

# City of Columbia

## Chapter 5

### Animals and Fowl

Suggested Revisions

# **Sec. 5-1. Definitions. Dangerous or aggressive animal advisory board.**

- 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.

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

## Sec. 5-3. Disposition of animals biting or attacking persons.

- 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 is current on its rabies vaccination AND City license is obtained within 3 business days

# **Sec. 5-6. Animal abuse; unlawful impoundment; unlawful confinement; tethering.**

- 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.**

- 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.

- 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.

- 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.**

- 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**

- 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.