

CEDAR COUNTY ORDINANCE NO. 44

CONTROL OF STRAY OR ABANDONED DOGS AND CATS

Be it ordained by the County of Cedar, State of Iowa, pursuant to Article III, Section 39A of the Iowa Constitution and Sections 331.301-.302 and 351.41 of the Code of Iowa:

That an ordinance authorizing the apprehension and impoundment of stray or abandoned dogs and cats be enacted as follows:

Section 1. Any stray or abandoned dog or cat running at large, including any dog which is wearing a valid rabies vaccination tag or for which a valid rabies vaccination certificate is presented, may be apprehended and impounded by the Cedar County Sheriff or his designee.

The Cedar County Sheriff, or his designee, shall provide written notice to the owner of the stray or abandoned dog or cat if the Sheriff or his designee can reasonably determine the owner's name and current address. The notice shall be sent within two days after the dog or cat has been impounded. The notice shall provide that if the owner does not redeem the dog or cat within seven days from the date the notice is delivered, the dog or cat may be humanely destroyed or otherwise disposed of. Notice is delivered when the Sheriff or his designee mails the notice, which may be by regular mail. An owner may redeem a dog or cat by paying the cost of impoundment. If the dog is one for which vaccination is required, the Sheriff or his designee may have the dog vaccinated, and the owner shall pay the cost of the vaccination as part of the cost of impoundment.

If the owner of the impounded dog or cat fails to redeem the dog or cat within seven days from the date of delivery of the notice to the owner as provided herein, the Sheriff or his designee may cause the dog or cat to be disposed of by adoption or euthanasia as defined in Section 162.2 of the Iowa Code.

If an owner of a stray or abandoned dog or cat cannot otherwise be determined, the Sheriff or his designee shall post at the Cedar County, Iowa Courthouse a notice that the dog or cat has been impounded, which notice shall describe the dog or cat and the place it was found. The notice shall state the dog or cat may be adopted or euthanized unless the owner redeems the dog or cat and pays impoundment fees within fourteen days of the date of the notice. After fourteen days has passed from the date of said notice, the Sheriff or his designee may cause the dog or cat to be disposed of by adoption or euthanasia as defined in Section 162.2 of the Iowa Code.

If a stray or abandoned dog or cat is disposed of by adoption, the dog or cat shall be sterilized as provided in Section 162.20 of the Iowa Code prior to its transfer.

Section 2. Nothing in this ordinance shall be interpreted to prohibit the destruction of untagged dogs as provided by Section 351.26 of the Code of Iowa.

Section 3. Cedar County may contract with other agencies to provide for services for animal control services, shelter and disposal of animals covered by this ordinance.

Section 4. This ordinance shall be in effect immediately after its final passage and publication as provided by law.