

Animal control is a term often misunderstood in most urban communities. It is frequently thought to be not more than a change from the expression of dog catcher-dog pound. In reality an Animal Control program of today is a multifaceted concept involving local government, public health, media cooperation, public education and citizen participation in cooperation with specialists in animal health, care and control. Communities within Cook County have many types of animal control programs varying from a sophisticated program to little or no program at all. The purpose of these guidelines is to present a workable formula which can be used by any community a pattern for establishing a sound functional Animal Control program. Innovations and variations of this formula, of course, would have to be adapted to each community's individual problems and peculiarities.

2. Community Governmental Participation

The first and most important step in the establishment of a good Animal Control program is to secure the interest and cooperation of the local governing body. A knowledgeable person should meet with the members of the local government and present to them a concise, explicit and comprehensive description of Animal Control and the animal control problems within their community. It is important that the governing body of a community be aware of the problems, purposes and goals of Animal Control. Since there are often many difficulties and differences of opinion concerning Animal Control, a carefully outlined program will help insure cooperation of local governmental officials.

3. Animal Control Advisory Committee

A community Animal Control program is a very new concept. Not all communities have people available who have enough real expertise to set up and direct a sound workable program. When this expertise or experience is not available, the community should appoint a small group of experts to act as an advisory committee. The Cook County Department of Animal and Rabies Control is willing and anxious to assist the local community in its search for individuals to fill these positions. This committee can assist in developing and organizing a complete Animal Control program. Impounding methods, licensing procedures, record keeping, training procedures for personnel, development of humane educational program and the organization of a community Animal Control committee should be included in this program. The committee should be limited in number but should include such people as:

PURPOSE

- a. A person knowledgeable in humane society work.
- b. A person with expertise in animal care facility (dog pound) operations.
- c. An interested veterinarian.
- d. A public citizen interested in animal control work.
- e. A community official responsible for the local program.

4. Department of Animal Control

Every community that is interested in a good Animal Control program must establish a Department of Animal Control. In most cases it is not necessary to have a separate department but the department can be placed under the administration of another governmental agency, such as the Health Department or Police Department. It is important, however, for the department to have its own title and identity for it to be effective in dealing with the public and other governmental agencies. At least one person should be given the responsibility and authority to carry out the duties of the Department.

5. Improvement of Local Animal Control Ordinances

In order to achieve a good Animal Control in any community proper Animal Control Ordinances must be legislated. Local ordinances usually need to be updated, revised, or completely re-written to include changes in State and Federal Laws as they apply to the community. The Cook County Department of Animal and Rabies Control has available as a guideline its recently passed Cook County Animal and Rabies Control Ordinance that can be used with a few revisions in most areas of Cook County. No local Animal Control program should be without a sound basic Animal Control Ordinance from which to establish goals and guidelines.

6. Training of Police and/or Animal Control Personnel

All police officers are sworn to uphold all Federal, State and Local laws. The trend over the last several years is to separate the Animal Control Department from the local Police Department. However, within Cook County the local police officer is, most frequently, the person who investigates and completes the Cook County Animal Bite Report form.

Each officer, whether a police officer or an Animal Control officer, assigned the responsibility for Animal Control should be kept informed about the existing laws concerning animals. The Cook County Department of Animal and Rabies Control has the capability to provide training for the local police officer involved in Animal Control. Good cooperation between the police personnel and the Animal Control personnel is essential for the effective program.

7. Public Education in Animal Control

The real key to a successful Animal Control program involves the community resident. In actuality Animal Control in its simplest interpretation means keeping owned pets and unwanted stray pets from roaming in a community. At one time or other most all free roaming pets have had or have an owner. Consequently, an informed public is the answer to a successful program. Good public participation in Animal Control must be accomplished through education and pet identification. Most communities can produce a good educational program through these areas:

a. SCHOOLS

Children love pets and are very attentive and sensitive to pet problems. Children can be very effective in their approach at home relative to what they have learned in school about their pets needs and cares. The American Humane Society and the Chicago Anti-Cruelty Society have education programs as part of their services. There are many movies, posters and literature geared to grade school level that are effective in teaching Animal Control to your children. The Illinois Dog Clubs and Breeder's Association has formulated an excellent core curriculum which can be incorporated into the grade school (Grade K through 6) with great ease and success.

b. SERVICE CLUBS

Most local service clubs develop their meetings around a speaker oriented program. Through these programs responsible community leaders can be informed of responsible Animal Control. If this program is developed by many communities, the Cook County Department of Animal and Rabies Control will assist through the formation of a speaker's bureau.

c. MEDIA

There is no human story easier to sell to local newspapers than dog and cat stories. A good Animal Control program should include press releases and messages to the public relative to animal control problems.

d. PET IDENTIFICATION

Every community should have a pet identification program through effective licensing. If every pet that was picked up had a license tag on it for identification, the pet could be immediately returned to its owner. The pet owner should be charged a fee for this service. This kind of service would be well accepted in the community. The fee would reduce impounding cost, return most lost pets, and increase community revenues to help defray animal control expenses. Each community should establish as part of the Animal Control Officer's job description a door to door enforcement of the laws concerning inoculation of pet animals with rabies vaccine and the purchase of the community animal license.

8. Summary

Responsible ownership should become a goal of each community government. Involvement of the community residents in the creation of an Animal Control Department is the method suggested. Training of personnel involved in Animal Control and the development of a local educational program are necessary to help teach and assist the community's residents in effective Animal Control.

Approved As Amended
By The Board Of The Cook County Commissioners

September 21, 2004