

ORDINANCE NO. 107

AN ORDINANCE REGULATING THE VACINATING OF DOGS AND CATS AND PROHIBITING THE RUNNING AT LARGE OF CERTAIN DOGS AND ANIMALS WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF BELLS AND PROVIDING A PENALTY NOT EXCEEDING \$200 FOR ARREST AND PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF:

WHEREAS, the need for governing the vacinating of dogs and cats and prohibiting their running at large under certain conditions in the City of Bells, Grayson County, Texas, exist, and

WHEREAS, the City of Bells, Texas after due study is desirous of implementing such need, and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of public safety, welfare, and public health for the inhabitants of the citizens and people within the City of Bells, Grayson County, Texas;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELLS, GRAYSON COUNTY, TEXAS:

SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS. When used in this Order, the following words and terms, unless the context indicates a different meaning, shall be interpreted as follows:

1(a) OWNER: Any person who has right of property in an animal, or who harbors any animal, or allows an animal to remain about his premises for a period of ten (10) days.

1(b) HARBORING: The act of keeping and caring for an animal, or of providing a premise to which the animal returns for food, shelter, or care for a period of ten (10) days.

1(c) DOMESTIC ANIMAL: Shall include all species of animals commonly and universally accepted as being domesticated.

1(d) WILD ANIMAL: Shall include all species of animals which exist in a natural unconfined state and are not usually domesticated.

1(e) PET ANIMAL: Shall include dogs, cats, rabbits, rodents, birds, reptiles, and any other species of animal which is sold or retained as a household pet, but shall not include skunks, nonhuman primates; and any other species of wild, exotic or carnivorous animal that may be further restricted in this law.

1(f) DOG: A domestic canine of either sex, including one neutered or sterilized.

1(g) CAT: A domestic feline of either sex, including one neutered or sterilized.

1(h) VICIOUS ANIMAL: Any animal that commits an unprovoked attack upon a person on public or private property, or that attacks, threatens to attack or terrorizes a person on public property or in a public place.

1(i) STRAY ANIMAL: Any animal for which there is no identifiable owner or harborer.

1(j) RUNNING AT LARGE: Shall pertain to an animal off the premises of the owner and not under the physical, visible or audible control of the owner or his authorized representative. An animal intruding upon the property of another person than the owner shall be termed "running at large." An animal within an automobile or other vehicle of its owner shall not be deemed "running at large."

1(k) RABIES VACCINATION: Shall mean the vaccination of a dog, cat, or other domestic animal with an anti-rabies vaccine approved by the United States Department of Agriculture and administered by a veterinarian licensed by the State of Texas.

SECTION 2. All dogs and cats within the City of Bells, Texas, are hereby required to be vaccinated against rabies by some licensed veterinarian on or before the 1st day of August, 1983, and each year thereafter and it is further provided herein that every veterinarian who vaccinates any such dog, male or female, or any such cat, male or female, within the City of Bells, Texas, or any animal to be located permanently or temporarily within the City of Bells, shall collect his fee for same from the owner of the dog and shall issue a certificate of vaccination to such owner, stating name of owner, a brief description of the dog or cat, and the date of vaccination.

Whenever any person has complied with the provisions of the preceding sections and the said dog or cat tag is lost or otherwise destroyed, it shall be the duty of the owner or keeper of said dog or cat to procure another tag from the City Clerk by paying the value of said tag and all costs that may be accrued as hereinafter provided.

SECTION 3. No owner or his authorized keeper shall permit any unvaccinated dog or cat, or any dog or cat, without his vaccination tag attached to a collar securely fastened around the neck of the dog or cat, male or female, to run at large without the proper tag attached to the collar around the neck, within the City of Bells. No female dog or cat, whether vaccinated or unvaccinated, shall be permitted to run at large while in heat. No person or keeper shall keep upon his public or private property any vicious animal, whether wild or domestic, that <sup>does</sup> may attack, threaten to attack, or that <sup>may</sup> may terrorize any person on public property or at any public place. *See Amendment*

SECTION 4. The City Clerk, the Chief of Police, or any policeman of this City shall have the right to shoot or kill any rabid or vicious dog or cat in the streets or any public place, or any dog or cat in the streets or any other public place that shall manifest a disposition to attack or bite.

SECTION 5. That in addition to the foregoing, the City of Bells, Texas hereby adopts and makes a part hereof the Grayson County Animal Control Order and Ordinance adopted by the Commissioner's Court of Grayson County, Texas on February 13, 1978, which Ordinance is referred to and made a part hereof for all purposes.

SECTION 6. The City Council for the City of Bells, Texas hereby grants and gives to the Director of Public Health Animal Control Officer, and/or the Texas Department of Health Resources, through their duly authorized officers and employees, the right to enforce any provision of the Grayson County Control Order and Ordinance heretofore referred to within the city limits of the City of Bells, Texas, and in addition thereto, hereby vests in the Chief of Police, all City Policemen of the City of Bells, and the City Clerk of the City of Bells, full power and authority to enforce this Ordinance and any and all provisions of the countywide Order or Ordinance heretofore referred to.

SECTION 7. The impounding and disposition of all animals within the City of Bells will be handled with and in compliance with the rules promulgated and granted to the Animal Control Division of the Grayson County Health Department in said countywide Order and Ordinance passed and adopted by the Commissioner's Court of Grayson County, Texas and heretofore referred to.

SECTION 8. In addition to any of the foregoing, any person who violates any part of the hereto Ordinance shall be subject to a fine of not more than \$200.00 for violating any of the provisions hereof. *See Amendment*

SECTION 9. It is the intention of the City Council of Bells, Texas, that each separate provision of this Ordinance shall be deemed independent of all other provisions herein, and it is further the intention of the City Council that, if any provisions of this Ordinance is declared invalid or unconstitutional, all other provisions thereof shall remain valid, enforceable and constitutional.

SECTION 10. Repeal of Conflicting Ordinances. All existing ordinances of the City of Bells, Texas, are hereby repealed insofar as they may be inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 5 day of July, A.D. 1983.

  
MAYOR

ATTEST:

  
CITY SECRETARY

ORDINANCE NO. 107

AN ORDINANCE REGULATING THE VACINATING OF DOGS AND CATS AND PROHIBITING THE RUNNING AT LARGE OF CERTAIN DOGS AND ANIMALS WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF BELLS AND PROVIDING A PENALTY NOT EXCEEDING \$1,000.00 FOR ARREST AND PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF:

AMENDMENT OF SECTION 8:

In addition to any of the foregoing, any person who violates any part of the hereto Ordinance shall be subject to a fine of not more than ONE THOUSAND (\$1,000.00) DOLLARS for violating any fo the provisions hereof.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 7 day of February,  
A. D. 1984.

  
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Mayor

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Secretary


ORDINANCE NO. 107

AN ORDINANCE REGULATING THE VACINATING OF DOGS AND CATS AND PROHIBITING THE RUNNING AT LARGE OF ALL DOGS AND ANIMALS WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF BELLS AND PROVIDING A PENALTY NOT EXCEEDING \$1,000.00 FOR ARREST AND PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF:

AMENDMENT OF SECTION 3:

No owner or his authorized keeper shall permit any dog or cat to run at large within the City of Bells. No person or keeper shall keep upon his public or private property any vicious animal, whether wild or domestic, that does attack, threaten to attack, or that does terrorize any person on public property or at any public place.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of April,  
A. D. 1985.

  
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Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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City Secretary

CITY OF BELLS

ORDINANCE # 107-1

ARTICLE I. IN GENERAL

Sec. 1. Maintenance of premises where animal kept.

It shall be unlawful for any person owning or having under his control any premises upon which is located or maintained any pen, yard or other enclosure for the keeping of horses, cattle or other animal to fail to keep such pen, yard or enclosure free and clear from all stagnant water, slops, filth, manure and mire.

Sec. 2. Keeping of swine and goats prohibited; exceptions.

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person to keep, or cause to be kept, any swine within the corporate limits of the city, except under the following circumstances:

1. It shall be unlawful for any person to keep, harbor, or raise more than two (2) adult potbellied pigs in any one (1) household within the city. A potbellied pig is considered an adult potbellied pig when it reaches six (6) months of age. A person may keep in excess of two (2) potbellied pigs in any one (1) household within the city if the pigs are non-adult potbellied pigs, but under no set of circumstances may such non-adult potbellied pigs come from more than one (1) litter.
2. All such potbellied pigs shall be kept indoors at all times other than times for evacuation of waste material or during exercise periods.
3. All such potbellied pigs shall receive animal vaccinations for erysipelas. It shall be the responsibility of the owner of the pig and of the property to forward to the city secretary an erysipelas vaccination certificate from a licensed veterinarian which shall include the following information.
  - a. Name and address of pet owner;
  - b. Description of the pet;
  - c. Date of vaccination;
  - d. Tag number; and
  - e. Other appropriate information;
4. No person shall keep any potbellied pig at any location within the city unless such person has filed with the city secretary an Application of Harboring a Potbellied Pig, and such application has been approved by the Mayor and or City Council.

5. For purposes of this section, the term "potbellied pig" shall mean a variety of swine meeting the standards of the North American Pot Bellied Pig Association.
6. Swine may be kept under direct supervision by and upon the premises of public and private schools, fairs, or livestock shows so long as such swine are not closer than five hundred (500) feet from any habitation located on another's property.
7. Except as may be provided elsewhere within this chapter, it shall be unlawful for any person to keep or cause to be kept, any goat within the corporate limits of the city, except under the following circumstances:
  - a. It shall be unlawful for any person to keep, harbor, or raise more than two (2) adult pygmy goats in any one (1) household within the city. A pygmy goat is considered an adult when it reaches six (6) months of age. A person may keep in excess of two (2) pygmy goats in any one household with the city if the goats are non-adult, but under no set of circumstances may such non-adult pygmy goats come from more than one (1) litter.
  - b. All such pygmy goats shall receive animal vaccinations as may be required by a doctor of veterinary medicine. It shall be the responsibility of the owner of the goat and of the property to forward to the city secretary vaccination certificate from a licensed veterinarian which shall include the following information:
    1. Name and address of pet owner;
    2. Description of the pet;
    3. Date and type of vaccination;
    4. Tag number; and
    5. Other appropriate information;
8. No person shall keep any pygmy goat at any location with the city unless such person has filed with the city secretary an Application of Harboring a Pygmy Goat, and such application has been approved by the Mayor and or City Council.
9. For purposes of this section, the term "Pygmy Goat" shall mean a variety of goat meeting the standards of the National Pygmy Goat Association.

Sec.2. Fences and space allocations for livestock and fowl.

No person shall maintain livestock or fowl within the city unless the following requirements and space allocations for each animal or fowl are satisfied:

- (1) Horses, mules, jacks, jennets, ponies or other animal of like kind. There shall be a minimum enclosed space of one-half acre for each horse, mule, jack, jennet, pony, or other animal of like kind kept within the city limits. Such one-half acre shall be in addition to the area on which a residence or business structure is located. The shed used for protection against the elements may be located on this plot. Every additional horse, mule, jack, jennet, pony or other animal of like kind that is kept on the same lot must be given an additional one-half acre. Such lot must be enclosed with a suitable safe fence. Space and other requirements for properly zoned enclosed riding schools, riding schools, enclosed stables (public or commercial) and stables (public or commercial) are listed in section 5.
- (2) Cows. There shall be a minimum enclosed space of one-half acre for each cow kept with the city. Such one-half acre shall be in addition to the area on which a residence or business structure is located. The shed for protection against the elements and used for milking purposes may be located on this plot. Any additional cows will be given one-half acre each. The lot will be enclosed with a suitable safe fence.
- (3) Goats and Sheep. Any goat or sheep kept in the city limits will be allowed a minimum enclosed space of one-half acre for stable and lot. Such one-half acre shall be in addition to the area on which a residence or business structure is located. Any additional goat or sheep kept at the same lot will be granted an additional one-half acre.
- (4) Chickens. Any fowl lot maintained in the city limits must be large enough to provide twelve (12) square feet per chicken. The chicken house will be allowed to be a part of this area. Suitable wire shall be used as the fence material for chickens. The house must be of such construction as will allow for ease in cleaning and airing.
- (5) Rabbits. Suitable wire or metal shall be used as fence and hutch material for rabbits. All rabbit hutches must be kept in sanitary manner at all times, and so constructed as to allow ease in cleaning.
- (6) Location of pens and coops; cleanliness. The lot in which horses, mules, jacks, jennets, ponies or other animals of like kind, cows, goats or sheep are kept under provisions of this section may not be located nearer than one hundred (100) feet to the nearest adjoining residence, and on vacant lots have free run from property line to property line. Fowl lots maintained under the provisions of section 2 through 5 may not be situated closer than fifty (50) feet to the nearest adjoining residence. Rabbit hutches may not be located nearer than fifty (50) feet to the nearest adjoining residence. All animals or



fowl and rabbit shelters or buildings will be thoroughly cleaned at least once per week and will be maintained in a clean, sanitary condition at all times.

- (7) Exception. Provided, however, that this section shall not apply to property or acreage not subdivided or platted.

### Sec. 3. Exemption for Educational Facilities.

Vocational agriculture or animal husbandry facilities owned and maintained by state-accredited educational institutions or public school systems shall be exempted from the provisions of sections 1 and 2 restricting the kind and number of animals kept within the city; provided, however, nothing herein shall be construed to exempt such facilities from all other provisions of the Code not specifically exempted herein.

### Sec. 4. Equine kept at a riding school or public school.

No person shall maintain any equine in a riding school or stable (public or commercial) within the city unless the following requirements and space allocations are met:

- (1) This section is applicable only to a riding school or stable (public or commercial) which is located in the proper zone according to the city's zoning ordinance.
- (2) There shall be a minimum enclosed space of one thousand (1000) square feet for each horse, mule, jack, jennet, pony, or other equine kept in a riding school or stable (public or commercial). This space requirement may be met through individual pens and/or stalls of that minimum size. Alternatively, this space requirement may be met through individual stalls of a smaller size together with joint turnout, or exercise, pen(s) to aggregate this minimum amount per equine kept at the school or stable.
- (3) Every pen and stall must be at least twenty (20) feet from any adjacent residence located in residential zone.
- (4) All pens and stalls in which any equines are kept in the city shall be so drained and offal so removed as to create no offensive odor or smell.
- (5) It is preferred that all pens and stalls be paved with concrete or asphalt concrete, but a sand base will be allowed if adequate dry bedding is provided to eliminate pooling and/or runoff of liquid offal and if such sand base and dry bedding is effective in controlling odors.
- (6) Pens and stalls shall be cleaned daily. Manure and wet bedding shall be placed in a metal, concrete, or plastic container securely screened or otherwise protected from flies, vermin, and rodents. This container shall be

emptied, with contents promptly removed from the premises, not less than once each week. Alternatively, manure and wet bedding may be placed in a compost pile located at least one hundred (100) feet from any adjacent residence and at least twenty (20) feet from any other adjacent building. Such compost pile shall be turned not less than once each week.

(7) No fly concentration shall be allowed on the premises.

Sec. 4. Certain animals prohibited; exceptions.

- (a) Pursuant to the authority of Section 822.116, Health and Safety Code of the State of Texas, no person shall keep, harbor, or maintain within the city a dangerous or domesticated wild animal, as that term may be defined from time to time by the State of Texas, including, but limited to, a lion, a tiger, an ocelot, a cougar, a leopard, a cheetah, a jaguar, a bobcat, a lynx, a serval, a caracal, a hyena, a bear, a coyote, a jackal, a baboon, a chimpanzee, an orangutan, a gorilla, a wildcat, a wolf or a hybrid of any of the animals listed herein.
- (b) No person shall keep, harbor, or maintain any poisonous snake or reptile within the city.
- (c) This section shall not apply to any of the exceptions enumerated in Section 822.102 (a), Health and Safety Code of the State of Texas, now or as hereafter amended.

Sec. 5. Vicious or dangerous animals prohibited.

- (a) For the purpose of this section, a vicious or dangerous animal is any animal which without provocation, bites or attacks any person or another animal, whether such attack occurs on private or public property. No animal may be declared vicious if the threat, injury or damage was sustained by a person who, at the time, was committing a willful trespass or other tort upon the premises occupied by the owner or keeper of the animal, or was teasing, tormenting, abusing or assaulting the animal or has in the past, been observed or reported to have teased, tormented, abused or assaulted the animal or was committing or attempting to commit a crime.
- (b) Upon written complaint to the Municipal Court by a complainant alleging the viciousness of dangerous character of any animal, the clerk of said court shall cause a copy of the complaint and a notice of hearing to be served upon the owner as defined at Article II., Section 1., of the animal, the subject of the complaint. Such notice shall establish a date and time for such hearing before the judge of the Municipal Court, but in no event shall such hearing be held prior to

the eleventh day following service of such notice to the owner. Such notice shall reference the complaint and shall notify the owner to appear and to show cause why the court should not order some remedial action, as provide below, for the protection of the public.

- (c) After notice and hearing, the judge of the Municipal Court shall make a determination as to whether such animal is vicious or dangerous to persons or other animals. In the event the animal is declared to be vicious or dangerous, the judge shall enter orders for the protection of the public or other animals, such orders providing for, but not limited to, muzzling, sufficient enclosing, or destroying the vicious or dangerous animal. In the event that destruction is ordered, the judge shall order a date, time and location for the owner to deliver such animal to the Grayson County Animal Control Officer or City of Sherman Animal Shelter, who shall immediately destroy or cause to be destroyed the vicious or dangerous animal.
- (d) No person shall interfere with or attempt to prevent the performance of any official duties or acts required by any public official by this Chapter. Nor shall any owner of any animal declared to be vicious or dangerous pursuant to the foregoing subsections keep or harbor a vicious or dangerous animal ordered destroyed within the city beyond the date and time ordered for the owner to deliver possession of such animal to the animal control officer. Violation of the foregoing is declared to be unlawful, and the commission of same is declared to be a class C misdemeanor, punishable in accordance with the general penalty provisions of this Code.
- (e) If, after notice and hearing, the judge of the Municipal Court shall make a determination that an animal is vicious and dangerous to persons or other animals and does not order the destruction of the vicious or dangerous animal, the judge shall enter an order for the muzzling and sufficient enclosing of the animal. The owner of the animal shall provide a fenced area under which the animal may not dig for escape. Such fenced area shall contain an escape-proof floor, inside a secure fenced area under which the fence extends twelve (12) inches below ground level and contains an enclosed top. The judge's order shall further provide that the animal shall not be removed from such fenced area unless it is on a leash and is muzzled and is in the attendance of the owner. The judge's order shall further contain provision that the owner be required to place a clearly visible sign, to be permanently displayed on the owner's premises, stating "Vicious Animal."

It shall be unlawful to place or maintain any dog which has been specifically trained to attack in any area for the protection of persons or property, unless the dog is physically confined to a specific area or is under complete and absolute control. The area or premises in which a guard dog is confined must be conspicuously posted with warning signs bearing letters not less than two (2) inches high.

**Sec. 7. Animals running at large prohibited.**

(a). It shall be unlawful for the owner or keeper or person having control over any chicken or other fowl or horse, cow, mule, jack, jennet, sheep, goat, hog or other animal of like kind to permit the same to run at large at any time within the corporate limits of the city or to interfere with or trespass upon the premises of any other person, unless the consent of such other person shall first be obtained.

(b). All persons keeping or raising chickens and other fowl with the city shall keep them confined in suitable coops or in yards properly fenced to prevent them from escaping and running at large. All such persons shall keep such coops or yards in a clean and sanitary condition, so that the same shall not become foul or offensive to the adjacent neighbors or dangerous to the public health.

**Sec. 8. Impounding Animals.**

(a). Animals owned or harbored in violation of this chapter or any other ordinance or law of the State shall be taken into custody by the animal control officer or other designated official and be impounded. Stray animals shall be similarly impounded.

(b). As soon as practicable after impoundment, if the owner of the impounded animal is known, immediate notice shall be given to him. Any impounded animal may be redeemed upon payment of the care and feeding charges, veterinary charges, rabies vaccination charges, and such other costs as set by the city council and on file in the city secretary's office. If such animal is not redeemed within seventy-two (72) hours of the notice, it shall be deemed abandoned and may be placed for adoption subject to payment of the impoundment fee, care and feeding charges, veterinary charges, and such other costs as set by the city council or the animal may be humanely euthanized under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian.

(c). Any animal taken into custody pursuant to this chapter, except those animals which have inflicted bites on humans or animals during the preceding ten (10) days and that are visibly affected with any sign of communicable disease other than rabies, which are being held at the impounding facility, may, instead of being impounded, be humanely destroyed. Any animal which has inflicted any bites on humans or animals during the preceding ten (10) days shall have its head removed and submitted to the laboratory for rabies examination.

**Sec. 9. Abandoning animals.**

It shall be unlawful for any person to willfully abandon any animal, or to withhold food or water from any animal such that its health is endangered, or it is caused to suffer unduly.

Sec. 10. Disposal of dead animals.

Dogs, cats or other dead animals shall not be placed in garbage bags or garbage containers within the corporate city limits for disposal. The city may pick up a dead animal upon notice to the city. Larger animals shall be removed by and at the expense of the owner to a proper place of disposal and buried to sufficient depth to eliminate any health hazard or other nuisance.

Sec. 11. Animal Control Officer.

Any city police officer is hereby empowered to enforce the provisions of this chapter.

Sec. 12. Penalty.

It shall be unlawful for any person to violate any of the provisions of this chapter. Any person violating the provisions of this chapter shall, upon first conviction, be fined not less than ten dollars (\$10.00) nor more than two hundred dollars (\$200.00). Any person violating the provisions of this chapter shall, upon second conviction, be fined not less than two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00), plus an amount equal to the expenses relating to the animal attack upon human beings or domestic animals. Any person violating the provisions of this chapter shall, upon three (3) convictions, be fined not less than five hundred dollars (\$500.00) plus any expenses relating to animal attacks upon human beings or domestic animals, but in no event shall the fine exceed the jurisdictional limit of the municipal court.

Sec. 13. Recovery of costs.

The city shall recover the costs of expenses for the services of taking possession and transport of an animal to impoundment at an owners request for a personally owned animal. The costs shall be at the amount set by the Grayson County Animal Control Division for their services. The costs shall be recovered by separate charge or added to the monthly water bill in total or payable increments. The city secretary will establish a payment plan for the owner.

CITY OF BELLS

ORDINANCE # 107-1

ARTICLE II. DOGS AND CATS

Sec. 1. Definitions

When used in this article, the following words and terms, unless the context indicates a different meaning, shall be interpreted as follows:

Cat means a domestic feline of either sex, including one (1) neutered or sterilized.

Dog means a domestic canine of either sex, including one (1) neutered or sterilized.

Domestic Animal shall include all species of animals commonly and universally accepted as being domesticated.

Harboring means the act of keeping and caring for an animal, or of providing a premises to the animal returns for food, shelter, or care for a period of ten (10) days.

Owner means any person who has right of property in an animal, or who harbors any animal, or allows an animal to remain about his premises for a period of ten (10) days.

Pet shall include dogs, cats, rabbits, rodents, birds, reptiles, and any other species of animal which is sold or retained as a household pet, but shall not include skunks, nonhuman primates, and any other species of wild, exotic or carnivorous animal that may be further restricted in this law.

Rabies Vaccination shall mean the vaccination of a dog, cat, or other domestic animal with an anti-rabies vaccine approved by the United States Department of Agriculture and administered by a veterinarian licensed by the State.

Running At Large means an animal not under the physical control of the owner of his authorized representative.

Stray Animal means any animal for which there is no identifiable owner or harborer.

Vicious Animal means any specific animal that chases, terrorizes, bites, attacks or injures human beings or domesticated animals without provocation; or which because of temperament, conditioning or training, has known propensity to attack, bite or injure human beings or domesticated animals.

**Wild Animal** means all species of animals which exist in a natural unconfined state and are not usually domesticated.

**Sec. 2. Running at Large Prohibited.**

The owner or harbinger of any dog shall keep it under restraint at all times and the dog shall not be permitted to run at large with the city. By "restraint" it is meant that the owner or harbinger shall keep the dog in a secure enclosure or tied to prevent it from running loose.

**Sec. 3. Barking dogs deemed nuisance.**

It shall be unlawful and a nuisance for any person to harbor or keep on his premises or in or about his premises or premises under his control any dog which by loud or prolonged barking or howling shall cause the peace and quiet of the neighborhood or the occupants of adjacent premises to be disturbed.

**Sec. 4. Vaccinations.**

Every owner of a dog or cat three (3) months of age or older shall have such animal vaccinated against rabies. All dogs and cats vaccinated at three (3) months of age or older shall be revaccinated at one (1) year of age and annually thereafter. Such routine vaccination should be performed during the months of January and February during each calendar year. Any person moving into the city from a location outside the city shall comply with this article within ten (10) days after having moved into the city. If the dog or cat has inflicted a bite on any person or another animal within the last ten (10) days, the owner of such dog or cat shall report such fact to the veterinarian, and no rabies vaccination shall be administered until after the ten-day observation period.

**Sec. 5. Certificate of vaccination.**

Upon vaccination, the veterinarian shall execute and furnish to the owner of the dog or cat as evidence thereof, a certificate upon a form furnished by the veterinarian. The veterinarian shall retain a duplicate copy and one (1) copy thereof shall be filed with the city-county health department. Such certificate shall contain the following information.

- (1) The name, address, and telephone number of the owner of the vaccinated dog or cat.
- (2) The date of the vaccination.
- (3) The type of rabies vaccine used.
- (4) The year and number of rabies tag; and
- (5) The breed, age, color and sex of the vaccinated dog or cat.

**Sec. 6. Rabies tag.**


Concurrent with the issuance and delivery of the certificate of vaccination referred to in section 5, the owner of the dog or cat shall cause to be attached to the collar or harness of the vaccinated dog or cat a metal tag, serially numbered to correspond with the vaccination certificate number, and bearing the year of issuance and the name of the issuing veterinarian and his address. The owner shall cause the collar or harness, with the attached metal tag, to be worn by his dog or cat whenever such dog or cat is running at large.

Sec. 7. Harboring unvaccinated dogs or cats.

It shall be unlawful for any person to harbor any dog or cat which has not been vaccinated against rabies, as provided in section 4, or which cannot be identified as having a current vaccination certificate.

READ AND ACCEPTED this 6 day of JUNE, 2006

APPROVED:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Secretary



CITY OF BELLS

ORDINANCE # 107-2

ARTICLE III. REGISTRATION OF CERTAIN ANIMALS AND OR LIVESTOCK

Sec. 1. Meanings:

1. Animal or Animals – shall mean all dogs, cats, birds, fowl, fish, lizards snakes, reptiles and/or livestock whether kept for personal use or pleasure.
2. Livestock – shall mean horses, mules, donkeys, cattle, sheep, goats, hogs and all similar domesticated animals, whether kept for personal use or pleasure.
3. Owner – shall mean a person who own or has responsibility for the care and control of any animal (as defined herein) regulated hereby.

All dogs, cats and other domesticated pets must be vaccinated for rabies within the preceding twelve (12) months. Said vaccinated animal must have attached identifying tag for vaccination record and veterinary of record.

Sec. 2. Required Registration:

1. All owners of designated livestock by meaning are required to register said animals with the City of Bells. This shall include owners or keepers of livestock on property within the corporate city limits of Bells, Texas. Registration forms shall be obtained at the City Hall and returned upon completion to be filed by the City Secretary for record. This information will be maintained for purposes of registration record and contact of parties in the event of an emergency.

Sec. 3. Penalty:

Any person failing to comply with the requirements of any part of City of Bells Ordinance #107, shall be deemed guilty of a Class C Misdemeanor and upon being adjudged guilty, shall be punished by a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00).

READ AND ACCEPTED this 6 day of JUNE, 2006.

APPROVED:

Jose L. Bras  
Mayor

ATTEST:

Julie Jenkins  
City Secretary