

## **FREDERICK COUNTY ANIMAL SUMMARY LAWS**

### **FREDERICK COUNTY DIVISION OF ANIMAL CONTROL**

1832 Rosemont Avenue, Frederick, Md. 21702 (301) 600-1544 or (301) 600-1546

#### **§ 1-5-24. RUNNING AT LARGE.**

- (A) It shall be unlawful for an owner to allow any animal to run at large.
- (B) The provisions of subsection (A) shall not apply to any dog which is accompanied by its owner and is being used for hunting or is being trained, exhibited or accompanied by its owner on horseback.

**AT LARGE.** An animal shall be deemed to be at large whenever it is not on the owner's property or under the immediate physical control of a responsible person capable of physically restraining the animal.

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#### **§ 1-5-25. OFFENSIVE DOG AND CAT NOISES.**

- (A) It shall be unlawful for any dog or cat owner to permit, either willfully or through failure to exercise due care and control, his dog or cat to repeatedly bark, cry, howl, whine or cause other objectionable noises which disturb the comfort, peace, quiet or repose of members of the community residing in the vicinity as reflected by reasonable persons with normal sensitivities to noise.
  - (B) The provision of subsection (A) shall not apply to the barking of hunting dogs while in the pursuit of game and supervised by the owners or trainers.
  - (C) Between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m., the provisions of subsection (A) shall not apply to commercial operations that have received special exception and site plan approval.
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#### **§ 1-5-33. REQUIRED LICENSE**

No persons shall own or have custody of any dog or cat over 4 months of age unless such dog or cat is licensed as herein provided and has been vaccinated against rabies in a procedure approved by the Maryland Public Health Veterinarian. Proof of rabies vaccination shall be given to the seller of dog and cat licenses. This provision shall not apply to dogs or cats in the county owned by a nonresident, provided such dogs or cats are duly licensed in their home jurisdiction, providing the owner has a valid rabies vaccination certificate for said dog or cat while it is in the county.

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#### **§ 1-5-26. PROPER RESTRAINT, SHELTER, PROTECTION AND CARE FOR DOGS.**

##### **(A) *Restraint requirement.***

- (1) It shall be unlawful for any person to tether, fasten, chain, tie, restrain or cause a dog to be fastened, chained, tied or restrained to any stationary or inanimate object by means of a rope, chain, strap or other physical restraint for the purpose of confinement for more than 4 (four) hours, cumulatively in any 24 (twenty four) hour period.

- (2) The dog must be tethered by a non-choke type collar or a body harness to a tether that is at least four times the body length of the dog, measured from the dog's nose to the back of the hindquarters, or at a minimum be ten feet in length, and which the tether is free from entanglement.

(3) The tether shall have swivels at both ends and all areas of confinement shall be maintained as to provide a safe and healthy environment for the dog.

(4) An individual found chaining or tethering an animal in violation of this section has 30 days to provide other means of confinement, as long as other conditions of confinement and care are being met. The grace period is null and void immediately if the owner, at any time during the grace period, is not in compliance with other applicable laws relating to animals.

(5) Individuals who do not comply within the 30-day grace period are subject to fines and penalties stipulated in this chapter.

(B) *Shelter and outdoor enclosure requirements.*

(1) Proper shelter, including protection from the weather and elements, shall be provided at all times. The shelter for a dog shall have a weatherproof roof, enclosed sides, a doorway, and a solid floor raised at least two inches above the ground. No interior surfaces shall be metal. The shelter shall have an entryway that the dog can easily enter and sufficient in size for a dog to stand, turn around, lie down, and exit in a natural manner. The shelter shall have adequate ventilation and protection from temperature extremes at all times.

(2) Bedding, such as wood shavings, straw or other material, shall be provided in sufficient quantity for insulation. Bedding shall be kept dry.

(3) Shade, separate from the shelter, either natural or manmade, shall be available at all times to a tethered dog, or a dog confined to an outdoor enclosure.

(4) Any dog confined within an outdoor enclosure must have adequate space for exercise. A minimum of 100 square feet is required. Dogs over 75 pounds must have an additional 50 square feet. Seventy-five square feet is required for each additional dog kept within the same enclosed area.

(C) *Care requirements.*

(1) Any person owning or having care, control or custody of a dog shall provide daily food that is free from contamination and is of sufficient quantity and nutritive value to maintain the animal in good health.

(2) Potable water must be accessible to the dog at all times.

(3) The dog must receive care and medical treatment for injuries, parasites and disease, sufficient to maintain the dog in good health.

(4) Any outdoor area where a dog is confined must be kept free of excretions and contaminated materials and cleaned regularly.

(D) *Penalties.* A violation of this section may result in a civil citation pursuant to § [1-5-53](#) of this chapter, or impoundment of the dog(s), or both.

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**§ 1-5-53. GENERALLY. CIVIL ANIMAL INFRACTIONS**

(A) Pursuant to Chapter 634 of the Laws of Maryland 1984, being § 2-2-29 of the Frederick County Code, any violation of any of the provisions of this entire chapter, which is Chapter 1-5 entitled "Animals and Fowl" is a civil infraction and shall be called a civil animal infraction. If, after investigation, a civil animal infraction is believed to exist, the Frederick County Director of Animal Control or his authorized agent shall deliver a citation or warning to the animal owner and others responsible for the infraction. If the Director or his authorized agent is unable to

(D) A fine of \$50 is hereby imposed upon any person responsible for a civil animal infraction for the first violation. A fine of \$75 will be imposed for the second violation and a fine of \$100 will be imposed for the third violation or any subsequent violation. Each day such violation is permitted to exist shall be considered a separate infraction. All fines shall be payable to the Treasurer of Frederick County, Maryland, in the office of the Animal Control Center.