ORDINANCE NO. 886

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF TUCUMCARI, ADOPTING AN ANIMAL CONTROL ORDINANCE, AND REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 826 ADOPTED ON JANUARY 10, 1991.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF TUCUMCARI, NEW MEXICO.

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE AND DEFINITIONS.
It is the intent of the City Commission that enactment of this ordinance will protect animals from neglect and abuse, will protect residents from annoyance and injury, will assist in providing housing for animals in a control center, and will partially finance the City Animal Control Center functions of licensing and recovery. Definitions. For the purpose of this ordinance, the following terms, phrases, words, and their derivations shall have the meanings given herein. When not inconsistent with the context, words used in the singular include the plural. The word “shall” as used herein, is always mandatory and not merely discretionary. The masculine includes the feminine.

(A) “Animal” - means any vertebrate member of the animal kingdom, excluding man, which has been tamed, conditioned or maintained as a pet to man. “Dog” and “Cat” is defined as either sex of the canine or feline species, respectively.

(B) “Animal Control Center” or “Center” - means any pound, lot, or building operated by the City and the officers in charge for the care and custody of animals.

(C) “Anti-Escape Device” - means any pound, lot, premises, or building maintained for the care and custody of animals.

(D) “Bite” - means a puncture or tear of the skin inflicted by the teeth of an animal.

(E) “Commercial Property” - means any land or buildings identified for or used for business purposes including temporary sites.

(F) “Dangerous Animals” - means animals which, because of their poisonous bite or sting, their size, their propensity to viciousness or aggressiveness would constitute a significant hazard to the citizens of Tucumcari.

(G) “Enclosed Lot” - means any land or portion thereof surrounded by a wall, fence or barrier.

(H) “Establishment” - means a place of business together with its grounds and equipment.

(I) “Grooming Parlor” - means any establishment maintained for the purposes of performing cosmetological services for animals.

(J) “Guard Dog” - means any dog that is used to protect commercial property.

(K) “Handler” - means a person who is responsible for and capable of controlling the actions of a guard dog.

(L) “Estrus” or “Heat” - means a regularly recurrent state of sexual excitability during which the female of most mammals will accept the male and is capable of conceiving.

(M) “Hobby Breeder” - means any person involved in controlled breeding of dogs and cats which are registered with a nationally recognized animal registry organization or a breed approved by the Center.

(N) “Household” - means any social or family unit comprised of those living in the same dwelling or on the same premises.

(O) “Kennel” - means any establishment where animals are boarded, kept or maintained, except guard dogs sites, state inspected veterinary hospitals, pet shops, grooming parlors, refuges and shelters.

(P) “Licensed Veterinarian” - is a person who is a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine licensed to practice in the State of New Mexico.

(Q) “City” - is the City limits of the City of Tucumcari.

(R) “Nuisance” - means but is not limited to defecation, urination, disturbing the peace, emitting noxious or offensive odors, or otherwise endangering or offending the well-being of the inhabitants of the City.

(S) “Owner” - of an animal is a person who owns, harbors, or keeps or knowingly causes or knowingly permits an animal to be harbored or kept, or has an animal in his car, or who has permitted a stray animal to remain on or about his premises for at least fourteen (14) days.

(T) “Permitted Premises” - means the establishment, household, property or site which has been validly permitted by the City for use as a kennel, grooming parlor, pet shop, hobby breeder site or where guard dogs are on duty.

(U) “Quarantine” - means the detaining and isolation under supervision of a licensed Veterinarian of an animal suspected of contagion.

(V) “Stray” - means free of physical restraint beyond the boundaries of the premises of the owner.

(W) “Vaccination” - means an inoculation with an anti-rabies vaccine recognized and approved by the State of New Mexico and administered by a licensed Veterinarian, given in an amount sufficient to provide immunity from rabies for a minimum of one year.

(X) “Vicious Animal” - means any animal which bites, or in any other manner attacks or attempts to attack a person or animal, except any animal that bites or attacks any person or animal unlawfully upon its owner’s premise, or which is provoked to attack.

SECTION 2. ADMINISTRATION OF ORDINANCE.
A. Rules and Regulations. Reasonable rules and regulations may be prescribed by the Center to carry out the intent and purpose of this ordinance, pursuant to standards created by this ordinance.
B. Impounding Strays; Records to be kept; Redemption

A. Establishment of an Animal Control Center. The Center shall be kept open to the general public for the transaction of business during the hours set up by the Center.

B. Procedure for Complaints. A complaint alleging any violation of this ordinance must be registered by the center, or person who has personal knowledge of such violation and who can identify the owner of the animal involved or the premises where the animal is located. The center may require the complaint to be sworn to or affirmed.

SECTION 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ANIMAL CONTROL CENTER; ANIMAL IMPOUNDING PROCEDURES.

A. Establishment of an Animal Control Center. The Center shall be kept open to the general public for the transaction of business during the hours set up by the Center.

B. Impounding Strays; Records to be kept; Redemption Fees; Notice Required:

1. If a stray animal is wearing a license, rabies tag, or other identification, the animal shall be confined at the Center for a period of at least five (5) days, during which time an attempt shall be made to locate and notify the owner. If a stray animal is not wearing any identification, the animal shall be impounded at the Center for at least three (3) days. The center may dispose of such impounded animals on the day following the required impoundment period. The animal may be placed in an adoptive home, may be sold or may be destroyed in a humane fashion, as the center deems proper.

2. No dog or cat that has been impounded at the center will knowingly be sold for the purpose of breeding or resale. No dog adopted from the center shall be leased or rented to another party. The adopting party shall have every dog and cat they adopt from the center spayed or neutered by a licensed veterinarian.

3. Any stray livestock which is not reclaimed within five (5) days after impoundment may be sold or destroyed.

4. The Center is hereby authorized to sell any animal that has come into the custody of the Center and may be sold under the provisions of this ordinance and to execute a bill of sale to the purchaser.

5. The owner reclaiming a dog or cat shall pay an impoundment fee of $25.00 upon the first impoundment within a twelve (12) month period, $35.00 upon the second impoundment within said time period, $75.00 upon the third impoundment within said time period, $75.00 impoundment fee upon every impoundment after the third impoundment within said time period, and the owner shall reimburse the City Animal Control Center for animal boarding, medical and maintenance costs. In addition to any impoundment or adoption fees, a sterilization agreement shall be signed and a sterilization deposit of $25.00 shall be charged for any animal that has not been spayed or neutered. The sterilization deposit shall be reimbursed if the animal has been spayed or neutered within thirty days, and upon presentation of a receipt from a veterinarian stating that the animal has been sterilized.

6. A record of all animals in the control of the Center shall be maintained for a period of three years. The record shall contain at least the following information:

   a. description of the animal
   b. the manner and date of its acquisition by the center
   c. the date and manner of disposal
   d. the name and address of the party adopting or purchasing the animal; and
   e. all fees received.

SECTION 4. OWNER’S DUTIES

A. Rabies Vaccinations.

1. The owner of any dog or cat over the age of three (3) months, shall have the animal vaccinated against rabies. The rabies vaccination shall be administered by a licensed veterinarian and evidenced by a rabies vaccination certificate. The Center may also require animals other than dogs or cats to receive annual rabies vaccinations.

2. The veterinarian administering anti-rabies vaccine to any animal shall issue to the owner or keeper of the animal rabies vaccination certificate and tag, each containing the same number. The certificate shall contain the name and address of the owner of the animal, a description of the animal, the date of vaccination. Said information shall be released to the Center upon demand.

B. Rabid Animal or Animal Biting a Person

1. An animal having rabies or showing signs of rabies, or any animal bitten by a rabid animal, or any animal exposed to rabies, shall be immediately placed in quarantine under direct supervision of a Veterinarian. Any person who has knowledge of a rabies infection of any animal or exposure to rabies shall immediately notify the center. The person who has knowledge of a rabies infection or exposure to rabies shall immediately notify the center of the location of the affected animal. These animals shall be surrendered by the owner to the center upon demand. The animal shall be dealt with in accordance with State law.

2. It is the duty of the owner of an animal that bites a person, and of the person bitten by an animal, to
REPORT THE BITE TO THE CENTER WITHIN TWENTY-FOUR (24) HOURS AFTER THE BITE OCCURS. IF DEEMED NECESSARY BY THE CENTER THE OWNER SHALL SURRENDER SAID ANIMAL TO THE CENTER FOR IMPOUNDMENT, QUARANTINE, OBSERVATION OR DESTRUCTION AND RABIES TESTING UNDER DIRECT SUPERVISION OF A VETERINARIAN, OR A BOARDING FACILITY APPROVED BY THE CENTER.


4. AN ANIMAL THAT HAS BITTEN A PERSON SHALL BE CONFINED UNDER DIRECT SUPERVISION OF A VETERINARIAN. THE OWNER OF THE ANIMAL SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR AND BEAR THE COST OF CONFINEMENT. THE OWNER OF THE ANIMAL SHALL ENTER INTO AN INDEMNITY AGREEMENT ON A FORM APPROVED AND PRESCRIBED BY THE CENTER BEFORE CONSENT MAY BE GIVEN FOR SUCH CONFINEMENT.

C. RESTRAINT OF ANIMALS

1. No person shall allow any dog or cat, on the premises of a public swimming pool, municipal golf course or upon a school yard.

2. No person shall allow any dog or cat upon the streets or public places of the City unless on a secure leash not exceeding eight (8) feet in length, and under the immediate physical control of the owner.

3. The above provisions do not apply when an animal is in a bona fide animal show authorized by the Center or authorized by appropriate school authorities, or upon any public park designated by the Center as an exercise ground for dogs.

D. FEMALE DOGS OR CATS IN HEAT TO BE CONFINED

1. The owner of any female dog or cat in heat shall confine the animal so that other dogs or cats are not attracted to it. Impound fee for in-heat female shall be $75.00 first offense, $100.00 second offense and $150.00 third offense.

E. LICENSE REQUIRED

1. It is unlawful for any person to own or harbor a dog or cat over the age of three (3) months without obtaining a license for such animal. Persons who are not City residents and who keep dogs or cats in the City for less than thirty (30) consecutive days shall be exempt from this licensing requirement.

2. Application for licenses shall be made on forms provided by the Center or at other locations designated by the Center.

3. Licenses shall expire on the last day of the month, one year after the date of the rabies vaccination. Failure to renew the license shall result in assessment of a penalty of $1.00 per month in addition to the cost of the license.

4. A current license tag shall be securely affixed to the collar or harness which shall be worn by all dogs or cats, unless the dog or cat is being kept in a permitted kennel or veterinarian hospital, or appearing in an approved dog or cat show, or is being trained provided that the person who is training the dog or cat shall have in his personal possession the valid license tag for each dog or cat being trained and shall immediately display such upon request by the Center.

SECTION 5. PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES

A. NUMBER OF ANIMALS PERMITTED. No person or household shall own, harbor or keep more than three (3) dogs and three (3) cats over the age of three (3) months. This limit shall not apply to any permitted premises.

B. ANIMALS RUNNING AT LARGE. It is unlawful for any owner to cause or allow an animal to run at large in or on any public property, vacant lot, or unenclosed private property in the City. Any animal found running at large shall be taken up and impounded. This shall include any horse, mule, burro, cattle, sheep, goat, swine or domestic fowl. Grazing animals on all maintained highways and roadways in the city will be impounded.

C. ANIMALS ON UNENCLOSED PREMISES. It is unlawful for any person to chain, stake out, graze or herd any animal on any unenclosed premises so that the animal may go beyond the property line. Any chained animal must have a chain of at least twelve (12') feet in length and have ready access to food, water and shelter.

D. ENCLOSURE FOR BREEDING ANIMALS. Animals brought together for breeding purposes shall be kept within an enclosure that obstructs such animals from public view.

E. VICIOUS ANIMALS. It is unlawful for any person to own or harbor a vicious animal. Any vicious animal shall be humanely destroyed by its owner or surrendered to the Center for humane destruction.

F. ANIMALS DISTURBING THE PEACE. It is unlawful for any person to allow any animal in his possession or control to persistently or continuously bark, howl or make noise common to their species or otherwise to disturb the peace and quiet of the inhabitants of the City or to keep or maintain said animals in such a manner as to produce noxious or offensive odors, or to otherwise endanger the health and welfare of the inhabitants of the City.

G. ANIMAL NUISANCES. It is unlawful for any owner to permit an animal, either willfully or through failure to exercise due care or control, to defecate upon public property or upon any private property other than the premises of the owner of the animal.

H. UNLAWFUL USE OF RABIES TAG. It is unlawful for any person to use any rabies tag except for the animal for which the rabies tag was issued. It shall be unlawful for
SECTION 6. CRUELTY TO ANIMALS PROHIBITED.
A. Physical Abuse. It is unlawful for any person to willfully or maliciously kill, maim, disfigure, torture, beat, mutilate, burn, scald, or otherwise cruelly set upon any animal, except that reasonable force may be employed to drive off vicious or trespassing animals.
B. Work Cruelty. It is unlawful for any person to drive or work any animal cruelly.
C. Care and Maintenance. It is unlawful for any person to:
   1. fail, refuse or neglect to provide any animal in his charge or custody with proper food, drink, shade or shelter; or
   2. any person to keep, manufacture or use a stolen, counterfeit or forged animal rabies tag, rabies vaccination certificate or other form of licensing as required under this ordinance.
I. Unlawful Retention of Stray Animals. No person shall, without the knowledge or consent of the owner, hold or retain possession of any animal which he does not own, for more than twenty-four (24) hours, without first reporting the possession of such animal to the Center giving his name and address, a description of the animal, the circumstances under which he took up the animal and the current location of the animal. He shall immediately surrender such animal to the Center upon demand.
J. Interference with the Center in the Performance of Duties. It is unlawful for any person to attack, assault or in any way physically threaten or interfere with the Center in the performance of those duties required to enforce this ordinance.
K. Dogs Trained to Assist the Blind or Deaf Allowed in Public Places. It is unlawful for any person owning, operating or maintaining any public place of business to bar or exclude therefrom any dog which is being used to assist the blind or deaf.

SECTION 7. PERMITTED PREMISES.
A. Permit Required.
   1. It is unlawful for any person to promote, stage, hold, manage, conduct, carry on, train for, or attend any game, exhibition, contest or fight in which one or more animals are engaged for the purpose of injuring, killing, maiming or destroying themselves or any other animal.
   2. It is unlawful for any person to own any animal which is seriously sick or injured and not provide proper veterinary care for such animal. The Center may impound and humanely destroy sick or injured animals in accordance with the provisions of this ordinance, without giving notice as provided in the impound section of this ordinance. This section shall not be construed to include animals under active veterinary care or veterinary hospitals.
J. Animal Fights.
   1. It is unlawful for any person to keep, manufacture or use a stolen, counterfeit or forged animal rabies tag, rabies vaccination certificate or other form of licensing as required under this ordinance.
C. Permit Approval.
   1. Within thirty (30) working days of receipt of an application for a permit, the Center shall inspect the application and the premises to determine whether they comply with the standards established in this ordinance.
   2. Within thirty (30) days after the inspection required for any permit, the Center shall approve, approve with conditions, or deny the permit application. An application shall only be approved if it determines that:
      a. the standards established will not result in activity which presents a danger to the public health, safety or welfare or which presents a danger or nuisance to the neighborhood.
      b. the issuance of a permit will not result in activity which presents a danger to the public health, safety or welfare or which presents a danger or nuisance to the neighborhood.

D. Permit Requirements, Expiration, Renewal.
   1. All permits except guard dog permits are not transferable from one person or place to another person or place. Guard dog permits may be transferred to a new location operated by the same person during the permit year providing that advance notice of at least five (5) working days shall be given to the Center for each transfer. Permit transfers shall not be effective until the Center has inspected and approved the facilities at the new location and the information required on the permit application has been recorded.
   2. A valid permit shall be posted in a conspicuous place at every permitted premises.
   3. A permit holder shall notify the Center of any changes in his operations which may affect the status of his permit and shall keep the Center apprised of any change in name or location of the activities covered by the permit.
   4. Persons in charge of any permitted premises as well as owners of permitted premises shall be responsible for complying with this ordinance.
   5. There shall be kept at each permitted premises a record of all animals owned, purchased or received, and a record of their final disposition.
   6. Permits shall expire on the 31st day of December of each year. An application for renewal shall be filed thirty (30) days before the date of expiration. Application and inspection procedures and fees for permit renewals shall be the same as those for new applications except that the petition process shall not be required. Failure to renew permits as specified shall result in the assessment of a penalty fee in the amount of One Dollar ($1.00) per month in addition to the cost of the permit.
   7. Persons in charge of any permitted premises as well as owners of permitted premises shall be responsible for complying with this ordinance.
   8. There shall be kept at each permitted premises a record of all animals owned, purchased or received, and a record of their final disposition.
   9. Permits shall expire on the 31st day of December of each year. An application for renewal shall be filed thirty (30) days before the date of expiration. Application and inspection procedures and fees for permit renewals shall be the same as those for new applications except that the petition process shall not be required. Failure to renew permits as specified shall result in the assessment of a penalty fee in the amount of One Dollar ($1.00) per month in addition to the cost of the permit.

E. Facilities and Care Standards for Permitted Premises.
   1. Animal housing facilities shall be structurally sound and shall be constructed of nontoxic material. Interior floors shall be smooth, easily cleanable construction and impervious to water. The facility shall be kept clean, sanitary and in good repair so as to protect animals from disease and injury.
   2. Animals maintained in pens, cages or runs for periods exceeding twenty-four (24) hours shall be provided with adequate space to prevent overcrowding and to maintain normal exercise according to species.
   3. Indoor housing shall be provided in all permitted premises with proper ventilation and temperature, and with sufficient lighting provided by either natural or artificial means.
   4. Outside housing shall protect animals from weather that may be detrimental to the animals' health.
   5. Provisions shall be made for the removal and proper disposal of animal and food waste, soiled bedding, dead animals, and debris. Disposal facilities shall be operated so as to minimize vermin infestation, odors and disease.
   6. Adult animals shall be segregated by sex, except where otherwise indicated for health, welfare or breeding purposes.
   7. Vicious, diseased, injured animals or animals that have bitten a person shall be individually caged.
   8. Animals shall be provided with clean, fresh, sufficient and wholesome food and water. Food and water containers shall be kept clean.
   9. Each animal shall be observed daily by the person in charge. Sick, diseased, injured, lame or blind animals shall be provided with proper veterinary care. The person in charge who observes an animal which is suspected of being rabid shall immediately notify the Center and segregate such animal.
   10. Refuges shall be required to have all their dogs and cats spayed or neutered.
   11. The number of adult dogs or cats, or any combination thereof, which any holder of a permit or hobby breeder may keep shall be limited:
      a. In a residential zoned area, hobby breeding kennel area shall be limited to three (3) adult animals, and their litter. The litter shall be kept no longer than a period of three months.
      b. Within the kennel area of a hobby breeding site, there shall be 75 square feet for each animal under 30 pounds, 100 square feet for each animal from 30-59 pounds and 125 square feet for each animal 60 pounds or more.

F. Access to Permittee Premises.
   1. The Center upon presentation of proper identification shall be permitted to enter, at any reasonable time, any permitted premises, for the purpose of making inspections to determine compliance with this ordinance. The person in charge shall be given an opportunity to accompany the Center director on his inspection. The Center shall be permitted to examine any records pertinent to the origin and care
of any animals located at or emanating from any permitted premises.
2. Whenever an inspection is made of a permitted premises the findings shall be recorded on an inspection report form which shall summarize the requirements of this ordinance. A copy of the inspection report shall be furnished to the person in charge. The inspection form shall be signed by both the Center and the person in charge.

SECTION 8. EXOTIC ANIMALS.
A. No person shall own, harbor or keep any species prohibited by Federal and/or New Mexico law.

SECTION 9. ANIMAL EXHIBITS.
A. All animal exhibit permits issued by the Center shall be for a specific period of time, but not to exceed one year. B. Upon the filing of each application hereunder, either for an original animal exhibit permit or renewal, the Center shall make such investigations as it deems proper. The Center shall then issue a permit to the applicant if it is found that:
1. The animals or the conduct or operation of the business for which the permit is requested will not constitute a menace to the health, peace or safety of the community.
2. The premises and establishment where animals are to be kept is maintained in a clean and sanitary condition, that the animals will not be subject to suffering, cruelty or abuse, and the applicant has not had a permit revoked within one year prior to the date of application.

SECTION 10. GUARD DOG FACILITIES
A. Along with all the facilities and care standard requirements for permitted premises in this ordinance, the area where guard dogs are housed while not on duty must be secured so as to prevent the escape of the guard dogs and shall be kept locked when not in use.
B. The premises where guard dogs are on duty outside of buildings, must be enclosed by at least a six-foot escape proof fence.
C. In order to control noise, a barrier which breaks the dog’s line-of-sight may be required.
D. The buildings where guard dogs are on duty must be secured so as to prevent their escape through doors, windows or other openings to the outside.
E. The guard dog premises must be posted with warning signs at least twelve (12) inches square. These signs shall state “Guard Dog” and “Guardia” and contain a picture of an aggressive dog. These signs shall be posted not more than two hundred (200) feet apart, and shall be posted at all corners of the premises, and at every entrance to the premises.
F. Vehicles used to transport guard dogs or vehicles being protected by guard dogs shall be secured so that the public is protected from injury, shall be constructed so that the guard dogs are transported in a safe, humane manner and shall be posted with warning signs in a conspicuous place.

SECTION 11. SUSPENSIONS, REVOCATIONS OF PERMITS.
A. If the Center discovers that a permitted premises is in violation of this ordinance, he shall give notice of these violations to the permit holder, operator or person in charge by means of an inspection or report or other written notice. The notification shall:
1. Set forth specific violation(s).
2. Establish a specific and reasonable period of time for the correction of the violation(s).
3. State the failure to comply with any notice issued in accordance with the provisions of this ordinance may result in immediate suspension of the permit.
4. State that an opportunity for appeal from any notice or inspection findings will be provided if it is requested in writing.
B. Notices under this section shall be properly served when the original of the inspection report or other notice has been personally served on the person in charge, or such notice has been sent by registered mail to the last known address of the permit holder.
C. Permits may be suspended for failure of the holder to comply with the requirements of this ordinance or of other applicable laws, ordinances or regulations. The suspension may be lifted when Animal Control Center determines the violations have been corrected.
D. Permits may be revoked for serious or repeated violations of any of the requirements of this ordinance, or of other applicable laws, ordinances or regulations. The revocation of a permit shall last for a period of one year. The permit shall be surrendered to the Center upon suspension or revocation.
1. Any person whose permit has been suspended may make application for an inspection for the purpose of reinstatement of the permit. Within five (5) working days following a request for a reinstatement, the Center shall make an inspection. If the applicant is complying with the requirements of this ordinance and other applicable laws, regulations, and ordinances, the permit shall be reinstated.
2. Any person whose animal permit has been suspended, must surrender all animals to the Center for impoundment as provided for in the impoundment section of this ordinance. If, after a period of at least seven (7) days, the reasons for which the permit was suspended have not been rectified, the Center may sell or dispose of the animal(s) as provided herein.

SECTION 12. LICENSE AND PERMIT FEES.
A. License Fees:
1. The annual license fee for each unneutered or unspayed dog or cat shall be $7.00 per year.