

ORDINANCE NO. 4994

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Sections 5-7-37 of Article C (Dogs and Other Animals) of Chapter 7 (Animals and Fowl) of Title 5 (Transportation and Environmental Services) of the City of Alexandria Code.

THE CITY COUNCIL OF ALEXANDRIA HEREBY ORDAINS:

**Section 1.** That Section 5-7-37 of the Code of the City of Alexandria be, and the same hereby is, amended by deleting the language in strikethrough and inserting new language in underline, as shown:

**Sec. 5-7-37 - Confinement of animal which has committed an attack.**

(a) When there is sufficient evidence to believe that an animal has exposed a person or other animal to rabies, at the discretion of the Health Director or the Health Director's designee, the exposing animal may be euthanized and tested or ~~Whenever a report is made, as provided by section 5-7-40, of a person having been bitten by an animal or a notice is received by the police department, the health department, an animal control officer or the operators of the animal shelter of an animal having bitten a person or another animal, and, in the case of a dog, no summons or notice of violation has been issued charging maintenance of a vicious or dangerous dog, an animal control officer shall forthwith issue an order to the owner of the animal directing that the animal be confined under quarantine and kept under observation on the premises of the owner, or of a private kennel for a period of 10 days following the issuance of the order at the expense of the owner, during which time the animal shall never leave the premises, and the order shall be served upon the owner by an animal control officer in the manner provided by section 8.01-296, Code of Virginia. If, within the ten-day period, an authorized representative of the Health Director~~ director of public health or a licensed veterinarian reports that the animal shows no symptoms of rabies ~~and, in the case of a dog, no summons or notice of violation has been issued,~~ the animal shall be released from quarantine. ~~If a report of rabies is made or if, in the case of a dog, a summons or notice of violation is issued before the expiration of the ten-day period,~~ during the observation period that animal develops signs of active rabies or dies, the animal shall be immediately removed by an animal control officer to the animal shelter pending a final disposition of the case; and costs to keep the animal at the animal shelter shall be charged to its owner. The animal may be euthanized and/or tested for rabies at the discretion of the Health Director or the Health Director's designee.

(b) If an owner does not comply with the provisions of an order issued pursuant to this section within 24 hours from the time he is served, the animal in question shall be impounded by an animal control officer, at the animal shelter, and kept under observation at the owner's expense for a period of 10 days, and the owner shall be charged with a violation of this section.

**Section 2.** That this ordinance shall become effective on the date and at the time of its final passage.

ALLISON SILBERBERG  
Mayor

Final Passage: April 16, 2016