

# City of Columbia

## Chapter 5

### Animals and Fowl

Suggested Revisions

2/16/2026



# Sec. 5-1. Definitions. Dangerous or aggressive animal advisors. (p. 1)

- Adds “Dangerous or Aggressive Animal Advisors” body
  - 5 individuals appointed by city council
    - Requires at least one (1) to be a licensed veterinarian
  - Purpose: to evaluate evidence and provide advice to the Director

# 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.