

CHAPTER 505

City of Medina: Animals and Fowl

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CROSS REFERENCES

- See sectional histories for similar State law
- Owner or keeper liable for damages - see Ohio R.C. 951.10
- Dog registration - see Ohio R.C. 955.01
- Discharging firearms prohibited - see GEN. OFF. [549.12](#)

505.01 DOGS AND OTHER ANIMALS RUNNING AT LARGE.

(a) No person being the owner or having charge of cattle, sheep, geese, ducks, turkeys, chickens or other fowl or animals shall permit them to run at large upon any public place, or upon any unenclosed lands, or upon the premises of another.

(b) No person being the owner of or having charge of any dog, whether wearing a registration tag or not, shall permit it to run at large upon any public place or upon the premises of another. No owner, keeper or harbinger of any female dog shall permit such dog to go beyond the premises of such owner or keeper at any time such dog is in heat, unless such dog is properly in leash. The owner or keeper of every dog shall at all times keep such dog either confined upon the premises of the owner or keeper, or under reasonable control of some person. (ORC 955.22)

(c) The running at large of any such animal in or upon any of the places mentioned in this section is prima-facie evidence that it is running at large in violation of this section.
(ORC 951.02)

(d) No owner or keeper of a dog shall permit such dog to leave the premises of the owner or keeper, except on a leash, in a suitable conveyance or container and under the control of a responsible person. (Ord. 48-64. Passed 4-27-64.)

(e) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.
(ORC 955.99(A))

505.02 IMPOUNDING AND DISPOSITION; RECORDS.

(a) The dog warden shall impound any dog found running at large within the City unless the dog is wearing a Medina County dog license. If the dog wears identification sufficient to establish ownership of the animal, the warden shall notify or cause to be notified the owner or keeper of the impounding of such dog. The warden shall keep any dog impounded for a period of at least five days and if the owner or keeper reclaims the dog within five days after receipt of the aforesaid notice, he may reclaim the dog by payment at the Police Department of the sum of three dollars (\$3.00) for apprehension plus one dollar (\$1.00) per day for board.

(b) If the warden discovers a dog running at large within the City while such dog is wearing a Medina County dog license, the warden shall not impound such dog but shall notify or cause to be notified the owner or keeper of the animal of the fact that his dog was found to be running at large. The warden shall maintain a record of the owners of dogs found running at large while such dog is wearing a Medina County dog license and when found running at large on a second occasion, the warden shall cause a warrant for the arrest of the owner or keeper.

(c) Any dog not redeemed within five days of the time it is seized or impounded may be sold or otherwise disposed of as provided by Ohio R.C. 955.16.

505.03 ANNUAL REGISTRATION OF DOGS; TAGS REQUIRED.

(a) Except for guide dogs registered under Ohio R.C. 955.011 and dogs kept by an institution or organization for teaching and research purposes under Ohio R.C. 955.16, no person shall own, keep or harbor a dog more than three months of age without annually registering such dog with the County Auditor. Failure of any dog at any time to wear a valid registration tag shall be prima-facie evidence of lack of registration and subject such dog to impounding and disposition as provided by Ohio R.C. 955.16.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor for a first offense and a misdemeanor of the fourth degree for each subsequent offense.
(ORC 955.99(D)).

505.04 ABANDONING ANIMALS.

- (a) No owner or keeper of a dog, cat or other domestic animal shall abandon such animal. (ORC 959.01)
- (b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the second degree on a first offense and a misdemeanor of the first degree on each subsequent offense.
(ORC 959.99)

505.05 KILLING OR INJURING ANIMALS.

(a) No person shall maliciously, or willfully, and without the consent of the owner, kill or injure a farm animal, dog, cat or other domestic animal that is the property of another. This section does not apply to a licensed veterinarian acting in an official capacity, or to trespassing animals as set forth in Ohio R.C. 959.04. (ORC 959.02)

(b) Except as otherwise provided herein, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the second degree. If the value of the animal killed or the injury done amounts to three hundred dollars (\$300.00) or more, such person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree. (ORC 959.99(B))

505.06 POISONING ANIMALS.

(a) No person shall maliciously, or willfully and without the consent of the owner, administer poison, except a licensed veterinarian acting in such capacity, to a farm animal, dog, cat, poultry or other domestic animal that is the property of another; and no person shall, willfully and without the consent of the owner, place any poisoned food where it may be easily found and eaten by any of such animals, either upon his own lands or the lands of another. This section does not apply to trespassing animals as set forth in Ohio R.C. 959.04. (ORC 959.03)

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. (ORC 959.99(C))

505.07 CRUELTY TO ANIMALS GENERALLY.

(a) No person shall:

(1) Torture an animal, deprive one of necessary sustenance, unnecessarily or cruelly beat, needlessly mutilate or kill, or impound or confine an animal without supplying it during such confinement with a sufficient quantity of good wholesome food and water;

(2) Impound or confine an animal without affording it, during such confinement, access to shelter from wind, rain, snow or excessive direct sunlight if it can reasonably be expected that the animal would otherwise become sick or in some other way suffer. This subsection (a)(2) does not apply to animals impounded or confined prior to slaughter. For the purpose of this section, "shelter" means a man-made enclosure, windbreak, sunshade or natural windbreak or sunshade that is developed from the earth's contour, tree development or vegetation;

(3) Carry or convey an animal in a cruel or inhuman manner;

(4) Keep animals other than cattle, poultry or fowl, swine, sheep or goats in an enclosure without wholesome exercise and change of air, nor feed cows on food that produces impure or unwholesome milk;

(5) Detain livestock in railroad cars or compartments longer than twenty-eight hours after they are so placed without supplying them with necessary food, water and attention, nor permit such livestock to be so crowded as to overlie, crush, wound or kill each other.

(b) Upon the written request of the owner or person in custody of any particular shipment of livestock, which written request shall be separate and apart from any printed bill of lading or other railroad form, the length of time in which such livestock may be detained in any cars or compartments without food, water and attention, may be extended to thirty-six hours without penalty therefor. This section does not prevent the dehorning of cattle.

(ORC 959.13)

(c) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the second degree. In addition, the court may order the offender to forfeit the animal or livestock and may provide for its disposition including, but not limited to, the sale of the animal or livestock. If an animal or livestock is forfeited and sold pursuant to this subsection, the proceeds from the sale first shall be applied to pay the expenses incurred with regard to the care of the animal from the time it was taken from the custody of the former owner. The balance of the proceeds from the sale, if any, shall be paid to the former owner of the animal. (ORC 959.99(D))

505.071 CRUELTY TO COMPANION ANIMALS.

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Companion animal" means any animal that is kept inside a residential dwelling and any dog or cat regardless of where it is kept, including a pet store as defined in Ohio R.C. 956.01. "Companion animal" does not include livestock or any wild animal.

(2) "Cruelty", "torment" and "torture" have the same meanings as in Ohio R.C. 1717.01.

(3) "Residential dwelling" means a structure or shelter or the portion of a structure or shelter that is used by one or more humans for the purpose of a habitation.

(4) "Practice of veterinary medicine" has the same meaning as in Ohio R.C. 4741.01.

(5) "Wild animal" has the same meaning as in Ohio R.C. 1531.01.

(6) "Federal animal welfare act" means the "Laboratory Animal Act of 1966", Pub. L. No. 89-544, 80 Stat. 350 (1966), 7 U.S.C.A. 2131 et seq., as amended by the "Animal Welfare Act of 1970", Pub. L. No. 91-579, 84 Stat. 1560 (1970), the "Animal Welfare Act Amendments of 1976", Pub. L. No. 94-279, 90 Stat. 417 (1976), and the "Food Security Act of 1985", Pub. L. No. 99-198, 99 Stat. 1354 (1985), and as it may be subsequently amended.

(7) "Dog kennel" means an animal rescue for dogs that is registered under Ohio R.C. 956.06, a boarding kennel or a training kennel.

(b) No person shall knowingly torture, torment, needlessly mutilate or maim, cruelly beat, poison, needlessly kill, or commit an act of cruelty against a companion animal.

(c) No person who confines or who is the custodian or caretaker of a companion animal shall negligently do any of the following:

(1) Torture, torment or commit an act or cruelty against the companion animal;

(2) Deprive the companion animal of necessary sustenance, or confine the companion animal without supplying it during the confinement with sufficient quantities of good, wholesome food and water, if it can reasonably be expected that the companion animal would become sick or suffer in any other way as a result of or due to the deprivation or confinement;

(3) Impound or confine the companion animal without affording it, during the impoundment or confinement, with access to shelter from heat, cold, wind, rain, snow, or excessive direct sunlight if it can reasonably be expected that the companion animal would become sick or suffer in any other way as a result of or due to the lack of adequate shelter.

(d) No owner, manager or employee of a dog kennel who confines or is the custodian or caretaker of a companion animal shall negligently do any of the following:

(1) Torture, torment, or commit an act of cruelty against the companion animal;

(2) Deprive the companion animal of necessary sustenance, or confine the companion animal without supplying it during the confinement with sufficient quantities of good, wholesome food and water, if it can reasonably be expected that the companion animal would become sick or suffer in any other way as a result of or due to the deprivation or confinement;

(3) Impound or confine the companion animal without affording it, during the impoundment or confinement, with access to shelter from heat, cold, wind, rain, snow or excessive direct sunlight if it can reasonably be expected that the companion animal would become sick or suffer in any other way as a result of or due to the lack of adequate shelter.

(e) Subsections (b), (c) and (d) of this section do not apply to any of the following:

(1) A companion animal used in scientific research conducted by an institution in accordance with the federal animal welfare act and related regulations;

(2) The lawful practice of veterinary medicine by a person who has been issued a license, temporary permit, or registration certificate to do so under Ohio R.C. Chapter 4741;

(3) Dogs being used or intended for use for hunting or field trial purposes, provided that the dogs are being treated in accordance with usual and commonly accepted practices for the care of hunting dogs;

(4) The use of common training devices, if the companion animal is being treated in accordance with usual and commonly accepted practices for the training of animals;

(5) The administering of medicine to a companion animal that was properly prescribed by a person who has been issued a license, temporary permit, or registration certificate under Ohio R.C. Chapter 4741.

(ORC 959.131)

(f) (1) Whoever violates subsection (b) hereof is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree on a first offense. On each subsequent offense such person is guilty of a felony and shall be prosecuted under appropriate State law.

(2) Whoever violates subsection (c) hereof is guilty of a misdemeanor of the second degree on a first offense and a misdemeanor of the first degree on each subsequent offense.

(3) Whoever violates subsection (d) hereof is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree.

(4) A. A court may order a person who is convicted of or pleads guilty to a violation of this section to forfeit to an impounding agency, as defined in Ohio R.C. 959.132, any or all of the companion animals in that person's ownership or care. The court also may prohibit or place limitations on the person's ability to own or care for any companion animals for a specified or indefinite period of time.

B. A court may order a person who is convicted of or pleads guilty to a violation of this section to reimburse an impounding agency for the reasonably necessary costs incurred by the agency for the care of a companion animal that the agency impounded as a result of the investigation or prosecution of the violation, provided that the costs were not otherwise paid under Ohio R.C. 959.132.

(5) If a court has reason to believe that a person who is convicted of or pleads guilty to a violation of this section suffers from a mental or emotional disorder that contributed to the violation, the court may impose as a community control sanction or as a condition of probation a requirement that the offender undergo psychological evaluation or counseling. The court shall order the offender to pay the costs of the evaluation or counseling.

(ORC 959.99)

505.08 NUISANCE CONDITIONS PROHIBITED.

- (a) No person shall keep or harbor any animal or fowl in the Municipality so as to create noxious, or offensive odors or unsanitary conditions which are a menace to the health, comfort or safety of the public.
 - (b) No person being the owner or in charge or control of any animal shall permit the animal to defecate upon any public or private land other than the land where the owner or person in charge of such animal resides.
 - (c) The owner or person in charge or control of any animal which defecates on any such prohibited land shall immediately clean such and cause its removal to a proper receptacle.
 - (d) The owner or person in charge of any animal shall keep the property where he resides in a clean and sanitary condition by regularly removing the defecation of his animal to prevent accumulation.
 - (e) The accumulation of defecation of any animal is hereby created to be a nuisance condition if it creates an unsanitary or unhealthy condition and is a violation of this section.
 - (f) This section shall not apply to any animal which has been expressly invited to enter upon private property by the owner or person in charge of such animal.
 - (g) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.
- (Ord. 138-98. Passed 9-14-98.)

505.081 PROHIBITED AREAS.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Former Section [505.081](#) was repealed by Ordinance 64-02, passed April 22, 2002.)

505.09 BARKING OR HOWLING DOGS.

(a) No person shall keep or harbor any dog within the Municipality which, by frequent and habitual barking, howling or yelping, creates unreasonably loud and disturbing noises of such a character, intensity and duration as to disturb the peace, quiet and good order of the Municipality. Any person who shall allow any dog habitually to remain, be lodged or fed within any dwelling, building, yard or enclosure, which he occupies or owns, shall be considered as harboring such dog.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.

505.10 ANIMAL BITES; REPORTS AND QUARANTINE.

(a) Whenever any person is bitten by a dog or other animal, report of such bite shall be made to the Health Commissioner within twenty-four hours. The dog or other animal inflicting a bite shall immediately be examined by a qualified veterinarian and results of such examination shall be reported to the Health Commissioner within twenty-four hours. At the direction of the Health Commissioner, the dog or other animal shall either be confined by its owner or harbinger to his premises away from the public at large, or be placed under supervision of a veterinarian at the owner's or harbinger's expense. The isolation or observation period shall not be less than ten days from the date the person was bitten at which time report of the condition of the animal shall be made to the Health Commissioner.

No person shall fail to comply with the requirements of this section or with any order of the Health Commissioner made pursuant thereto, nor fail to immediately report to the Health Commissioner any symptom or behavior suggestive of rabies.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.

505.11 HUNTING PROHIBITED.

- (a) The hunting of animals or fowl within the Municipality is prohibited. No person shall hunt, kill or attempt to kill any animal or fowl by the use of firearms or any other means.
- (b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.

505.12 COLORING RABBITS OR BABY POULTRY; SALE OR DISPLAY OF POULTRY.

(a) No person shall dye or otherwise color any rabbit or baby poultry, including, but not limited to, chicks and ducklings. No person shall sell, offer for sale, expose for sale, raffle or give away any rabbit or baby poultry which has been dyed or otherwise colored. No poultry younger than four weeks of age may be sold, given away or otherwise distributed to any person in lots of less than six. Stores, shops, vendors and others offering young poultry for sale or other distribution shall provide and operate brooders or other heating devices that may be necessary to maintain poultry in good health, and shall keep adequate food and water available to the poultry at all times.

(ORC 925.62)

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.

505.13 BIRDS.

(a) No person shall kill or injure any wild bird, or shall throw, fire or shoot a bullet, stone, arrow, or other missile at such bird, or shall break, tear down or destroy any bird's nest or the eggs or other contents of such nest; or shall catch or capture any wild bird, or set traps or spread nets or snares, with intent to catch or capture such, or shall follow or pursue any wild bird with intent to capture it.

(Ord. 85-66. Passed 7-28-66.)

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.

505.14 DANGEROUS ANIMALS.

(a) Definition and Prohibition. No person shall keep, maintain or have in his or her possession or under his or her control within the City any dangerous animal. A “dangerous animal” means and includes any wild mammal, reptile or fowl which is not naturally tame or gentle but is of a wild nature or disposition and which because of its size, vicious nature or other characteristics would constitute a danger to human life or property. Dangerous animals include, but are not limited to, the following:

- (1) Any poisonous animal, fish or reptile
- (2) Alligators
- (3) Apes, chimpanzees, gibbons, gorillas, orangutans, siamangs
- (4) Baboons
- (5) Bears
- (6) Bison
- (7) Bobcats
- (8) Cheetahs
- (9) Crocodilians
- (10) Constriction snakes
- (11) Coyotes
- (12) Deer
- (13) Elephants
- (14) Foxes
- (15) Game cocks and other fighting birds
- (16) Hippopotami
- (17) Hyenas
- (18) Jaguars.
- (19) Leopards.
- (20) Lions.
- (21) Lynxes.
- (22) Ostriches.
- (23) Piranha fish.
- (24) Pumas, also known as cougars, mountain lions and panthers.
- (25) Rhinoceroses.
- (26) Sharks.
- (27) Snow leopards.
- (28) Tigers.
- (29) Wolves.

(b) Exceptions. This section does not apply to any circus or to any person while transporting any animal, fish, fowl or reptile through the City provided that the animal, fish, fowl or reptile is adequately restrained to avoid injury to persons or damage to property; the keeping of such animals in a bona fide, licensed veterinary hospital for treatment; the keeping of such animals for exhibit to the public by an exhibit or show temporarily within the City, for a period not to exceed seven days unless prior written approval for a longer period is received from the Mayor; or the keeping of such animals in bona fide educational or medical institutions, museums or any other place where they are kept as live specimens for the public view, or for the purpose of instruction or study. Dangerous or poisonous reptiles may be maintained by bona fide educational or medical institutions for the purpose of instruction or study, provided such reptiles are securely confined.

(c) Penalty. Whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. Each day that such violation continues shall be considered a separate violation.

(Ord. 16-84. Passed 3-26-84.)

505.15 REPORT OF ESCAPE OF EXOTIC OR DANGEROUS ANIMAL.

(a) The owner or keeper of any member of a species of the animal kingdom that escapes from his custody or control and that is not indigenous to this State or presents a risk of serious physical harm to persons or property, or both, shall, within one hour after he discovers or reasonably should have discovered the escape, report it to:

- (1) A law enforcement officer of the Municipality and the sheriff of the county where the escape occurred; and
- (2) The Clerk of the Municipal Legislative Authority.

(b) If the office of the Clerk of the Legislative Authority is closed to the public at the time a report is required by subsection (a) hereof, then it is sufficient compliance with subsection (a) hereof if the owner or keeper makes the report within one hour after the office is next open to the public.

(c) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree.
(ORC 2927.21)

505.99 PENALTY.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: See Section [501.99](#) for penalties applicable to any misdemeanor classification.)