

Ordinance No. 783

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Sec. 1, Sec. 6, Sec. 7, Sec. 9, Article II, and Sec. 1, Article III, as said Sections are amended by ordinance No. 704, 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 Sec. 1 relates to inoculation against rabies, which Sec. 6 relates to impounding of dogs suspected of being vicious or dangerous and impounding of dogs reported as having attacked human being or their property, which Sec. 7 relates to dogs suspected of having rabies, which Section 9 relates to dogs committing a nuisance, which Article II, relates to general regulations concerning dogs, which Sec. 1 relates to powers of the operators of the Alexandria Animal Shelter, which Article III, relates to authority of the Alexandria Animal Shelter and of the City Police Department, which ordinance No. 704 relates to dogs and which Chapter XXIV relates to dogs.

THE CITY COUNCIL OF ALEXANDRIA HEREBY ORDAINS:

Section 1. That Sec. 1, Article II, as amended by ordinance No. 704, 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 to read as follows:

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, to have said dog or dogs inoculated with an anti-rabic vaccine approved by the Health Officer, which inoculation shall be repeated as often as the City Health Officer may from time to time specify, based on the best medical information available. 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. A certificate of vaccination shall be presented by said veterinarian to the Alexandria Animal Shelter for registration within ten (10) days after inoculation.

Section 2. That Sec. 6, Article II, as amended by ordinance No. 704, 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 to read as follows:

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 Alexandria Animal Shel-

ter, 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 dog, the said dog shall be confined under quarantine and kept under observation on the premises of the owner or a private kennel for a period of Fourteen (14) days at the expense of the owner, during which time the dog shall never leave said premises; then if no warrant is forthcoming and an authorized representative of the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria, Virginia, Inc. or a licensed veterinarian reports said dog shows no symptoms of rabies within the 14 days, the dog shall be released.

If a report of rabies is made, or if a warrant is sworn out before the expiration of the said 14 days period, the dog shall be immediately removed to the Alexandria Animal Shelter pending a final disposition of the case, costs there incurred shall be charged to the owner of the dog.

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 Alexandria Animal Shelter 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.

Section 3. That Sec. 7, Article II, as amended by ordinance No. 704, 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 to read as follows:

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 Alexandria Animal Shelter or at a private veterinarian's in solitary confinement and kept under observation for a period of Fourteen (14) days. At the time any such dog is impounded an attempt shall be made to find out whether or not the dog has been previously inoculated against rabies. If it is found that such dog has not been effectively inoculated or there is any doubt as to whether or not the dog has in fact been inoculated, then such dog shall be inoculated on the last day of the above mentioned observation period. The Health Officer of the City is hereby given authority to cause to be destroyed any dog which in his opinion has rabies, and to have the head of such dog examined. All expenses in connection with the provisions of this section shall be borne by the owner or owners of said dog or dogs.

Section 4. That Sec. 9, Article II, as amended by ordinance No. 704, 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 to read as follows:

Sec. 9. NUISANCE—The following things are declared nuisances

and are prohibited and it shall be unlawful for any owner or person in control of a dog or dogs to:

- (a) Permit his female dog to leave his premises when such female dog is in season, except when such female dog be restrained by leash, cord or chain.
- (b) Knowingly or willfully allow his dog to take care of nature's needs on the private property of other persons or on public property except curbs, streets, alleys and parks.
- (c) Keep dogs which bark or howl to such extent as to annoy any resident or citizen or keep dogs in such a manner as to cause offensive odors.

Section 5. Sec. 1, Article III, as amended by ordinance No. 704, 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 to read as follows:

Sec. 1. Powers of the Operators of the Alexandria Animal Shelter—the operators of the Alexandria Animal Shelter shall have the following powers:

- (a) to seize and impound unlicensed dogs.
- (b) to destroy unredeemed dogs as provided in Article II, section 4 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 and to inspect and release dogs as provided for in said section.
- (f) To destroy rabid dogs as provided in Article II, Section 7, of this Chapter.

Section 6. That this ordinance shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation 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 the date of its final passage.

Marshall J. Beverley,
Mayor

Published: March 26, 1953
Final Passage: April 14, 1953