

ORDINANCE NO. 2774

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Article C, Chapter 7, Title 5, by amending the title of Article C; to amend Article C, Chapter 7, Title 5 by adding a new section numbered 5-7-38.1; and to amend and reordain Sections 5-7-39, 5-7-40 and 5-7-45, all of Article C, Chapter 7, Title 5 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended; which Title 5 relates to TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, which Chapter 7 relates to ANIMALS AND FOWL, which Article C formerly related to DOGS and now relates to DOGS AND OTHER ANIMALS, which new section numbered 5-7-38.1 relates to INOCULATION OF CATS AGAINST RABIES, which Section 5-7-39 formerly related to PROCEDURE AS TO DOGS SUSPECTED OF HAVING RABIES and now relates to PROCEDURE AS TO DOGS AND CATS SUSPECTED OF HAVING RABIES, which Section 5-7-40 formerly related to REPORTS OF DOG BITES and now relates to REPORTS OF ANIMAL BITES and which Section 5-7-45 formerly related to KILLING CERTAIN DOGS THAT CANNOT BE SAFELY TAKEN UP AND IMPOUNDED and now relates to KILLING CERTAIN ANIMALS THAT CANNOT BE SAFELY TAKEN UP AND IMPOUNDED.

THE CITY COUNCIL OF ALEXANDRIA HEREBY ORDAINS:

Section 1. That the title of Article C, Chapter 7, Title 5 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended, be and the same hereby is amended and reordained to read as follows:

ARTICLE C

Dogs and other animals

Section 2. That Article C, Chapter 7, Title 5 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended, be and the same hereby is amended by adding a new section numbered 5-7-38.1 to read as follows:

Sec. 5-7-38.1. Inoculation of cats against rabies.

(a) It shall be the duty of every resident of the city owning or in possession of a cat four (4) months old or older within the city to have such cat inoculated with an anti-rabic vaccine approved by the director of public health, which inoculation shall be repeated as often as the director of public health may from time to time specify. The expense of inoculation of cats against rabies shall be borne by the owners of such cats. The inoculation shall be made by any licensed veterinarian.

(b) At the time of vaccination, a suitable and distinctive rabies tag and a certificate of vaccination shall be issued by the veterinarian to the cat's owner. The certificate shall

certify that the cat in question has been vaccinated in accordance with this section. Such certificate shall show the date of vaccination, the rabies collar tag number, the date of required immunization, a brief description of the cat and its sex and breed, and the name of the owner. The certificate issued under this section shall be carefully preserved by the owner of the cat and exhibited promptly upon request for inspection by the dog warden, a deputy dog warden, a public health officer or any other law enforcement officer. One copy of the certificate required under this section shall be retained by the veterinarian and one copy shall be presented by the veterinarian to the health department for registration within 10 days after inoculation.

Section 3. That Section 5-7-39, Article C, Chapter 7, Title 5 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended, be and the same hereby is amended and reordained to read as follows:

Sec. 5-7-39. Procedure as to dogs and cats suspected of having rabies.

Dogs and cats suspected of having rabies and exhibiting the common symptoms of this disease shall be impounded either at the animal shelter or at a private veterinarian's establishment in solitary confinement and kept under observation for a period of 10 days. At the time any dog or cat is impounded an attempt shall be made by the dog warden or a deputy dog warden to find out whether or not the dog or cat has been previously inoculated against rabies. If it is found that the dog or cat has not been effectively inoculated or there is any doubt as to whether or not the dog or cat has in fact been inoculated, then the dog or cat shall be inoculated on the last day of the above-mentioned observation period. The director of public health is hereby given authority to cause to be destroyed any dog or cat which in his opinion has rabies, and to have the head of the dog or cat examined. All expenses in connection with the provisions of this section shall be borne by the owner of the dog or cat in question.

Section 4. That Section 5-7-40, Article C, Chapter 7, Title 5 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended, be and the same hereby is amended and reordained to read as follows:

Sec. 5-7-40. Reports of animal bites.

(a) Any owner whose animal bites a person shall immediately notify the dog warden, a deputy dog warden, the health department or the police department of the city.

(b) It shall be the duty of every physician and medical practitioner practicing in the city and of every hospital in the

city to report to the dog warden, a deputy dog warden or the health department the name and address of any person treated for bites or wounds inflicted by animals, together with all available information necessary for rabies control.

(c) It shall be the duty of every veterinarian practicing in the city to report to the dog warden, a deputy dog warden or the health department the name and address of the owner of any animal treated for bites or wounds inflicted by any other animal, together with all available information necessary for rabies control.

Section 5. That Section 5-7-45, Article C, Chapter 7, Title 5 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended, be and the same hereby is amended and reordained to read as follows:

Sec. 5-7-45. Killing certain animals that cannot be safely taken up and impounded.

If any vicious or dangerous dog or any dog, cat or other animal suspected of, or having rabies, found at large, cannot be safely taken up and impounded, the dog or other animal may be slain by any police officer.

Section 6. That the title of and an informal memorandum explaining 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 city clerk shall have the full text of this ordinance printed in sufficient numbers to supply copies to meet request. The city clerk 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 the date of its final passage.

CHARLES E. BEATLEY, JR.
Mayor

Final Passage: February 22, 1983