

City of Columbia

Chapter 5

Animals and Fowl

Suggested Revisions

12/15/25

Sec. 5-1. Definitions. Dangerous or aggressive animal advisory board. (p. 1)

- Adopts County board for one shared advisory body.
 - Will include City representation
- Board reviews evidence and makes recommendations to the Health Director on animal classifications.
 - City: Dangerous/aggressive
 - County: Vicious/nuisance

Sec. 5-1. Definitions. Feral cat colonies. (p. 2)

- Adds definition of feral cat colony as:
 - Any number of five or more feral cats being cared for at a single location.

Sec. 5-1. Definitions. Health Official. (p. 2)

- Adds definition of health official as:
 - An employee of the Columbia/Boone County, Missouri Health Department or any other person so appointed by the Director to administer or enforce the provisions of this chapter.

Sec. 5-3. Disposition of animals biting or attacking persons. (p. 3)

- Animal may be impounded at the owner's residence after a bite if:
 - Animal was properly licensed at the time of the incident, or
 - (New) Animal was current on rabies vaccination AND City license is obtained within 3 business days

Sec. 5-6. Animal abuse; unlawful impoundment; unlawful confinement; tethering. (p. 5)

- Addition of language specific to animal neglect
 - Updates language to clearly define “adequate care” (food, water, shelter, health care).

Sec. 5-6. Animal abuse; unlawful impoundment; unlawful confinement; tethering. (p. 6)

- Adds protection during severe weather:
 - Animals may not be tethered outdoors during any weather warning or advisory without proper shelter and care.

Sec. 5-11 Sale of reptiles. (p. 8)

- Removes a section requiring pet stores to collect signed health-risk acknowledgments from reptile buyers.
 - Rationale: difficult to enforce and low impact on public safety.

Sec. 5-57 Dangerous or aggressive animals. (pp. 11-12)

- Establishes a clear, consistent process for investigation and appeals:
 - Complaints can come from the public, animal control, law enforcement or health official observations.
- After investigation, the Health Director reviews cases and issues written declaration.
- Outlines appeal and hearing process.

Sec. 5-60. Limitation upon number of dogs and cats kept. (pp. 15-16)

- Addition of permit request process for households exceeding the set number of animals.
- Allows flexibility when deemed appropriate, while maintaining neighborhood standards and animal welfare.
- Adds annual permit fee of \$50 per additional animal over four (4)

Sec. 5-112. Feral cat colony caretaker permit. And 5-114. Requirements of feral cat colonies. (pp. 23-24)

- Simplifies caretaker requirements to lower barriers for participation:
 - Requires at least one rabies vaccination (previously required annually).
 - Removes annual trapping and disease-testing mandates (previously required annually).
- Encourages responsible community cat management through collaboration.