

Ordinance No. 704

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Chapter XXIV of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, enacted as a whole July 2, 1940 and made effective August 5, 1940, which said Chapter relates to dogs.

THE CITY COUNCIL OF ALEXANDRIA HEREBY ORDAINS:

Sec. 1. That Chapter XXIV of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, enacted as a whole July 2, 1940 and made effective August 5, 1940 be and the same hereby is amended and reordained to read as follows:

CHAPTER XXIV

DOGS

ARTICLE I

Words and Phrases Defined

Sec. 1. For the purposes of this Chapter the following definitions shall apply:

- (a) DOG—shall include both the male and female sex of the species.
- (b) OWNER—shall be intended to mean any person, partnership, firm or corporation owning, keeping or harboring a dog.
- (c) AT LARGE—shall be intended to mean off the premises of the owner and not under control of the owner or his agent, either by leash, cord or chain.
- (d) VICIOUS OR DANGEROUS DOG—shall be intended to mean any dog which without provocation attacks human beings or their property on more than one occasion, and animals of any kind belonging to a person or persons are to be considered property under the terms of this Chapter.
- (e) UNLICENSED DOGS—shall be intended to mean any dog running at large without license tag attached.

ARTICLE II

General Regulations

Sec. 1 INOCULATION AGAINST RABIES—It shall be the duty of every resident of the City owning or in possession of a dog or dogs, 2 to 1 have said dog or dogs inoculated with anti-rabic vaccine, one injection method, the inoculation shall be repeated as often as may be necessary and the certificate of vaccination shall be presented to the City Dog Pound for registration immediately after vaccination. The expense of inoculation of dogs against rabies shall be borne by the owners of dogs, said inoculation to be made by any licensed veterinarian.

Sec. 2. MUZZLING—Whenever in the opinion of the City Manager and the Public Health Officer of the City it is advisable and necessary for the public health and safety, and notice thereof is published in the Alexandria Gazette, all dogs when off the premises of the owners

shall be effectively muzzled unless accompanied by the owner or his agent and under leash.

Sec. 3. UNLICENSED DOGS IMPOUNDED — all unlicensed dogs will be impounded and kept at the City Dog Pound.

Sec. 4. REDEMPTION OF IMPOUNDED DOGS—Destruction of unredeemed dogs—the owner of any dog caught and impounded shall be entitled to the possession of such animal upon proof of ownership and payment at the City Dog Pound of the sum of \$1.00; provided that if the dog has not been inoculated against rabies the provision of this Chapter relative to inoculation must be complied with, and that if the dog is not licensed a license must be procured, and provided further that such dog shall not be released under this section unless the owner shall comply with all other sections of this Chapter. Any and all dogs which have been impounded and are not redeemed within five (5) days after they may be legally released under the provisions of this Chapter, may be destroyed or may be redeemed by any person desiring to give the dog a home, upon the payment of the \$1.00 redemption fee and compliance with the other provisions of this Chapter.

Sec. 5. VICIOUS OR DANGEROUS DOGS—vicious or dangerous dogs are not allowed within the City, and upon proof satisfactory to the Court may be ordered impounded and destroyed, or in the discretion of the Court may be ordered out of the City.

Sec. 6. IMPOUNDING OF DOGS SUSPECTED OF BEING VICIOUS OR DANGEROUS AND IMPOUNDING OF DOGS REPORTED AS HAVING ATTACKED HUMAN BEINGS OR THEIR PROPERTY.

- (a) Whenever a warrant is sworn out against the owner of a dog charging maintenance of a vicious or dangerous dog, said dog shall be impounded and kept at the City Dog Pound, at the owner's expense, pending a final disposition of the case.
- (b) Whenever a complaint is lodged with the City Police Department concerning the attack by a dog on a human being or his property, but no warrant is sworn out charging maintenance of a vicious or dangerous dog, the said dog shall be confined and kept under observation at a private kennel or at the establishment of a licensed veterinarian for a period of Fourteen (14) days at the expense of the owner; then if no warrant is forthcoming and no report of rabies is forthcoming within the 14 days, the dog shall be released without further observation.

If any owner refuses to comply with the provisions of this section within Twenty-four (24) hours from the time he or she is notified by the Police Department the said dog shall be impounded at the City Dog Pound and kept under observation at the owner's expense for a period of 14 days and the owners shall be charged with a violation of this section.

Sec. 7. DOGS SUSPECTED OF HAVING RABIES—any and all dogs suspected of having rabies and exhibiting the common symptoms of such disease shall be impounded either at the City Dog Pound or at a private veterinarian's, inoculated against rabies and kept under observation for a period of Fourteen (14) days; all expenses in connection with the provisions of this section shall be borne by the owner or owners of said dog or dogs. The Health Officer of the City is

given authority to cause to be destroyed any dog which in his opinion has rabies, and to have the head of such dog examined.

Sec. 8. PROTECTION OF THE PUBLIC FROM HYDROPHOBIA—whenever it becomes necessary to safeguard the public from the danger of hydrophobia, the City Manager with the written approval of the City Health Officer may issue a proclamation ordering every person owning or keeping a dog to confine it securely on his premises, unless such dog shall have a muzzle of sufficient strength to prevent its biting any person. Any unmuzzled dog running at large during the time of the proclamation shall be seized and impounded, unless it is infected with rabies. All dogs so infected with rabies and displaying vicious propensities may be killed by any Police Officer without notice to the owner.

Sec. 9. DOGS COMMITTING A NUISANCE—it shall be unlawful for any owner or person in control of a dog or dogs to knowingly and willfully allow his dog or dogs to commit a nuisance on the private property of other persons.

Sec. 10. PENALTY—any person violating any provision of Article II of this Chapter shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$100.00 or imprisonment in the City jail for a period not exceeding thirty (30) days or by both of such fine and imprisonment in the discretion of the Court.

ARTICLE III

Authority of the City Dog Pound and of the City Police Department

Sec. 1. Powers of the Operators of the City Dog Pound—the operators of the City Dog Pound shall have the following powers:

- (a) to seize and impound unlicensed dogs.
- (b) to destroy unredeemed dogs as provided in Article II, Section 9 of this Chapter.
- (c) to destroy vicious or dangerous dogs upon an order from the Court as provided in Article II, Section 5 of this Chapter.
- (d) to impound dogs suspected of being vicious or dangerous as provided in Article II, Section 6-a of this Chapter.
- (e) to impound dogs upon complaint to the Police Department of an attack made upon human beings or their property as provided in Article II, Section 6-b of this Chapter.
- (f) to destroy rabid dogs as provided in Article II, Section 7 of this Chapter.

Sec. 2. POWERS OF THE CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

- (a) if any vicious or dangerous dog or any dog suspected of, or having rabies, found at large, cannot be safely taken up and impounded, such dog may be slain by any Police Officer.

Sec. II. That this ordinance shall be published in the Alexandria Gazette not later than two 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 the date of its final passage.

Franklin P. Backus
Mayor

Published: October 25, 1951
Final Passage: November 13, 1951