

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain the first paragraph of Section 4-13, to amend and reordain subsection (b) of Section 4-13, to amend Article III by adding thereto new sections numbered 4-22.1 through 4-22.9, inclusive, all of the foregoing of Article III, Chapter 4 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1963, as amended; which Chapter 4 relates to ANIMALS AND FOWL, which Article III relates to DOGS, which Section 4-13 and first paragraph thereof relate to IMPOUNDING OF DOGS RUNNING AT LARGE; REDEMPTION OF IMPOUNDED DOGS; DISPOSITION OF UNREDEEMED DOGS, which subsection (b) relates to SECURING LICENSE, which new Section 4-22.1 relates to DOG LICENSE REQUIRED; DISPOSITION OF LICENSE FUNDS COLLECTED, which new Section 4-22.2 relates to LICENSE TAX IMPOSED; RATES; WHEN PAYABLE, which new Section 4-22.3 relates to HOW TO OBTAIN LICENSE, which new Section 4-22.4 relates to WHAT DOG LICENSE TO CONSIST OF, which new Section 4-22.5 relates to PRESERVING and DISPLAYING RECEIPTS; DOGS TO WEAR TAGS, which new Section 4-22.6 relates to DUPLICATE LICENSE TAGS, which new Section 4-22.7 relates to EFFECT OF DOG NOT WEARING A COLLAR BEARING A LICENSE TAG AS EVIDENCE, which new Section 4-22.8 relates to ACCOUNTING BY CITY COLLECTOR, and which new Section 4-22.9 relates to CITY MANAGER MAY APPOINT OTHER PERSONS TO ISSUE DOG LICENSES.

THE CITY COUNCIL OF ALEXANDRIA HEREBY ORDAINS:

Section 1. That the first paragraph of Section 4-13, Article III, Chapter 4 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1963, as amended, be and the same hereby is amended and reordained to read as follows:

Any dog observed by the operators or agents of the Alexandria Animal Shelter running at large, whether with or without the license tag required by this article, shall be impounded and kept at the shelter. If such dog has upon it the name or address of the owner, or such name or address is otherwise known, then the operators of the shelter shall notify the owner within twenty-four hours after seizure of such dog. If such dog has upon it a license tag, then the operators of such shelter shall notify the person in whose name the license stands within twenty-four hours after obtaining such name. Notice of the impounding shall be in writing, by mail, postage prepaid, and shall be construed as having been given at the time of posting thereof. If the dog impounded has no name, address or license tag upon it and the owner is not otherwise known, then no notice shall be necessary. Notwithstanding the above, whenever written notice is required the operators of the shelter shall, prior to mailing, make one reasonable attempt to give notice by telephone.

Section 2. That subsection (b) of Section 4-13, Article III, Chapter 4 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1963, as amended, be and the same hereby is amended and reordained to read as follows:

(b) If the dog is not licensed, a license as required by this article shall be secured.

Section 3. That Article III, Chapter 4 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1963, as amended, be and the same hereby is amended by adding thereto a new section numbered 4-22.1 to read as follows:

Sec. 4-22.1. Dog license required; disposition of license funds collected.

It shall be unlawful for any person to be the owner of a dog six months old or over within the city unless such dog is licensed, as required by the provisions of this article.

Since the city has by agreement with the State Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries taken over enforcement of the dog laws within the city, the funds collected for dog license taxes shall be placed in a special dog fund to be used for control of rabies, etc., as provided for by section 29-209 of the Code of Virginia. None of such funds shall be remitted to the state treasurer. Any funds in excess of two hundred fifty dollars remaining in the fund on December thirty-first of each year shall be transferred into the general fund of the city.

Section 4. That Article III, Chapter 4 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1963, as amended, be and the same hereby is amended by adding thereto a new section numbered 4-22.2 to read as follows:

Sec. 4-22.2. License tax imposed; rates; when payable.

There is hereby imposed an annual license tax on dogs for each calendar year at the following rates and due and payable as follows:

(a) For any male or female dog which shall be six months old or over on or before January thirty-first of the year, the license tax for that year shall be five dollars and shall be paid on or before January thirty-first of said year.

(b) If any male or female dog shall become six months of age or come into the possession of any owner between January thirty-first and November first of any year, the license tax for that year shall be five dollars and shall be paid forthwith.

(c) If any male or female dog shall become six months of age or come into the possession of any owner after October thirty-first of any year, the license tax of five dollars for the succeeding calendar year shall be paid forthwith and such license shall cover such dog from the date of coming of age or into possession.

(d) For any unsexed dog (a neuter), the provisions of this section with respect to other dogs shall apply but the annual license tax shall be two dollars.

(e) If any dog coming into the possession of an owner in the city has a current license in some other jurisdiction, a full credit shall be allowed on the cost of obtaining the first city license.

Section 5. That Article III, Chapter 4 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1963, as amended, be and the same hereby is amended by adding thereto a new section numbered 4-22.3 to read as follows:

Sec. 4-22.3. How to obtain license.

Any owner may obtain a dog license by making a signed written application to the city collector. The application shall contain the name and sex of the dog, the name and address of the owner and be accompanied by the amount of the license tax and a certificate of vaccination from a licensed veterinarian showing that the dog is inoculated against rabies, or a certification from the owner containing the vaccination number showing that the dog is inoculated against rabies. Upon receipt of a proper application, accompanied by the amount of the license tax and a proper certificate of vaccination, or a proper certification from the owner, the city collector shall issue a license receipt to the owner. Upon such receipt and the records of the collector shall be recorded the name and address of the owner, the date of issuance, the year for which issued, the serial number of the license and the sex of the dog. In addition, the city collector shall deliver an appropriate tag to the owner.

Section 6. That Article III, Chapter 4 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1963, as amended, be and the same hereby is amended by adding thereto a new section numbered 4-22.4 to read as follows:

Sec. 4-22.4. What dog license to consist of.

A dog license shall consist of the above mentioned receipt and a tag of a style adopted by the city. A tag shall be stamped or otherwise permanently marked to show the sex of the dog, the serial number, the calendar year for which issued and the name of the city.

Section 7. That Article III, Chapter 4 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1963, as amended, be and the same hereby is amended by adding thereto a new section numbered 4-22.5 to read as follows:

Sec. 4-22.5. Preserving and displaying receipts; dogs to wear tags:

Dog license receipts shall be carefully preserved by the owner and exhibited promptly on request by the dog warden or any deputy dog warden. Dog license tags shall be securely fastened by the owner to a substantial collar which shall be worn by such dog.

Section 8. That Article III, Chapter 4 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1963, as amended, be and the same hereby is amended by adding thereto a new section numbered 4-22.6 to read as follows:

Sec. 4-22.6. Duplicate license tags.

If a dog license shall become lost, destroyed or stolen, the owner shall at once apply to the city collector for a duplicate license tag, presenting the original license receipt if available. Upon affidavit of the owner before the city collector that the original license tag has been lost, destroyed or stolen, he shall issue a duplicate license tag which the owner shall immediately affix to the collar of the dog. The city collector shall endorse the number of the duplicate and the date issued on records of the collector and on the face of the original license receipt if available. The fee for a duplicate tag shall be twenty-five cents.

Section 9. That Article III, Chapter 4 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1963, as amended, be and the same hereby is amended by adding thereto a new section numbered 4-22.7 to read as follows:

Sec. 4-22.7. Effect of dog not wearing collar bearing a license tag as evidence.

Any dog not wearing a collar bearing a license tag of the proper calendar year shall prima facie be deemed to be unlicensed and in any proceedings under this chapter the burden of proof of the fact that such dog has been licensed, or is otherwise not required to wear a tag at the time, shall be on the owner of the dog.

Section 10. That Article III, Chapter 4 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1963, as amended, be and the same hereby is amended by adding thereto a new section numbered 4-22.8 to read as follows:

Sec. 4-22.8. Accounting by city collector.

The city collector shall keep orderly lists and accounts with respect to receipts, disbursements, licenses issued, and how unsold tags are disposed of. Within fifteen days after the end of each calendar year the city collector shall file an accounting of his activities with respect to dogs and dog licenses with the city manager.

Section 11. That Article III, Chapter 4 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1963, as amended, be and the same hereby is amended by adding thereto a new section numbered 4-22.9 to read as follows:

Sec. 4-22.9. City Manager may appoint other persons to issue
dog licenses.

The city manager may appoint one or more persons to aid the city collector in the issuance of dog licenses. Any such appointee shall have the power to issue dog licenses pursuant to sections 4-22.3 and 4-22.6 and may operate at locations in the city designated by the city manager. Such appointees shall keep accurate records and transmit all funds collected to the city collector at least every thirty days.

Section 12. That this ordinance shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation published in the city not later than five days following its introduction together with a notice containing the time and place for a public hearing. The clerk of the council shall note the date of introduction and first reading, the date of publication, the date of the public hearing, and the date of the second reading and final passage in the minutes of the meeting. This ordinance shall become effective January 1, 1973.

Charles E. Beatley, Jr.
Mayor

FINAL PASSAGE: DECEMBER 20, 1972