
TITLE 5

ANIMAL REGULATIONS

ADOPTED AND APPROVED ON DECEMBER 4, 2018

BY THE TETON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

EFFECTIVE AS OF JANUARY 1, 2019

CHAPTER 1 – AUTHORITY

5-1-1 AUTHORITY TO PROMULGATE REGULATIONS

- a. Wyoming Statute §11-31-301(LexisNexis 2013) authorizes board of county commissioners to enact regulations relative to dogs running at large, vicious dogs, dogs running wild game or livestock or acts by other animals that are consistent with the purposes of Wyoming Statute §11-31-301.
- b. Wyoming Statute §11-31-212 (LexisNexis 2013) authorizes the board of county commissioners to establish a rabies control district and Wyoming Statute §11-31-213 authorizes the board of county commissioners to require the registration of all dogs and cats within a rabies control district, and to require an owner of any dog or cat three (3) months of age or older to present a valid rabies vaccination certificate showing the dog or cat has been vaccinated for immunization against rabies by a licensed veterinarian as a condition of registration. Wyoming Statute §11-31-214 authorizes the board of county commissioners to adopt rules and regulations as necessary to implement the program for registration and immunization of dogs and cats in the rabies control district, including the requirement that registered dogs and cats be tagged or marked in such manner as to make them readily identifiable.
- c. The County Sheriff, a county animal officer, or a peace officer may enforce these regulations. (W.S. §11-31-301(g))
- d. These regulations may be enforced through a joint animal control program with the Town of Jackson. As a joint animal control program, animal control officers may be joint animal control officers who have the authority to enforce these regulations and/or ordinances of each of the participating entities. (W.S. §11-31-301(j)(LexisNexis 2013))
- e. These regulations shall become effective on January 1, 2014. These rules supercede the County Animal Regulations of 2004.

CHAPTER 2 – DECLARATIONS

5-2-1 DOGS AT LARGE DECLARED A PUBLIC NUISANCE

- a. The Teton County Board of County Commissioners hereby declare that the running at large of dogs in the unincorporated areas within Teton County is a public nuisance. (W.S. §11-31-301(a) (LexisNexis 2013))

5-2-2 UNLICENSED ANIMALS DECLARED A PUBLIC NUISANCE

- a. The Teton County Board of County Commissioners hereby declare that unlicensed animals within Teton County are a public nuisance. (W.S. §11-31-301(f) (LexisNexis 2013))

5-2-3 TETON COUNTY RABIES CONTROL DISTRICT

- a. The Teton County Board of County Commissioners hereby designate the contiguous boundaries of Teton County, including all municipalities within, as the Teton County Rabies Control District. (W.S. §11-31-212(a) (LexisNexis 2013))

CHAPTER 3 – DEFINITIONS

- a. The following definitions shall apply to these regulations:
 - i. **Animal** means domestic dog or domestic cat
 - ii. **At Large** A domestic dog shall be considered at large when it is off the property of its owner and not controlled by a leash, rope, electronic collar, reins, or in the immediate company of a competent person and obedient to that person's command, or confined within a vehicle or other enclosure.
 - iii. **Own** and **Owner** shall apply to any person who shall own, keep, or harbor an animal, or who shall permit an animal to be fed or remain habitually in or about the premises under the control of the owner.
 - iv. **Vicious Dog** A dog shall be designated as a vicious dog by prima facie evidence that the dog has bitten any person at any place where a person is legally entitled to be; or attacked any person in a vicious manner at any place where a person is legally entitled to be.
 - v. **Wildlife** means "Big Game Animals" as defined by Wyoming Statute §23-1-101(a)(i).

CHAPTER 4 – ANIMAL LICENSING

5-4-1 ANIMAL LICENSE REQUIRED

- a. No person shall own or keep an animal in Teton County without a license issued by the County. The fine for violation of this subsection shall be Twenty-Five Dollars (\$25.00).
- b. Animal Licenses shall be issued by the County Treasurer or the Treasurer's Designee which may include Veterinarians, Town of Jackson, Animal Control Officers, and the Animal Shelter, upon payment of \$10.00 and presentation of a current and valid certificate subscribed by a licensed veterinarian that the animal has been vaccinated against rabies, and that such vaccination shall remain effective through the term of the license (the vaccination may be for longer than a year, so long as the vaccination shall remain effective throughout the term of the license). The fee for animals is \$5.00 if the owner produces a bona fide certificate to show that the animal has been properly spayed or neutered. The vaccination certificate shall indicate the date of vaccination, the type of vaccination used and the period of immunization. Licenses shall be renewed on a yearly basis.
- c. Animals less than 4 months of age are exempted from having licenses.
- d. Lost or damaged licenses will be replaced for a fee of \$1.00.

5-4-2 LICENSE TAG

- a. Each licensed dog shall wear a collar tagged with the license number issued to that dog, whenever the animal is off of the dog owner's property. The fine for violation of this section shall be \$25.00.

CHAPTER 5 – IMPOUNDMENT

5-5-1 IMPOUNDMENT

- a. Any dog found running at large; or any unlicensed cat or dog; or any dog without a license tag off of the dog owner's property, may be apprehended and impounded by a peace officer or animal control officer, whereupon the peace officer or animal control officer shall exert reasonable efforts to ascertain and notify the owner of the animal.

5-5-2 REDEMPTION – PAYMENT OF COSTS

- a. The owner or agent of an owner of any animal impounded under these rules shall have the privilege of claiming such animal within seven (7) days after it is impounded, upon complying with the following requirements:
- i. Show proof of licensure, and if no license, then obtain a license.
 - ii. Show proof of vaccination against rabies, and if none, then obtain the proper vaccination within fourteen (14) days.
 - iii. Pay the following fees to the Teton County/Jackson Animal Shelter:
 1. First Impoundment \$25.00
 2. If the same animal impounded for a second time \$35.00 within a one year period of time.
 3. If the same animal impounded for a third time \$50.00 within a one year period of time.
 4. If the same animal impounded for a fourth or subsequent time \$100.00 within a one year period of time.
 - iv. Pay the Teton County/Jackson Animal Shelter, for each twenty four hours or portion thereof the amount of \$15.00 per animal. The first 24 hours of impoundment is included in the Impoundment Fee delineated in 1-5-2(c).
 - v. This section does not apply to dogs that are impounded after biting or attacking a person. Redemption of dogs that have been impounded for biting or attacking a person shall be governed by Section 1-6-2.

5-5-3 DISPOSITION OF ANIMALS

- a. Any animal impounded under these regulations not claimed by the owner within seven days may be adopted to any person who will secure a license. A license is not required if the animal shall not be remaining in Teton County. Any animal not claimed within seven days or adopted as provided for herein, may be destroyed. Destruction of animals shall be in an humane manner. Any person who acquires an animal as a new owner after the seven-day waiting period, must have the animal spayed or neutered within 30 days. If the animal is under 6 months of age, then the new owner shall have the animal spayed or neutered within 30 days of the animal reaching the age of 6 months. In addition, a

licensed veterinarian shall vaccinate any animal for rabies within fourteen days of adoption if it is not verified to be current on said vaccination.

CHAPTER 6 – CONTROL OF DOGS

5-6-1 DOGS AT LARGE

- a. Any person who owns any dog which is at large, within Teton County, is guilty of a misdemeanor. A first conviction is punishable by a fine of not more than fifty dollars (\$50.00), and each subsequent conviction is punishable by a fine of not more than one hundred dollars (\$100.00). Restitution, to be paid by the owner of the dog, may also be ordered for any damages to person or property caused by the dog.

5-6-2 CONTROL OF BITING ANIMALS

- a. The owner of any animal which bites any person; or attacks any person in a vicious manner is guilty of a misdemeanor. This subsection shall not apply if the animal is on the owner's premises and either the premises are clearly posted with warnings concerning the animal or the entry onto the premises was unlawful. The fine shall not be more than two hundred dollars (\$200.00). Restitution, to be paid by the owner of the animal, may also be ordered for any damages to any person caused by the animal.
- b. If the Ninth Judicial Circuit Court of Teton County further finds the animal to be vicious and has a propensity to bite any person or attack any person in a vicious manner again, the Court may order that the animal be disposed of in a humane manner in addition to the fine ordered pursuant to Section 1-6-2(a). If the animal is euthanized the Court may order that the remains be examined for the presence of any disease communicable to humans. All costs of destruction and analysis, expenses incurred by the victim, and impoundment fees as delineated in Section 1-5-2 shall be paid by the owner.
- c. Any animal which bites any person; or attacks any person in a vicious manner may be reported to a county animal officer or peace officer and then the animal shall be apprehended and impounded; and
 - i. If the owner or custodian of such animal can show evidence of a current valid rabies vaccination, the animal control officer or county sheriff may make the determination to allow for home quarantine if the animal control officer or county sheriff is confident that the animal shall remain quarantined in the home. Otherwise, the animal control officer or county sheriff may determine to proceed with impoundment of the animal at the animal shelter for at least 10 days or as long as the Wyoming State Health Officer determines. If impounded, the animal shall be returned to the owner or custodian at the end of the impoundment period, after payment of any expenses incurred by the victim and impoundment fees as delineated in Section 1-5-2;
 - ii. If the owner or custodian cannot produce evidence of a current and valid rabies vaccination, the animal shall be impounded and quarantined, at the expense of the owner or custodian, for a period of at least 10 days or as long as determined by the Wyoming State Health Officer after the attack to determine whether the

- animal has any disease which may be communicable to humans. Provided, however, that prior to release of the animal to the owner, the owner or custodian of the animal shall pay the impoundment fees as delineated in Section 1-5-2; and
- iii. If the owner or custodian cannot produce evidence of a current and valid rabies vaccination and the owner or custodian does not desire to proceed pursuant to Section 1-6-2(c)(ii), the animal shall be humanely destroyed and its remains analyzed for the presence of any disease communicable to humans. All costs of destruction and analysis and impoundment fees as delineated in Section 1-5-2 shall be paid by the owner.

5-6-3 DOG INJURING OR KILLING LIVESTOCK

- a. A dog injuring or killing livestock may be impounded and a determination shall be made by the Ninth Judicial Circuit Court for Teton County as to the propensity for the dog to continue to pose a threat to livestock. If it is determined that the dog may pose a future threat to livestock, the Court may order that the dog be humanely disposed of or restriction be placed on the movements of the dog. This section does not limit the ability of an owner of livestock or his agent or any peace officer from killing a dog in the act of injuring or killing livestock pursuant to Wyoming Statute §11-31-301(d)(LexisNexis 2013).

5-6-4 DOG INJURING OR KILLING WILDLIFE

- a. A dog injuring or killing wildlife may be impounded and a determination shall be made by the Ninth Judicial Circuit Court for Teton County as to the propensity for the dog to continue to pose a threat to wildlife. If it is determined that the dog may pose a future threat to wildlife, the Court may order that the dog be humanely disposed of or restrictions be placed on the movement of the dog. This section does not limit the ability of a peace officer to utilize the provisions of Wyoming Statute §23-3-109 (LexisNexis 2013) that allows for killing of the dog at the time of the attack on wildlife.