

**First Reading:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Second Reading:** \_\_\_\_\_

ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHATTANOOGA CITY CODE,  
CHAPTER 7, ARTICLE II, SECTIONS 7-17, 7-18, AND 7-19,  
RELATIVE TO LICENSING, INOCULATION, AND  
PERMITTING OF DOGS AND CATS.

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SECTION 1. BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE, That Chattanooga City Code, Chapter 7, Article II, Sections 7-17, 7-18, and 7-19, are amended by deleting these section in their entirety and substituting in lieu thereof the following:

**ARTICLE II. LICENSING AND INOCULATION OF DOGS AND CATS**

**Sec. 7-17. City license required; exceptions.**

- (a) The owner of every dog or cat in the City over the age of three (3) months shall obtain a City license for such dog or cat from the Animal Center or participating licensed veterinarians by the last day of the month in which the dog or cat receives its rabies vaccination. Such license shall be effective for twelve months or until the last day of the month in which the current rabies vaccination expires, whichever comes first. In the case of a three-year rabies vaccination, the license must be renewed yearly while the vaccination remains valid. The license or renewal thereof shall state the sex, breed, age, color and name of the dog or cat, together with its markings, if any, the name and address of the owner and the date of registration. Owners of dogs or cats who have failed to obtain a license for their animals or who have failed to renew the license of their animals within thirty (30) days of the date of license expiration shall be deemed delinquent and shall be subject to an additional late fee of twenty dollars (\$20.00) per dog or cat in addition to the regular license fee and in addition to any fines imposed upon such owners by a court of competent jurisdiction.
- (b) The Animal Center shall issue a metal license tag for each dog or cat licensed as provided herein, marked “[Year], City of Chattanooga, TN, No. –.” Such tag shall be fastened to the dog's or cat's collar and worn by the dog or cat at all times. Breakaway collars are recommended when tags are affixed to collars worn by cats. It shall be unlawful for any person to use a tag on a dog or cat for which such tag was not issued.

- (c) The provisions of this section shall not apply to (i) nonresidents of the City who are traveling through the City or temporarily sojourning therein for a period of less than thirty (30) days or (ii) persons bringing dogs or cats into the City exclusively for show or exhibition purposes.

[\(Ord. No. 12880, § 1, 11-18-14\)](#)

**Sec. 7-18. License fees; exemption for seniors; convenience fees for veterinarians; fees for Potentially Dangerous Dog and Dangerous Dog tags.**

- (a) The license fee for dogs and cats shall be ten dollars (\$10.00) each, provided that a surcharge of an additional forty dollars (\$40.00) annually shall be levied against each dog or cat that is not altered. Licenses for up to three (3) animals that are spayed or neutered and owned by senior citizens over the age of sixty-five (65) shall be free as long as the animals are current on rabies inoculations. The Animal Center is authorized to charge a fee of five dollars (\$5.00) for each lost tag replaced. The Animal Center is authorized to charge a fee for implantation of microchips for the purpose of identification, registration and return of impounded pets to owners.
- (b) Licenses will be provided to participating licensed veterinarians by the Animal Center for resale to clients. Licensed veterinarians may add an additional two dollar (\$2.00) convenience fee to each license fee. The convenience fee will be retained by the participating veterinarian. The veterinarian will be required to submit a monthly report to the Animal Center before the fifth day of each month stating the disposition of the licenses sold to clients during the preceding month. The veterinarian will be required to submit a yearly report to the Animal Center by January 31, providing an accounting of all unsold licenses from the previous year.
- (c) Any dog that is designated by a court of competent jurisdiction as a Potentially Dangerous Dog or a Dangerous Dog is required to wear an additional tag that must be obtained from the Animal Center. The fee for a Potentially Dangerous Dog tag is one hundred dollars (\$100.00). The fee for a Dangerous Dog tag is two hundred dollars (\$200.00). A tag for a Potentially Dangerous Dog or a Dangerous Dog must be obtained within one (1) week of the animal's designation as such and is valid for a period of eighteen (18) months. Potentially Dangerous Dog tags and Dangerous Dog tags under this chapter shall be of a distinctive color different from regular license tags and different from each other.

[\(Ord. No. 12880, § 1, 11-18-14\)](#)

**Sec. 7-19. Licenses and fees for multiple pets.**

- (a) Owners must provide adequate care for their animals. The City has an interest in promoting responsible pet ownership and holding individuals accountable if they choose to own or keep an excessive number of animals. Therefore, in the interest of protecting the health, welfare and safety of animals and the community, the City shall require individuals to obtain licenses to own multiple pets.

- (b) All persons owning, keeping or maintaining more than four (4) dogs and/or cats over the age of six (6) months shall be required to obtain a multiple-pet license and to pay an additional fee for each such dog or cat at the following rates:
  - (1) Fifty dollars (\$50.00) for each dog and/or cat over the age of six (6) months in excess of four (4) and up to and including ten (10) dogs and/or cats;
  - (2) One hundred dollars (\$100.00) for each dog and/or cat over the age of six (6) months in excess of ten (10) and up to and including twenty (20) dogs and/or cats; and
  - (3) Two hundred dollars (\$200.00) for each dog and/or cat over the age of six (6) months in excess of twenty (20) dogs and/or cats.
- (c) A multiple-pet license shall be valid for twelve months from the date of issuance. The license must be renewed twelve months after the date of issuance.
- (d) All fees for a multiple-pet license are in addition to any other license, permit or other fees imposed by any other provisions in this chapter.
- (e) The provisions of this section apply if more than four (4) dogs and/or cats over the age of six (6) months reside at one (1) location, address or property, regardless of who owns the dogs and/or cats.
- (f) All animals covered under a multiple-pet license must be altered. If any of the animals is not altered, then the owner of the animals is required to obtain a Kennel Permit or other applicable permit as required under this chapter and is subject to all relevant zoning requirements in the City Code.
- (g) Any person who is required to have a multiple-pet license under this section but who fails to obtain said license or fails to renew said license before it expires shall be deemed delinquent and is subject to a late fee of twenty dollars (\$20.00).

SECTION 2. BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, That this Ordinance shall take effect two

(2) weeks from and after its passage as provided by law.

Passed on second and final reading: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
CHAIRPERSON

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_ DISAPPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR