



Animal Care and Control Program Administrative Procedures and Policies

CONTENTS

- I. Confinement and Observation of Biting Animals
 - a. Waiver or reduction of confinement and observation of biting animals
 - 1. Animals not currently vaccinated against rabies
 - 2. Unvaccinated police dogs
 - 3. Veterinarian recommendation
 - 4. Service animals
 - b. Hospital confinement and observation
 - c. Confinement and observation requirements for animal to animal bites
- II. General Interpretation of "Has Been Bitten" and Enforcement of Animal Bite Requirements
- III. Rabies Registration Exemptions/Exceptions
 - a. Police dogs
 - b. Military personnel stationed at Great Lakes Naval Base
 - c. Licensed foster and adoption groups
 - d. Part time/dual residency
 - e. Intact animals
 - 1. Shown in American Kennel Club (AKC) sponsored events
 - 2. Field trials/registered dogs
 - 3. Medically exempt from surgical sterilization
 - f. Registration with less than 1yr on vaccination
 - g. Medically exempt from vaccination
- IV. Notices of Ordinance Violations
 - a. Conditions when a Notice of Ordinance Violation may be issued
 - b. Issuing Notices of Ordinance Violation; exceptions
- V. Animal Impoundment
 - a. Animals running-at-large; exceptions
 - b. Unidentifiable animals
 - c. Impounded animals with implanted microchips
- VI. Pet Limit Exemptions
 - a. Long term temporary housing
- VII. Nuisance Wildlife and Animal Traps
 - a. Trapping/releasing nuisance wildlife
 - b. Nuisance and domestic animal trap deposit fees; waivers of deposit fees
- VIII. Trap Neuter and Return (TNR) Colony Cat Impoundments
- IX. Payment Plans
 - a. Conditions that render an individual ineligible for a payment plan

ADOPTED by the Board of Health: February 16, 2011

AMENDED: April 25, 2012; March 20, 2013; March 25, 2015; August 19, 2015; June 1, 2016; April 26, 2017; April 24, 2019; February 2025; April 30, 2025

I. Confinement and Observation of Biting Animals

a) **Waiver or reduction of confinement and observation of biting animals:** The Health Officer may waive or reduce the requirement for hospital confinement and observation, and a biting animal may be confined in a home in accordance with Lake County Code of Ordinances Chapter 172, Section 172.05 ([BA](#))(2) in the circumstances described in this section. When a reduction in confinement is approved, the biting animal shall be examined by a licensed veterinarian within 24 hours of notification to start the 10-day rabies observation period.

1. **Animals not currently vaccinated against rabies:** The Health Officer determines that a biting dog or cat, though not currently vaccinated against rabies, is nursing a litter of kittens or puppies; or when the biting animal is a puppy or kitten, 4 months of age or less.
2. **Unvaccinated police dogs:** A police dog that is not currently vaccinated against rabies, but is registered to a police department and bites a person while acting under the direction of its handler while on duty.
3. **Veterinarian recommendation:** The biting animal is under the care of a veterinarian, and the Health Officer receives a written recommendation for home confinement.
4. **Service animals:** The biting animal is a service animal and the Health Officer is provided information on the service provided by the animal.

b) **Hospital confinement and observation:** In accordance with the Illinois Animal Control Act and Lake County Code of Ordinances Chapter 172, the Health Officer may require a biting animal to be confined and observed in a “manner which will prohibit it from biting any person” [510 ILCS 5/13(a)]. The Health Officer may require this manner of confinement and observation, i.e., in a hospital, if they have reasonable cause to believe, or have evidence indicating that the animal may bite again if confined in the owner’s home. In requiring hospital confinement, the circumstances that the Health Officer shall consider include, but are not limited to:

1. The biting animal has bitten on at least one other past occasion.
2. The biting animal is currently under home confinement for a previous bite.
3. The biting animal has been documented to have been running at large on more than one past occasion.
4. The owner is incapable of complying with home confinement for at least one of the following reasons:
 - i. The owner is away from home, or planning to be away from home.

ADOPTED by the Board of Health: February 16, 2011

AMENDED: April 25, 2012; March 20, 2013; March 25, 2015; August 19, 2015; June 1, 2016; April 26, 2017; April 24, 2019; February 2025; April 30, 2025

- ii. The owner's place of residence is in transition.
- iii. The owner is without a verifiable permanent home address.
- iv. The owner indicates that they do not intend to comply with the home confinement requirements, is unable to do so, or is uncertain that they are able to do so.

5. The owner requests hospital confinement.
6. The owner no longer wants the biting animal in the home.
7. The biting animal is under the care of a veterinarian, and the Health Officer receives a written recommendation for hospital confinement from the veterinarian.

c) **Confinement and observation requirements for animal to animal bites:** In cases of animal to animal bites, the Health Officer shall apply the confinement and observation requirements in Lake County Code of Ordinances Chapter 172, Section 172.05 as stipulated in that section.

1. **Companion animal to wildlife, or companion animal to livestock bites:** Confinement and observation requirements shall be determined by the Deputy Administrator in consultation with the Health Officer, and imposed in accordance with Lake County Code of Ordinances Chapter 172, Section 172.05. In establishing the confinement and observation requirements, the following circumstances and conditions shall be considered:
 - i. The behavior of the biting animal;
 - ii. Whether or not the biting animal was also bitten;
 - iii. The likelihood that the biting animal experienced a non-bite exposure during the incident;
 - iv. The species of the bitten animal, and the likelihood of the bitten animal harboring the rabies virus; and
 - v. The vaccination status and vaccination history of the biting animal.
2. **Wildlife to companion animal bites:** Confinement and observation requirements shall be determined and imposed in accordance with the requirements of the Illinois Animal Control Act and the Illinois Administrative Rules promulgated thereunder.

II.

General Interpretation of "Has Been Bitten" and Enforcement of Animal Bite Requirements:

Requirements: In the Illinois Animal Control Act, "has been bitten" is defined as follows: *"Has been bitten" means has been seized with the teeth or jaws so that the person or animal seized has been nipped, gripped, wounded, or pierced, and further includes contact of saliva with any break or abrasion of the skin."* This definition recognizes that there are two exposure pathways for the potential transmission of the rabies virus; bite and non-bite. For the purposes of the enforcement of the Illinois

ADOPTED by the Board of Health: February 16, 2011

AMENDED: April 25, 2012; March 20, 2013; March 25, 2015; August 19, 2015; June 1, 2016; April 26, 2017; April 24, 2019; February 2025; April 30, 2025

Animal Control Act, Lake County Code of Ordinances Chapter 172 and the Lake County Health Department Animal Care and Control Program Procedures and Policies, both bite and non-bite exposures, as described below in Parts (a) and (b) of this Section, shall be considered to be "animal bites" and the animal that has caused these exposures shall be considered to be a "biting animal."

- a) **Bite Exposures:** A bite exposure occurs when an animal or person "*has been seized with the teeth or jaws so that the person or animal seized has been nipped, gripped, wounded, or pierced.*" When the Health Officer has reasonably established that a person or animal was seized with the teeth or jaws of animal, a bite exposure has occurred, and the requirements of the Illinois Animal Control Act, Lake County Code of Ordinances Chapter 172 and the Lake County Health Department Animal Care and Control Program Procedures and Policies that apply to animal bites shall be enforced.
- b) **Non-Bite Exposures:** Where the Health Officer has reasonably established that an animal has caused, to a person or other animal, a "*break or abrasion of the skin,*" which can be from a scratch caused by a nail, claw or tooth, and the Health Officer also has reasonable cause to believe that "*contact of saliva*" of the animal and the break or abrasion has taken place, a non-bite exposure has occurred, and the requirements of the Illinois Animal Control Act, Lake County Code of Ordinances Chapter 172 and the Lake County Health Department Animal Care and Control Program Procedures and Policies that apply to animal bites shall be enforced. Where a break or abrasion results from a scratch caused by a tooth of an animal, that fact alone shall provide reasonable cause to believe that contact with saliva with the break or abrasion has occurred.

III. **Rabies Registration Requirement Exemptions/Exceptions:** The Health Officer shall enforce the rabies registration tag fee requirements as stated in Lake County Code of Ordinances Chapter 172 and Lake County Animal Care and Control Program Fee Schedule, and as described below. Animal Hospitals issuing tags in accordance with Lake County Code of Ordinances Chapter 172 shall only accept the fees as set forth by Lake County Animal Care and Control Program Fee Schedule.

- a) **Police dogs:** A rabies registration tag shall be issued with no fee to a dog registered to a police department each time the dog is vaccinated.
- b) **Military personnel stationed at Great Lakes Naval Base:** A dog or cat that is owned by active duty military personnel stationed at Great Lakes Naval Base and living in military-owned housing are exempt from purchasing a Lake County rabies registration tag, provided a military tag is acquired.
- c) **Licensed foster or adoption groups:** A dog or cat that is owned by a rescue group that is placed temporarily in a foster home must be registered in the rescue group's name, though the registration fee shall be waived for dogs and cats sourced from Lake County Animal Care and Control. The group has 30 days to register the dog or cat after it is vaccinated against rabies. When the dog or cat is adopted into a

ADOPTED by the Board of Health: February 16, 2011

AMENDED: April 25, 2012; March 20, 2013; March 25, 2015; August 19, 2015; June 1, 2016; April 26, 2017; April 24, 2019; February 2025; April 30, 2025

permanent home, the registration will be transferred to the new owner at no charge.

- d) **Part time/dual residency:** When a dog or cat owner has residences both outside of Illinois and in Lake County, and provides documentation that their primary residence is outside of Illinois and that the dog or cat has been vaccinated in the jurisdiction of the owner's primary residence, the owner shall be required to obtain and pay for a Lake County rabies tag coinciding with the animal's vaccination date, but shall be assessed a fee as established in the Animal Care and Control Program Fee Schedule. The rabies vaccination certificate from the other jurisdiction must be provided to the Health Officer.
- e) **Intact Animals:** Rabies registration tag fees may be reduced to the fee assessed to altered dogs or cats when the following conditions are met:
 - i. **Shown in an American Kennel Club (AKC) sponsored events:** If a dog or cat is shown in an AKC sponsored event where the event requires the dog or cat to be intact or is bred as a result of its show status (i.e., Champion of Record), that dog or cat shall be eligible for a reduction to the spayed/neutered fee. If the intact rabies registration tag fee has been paid to a veterinarian's office, the owner must submit to the Health Officer proper documentation of the dog or cat's eligibility for the fee reduction along with a request for a refund of the difference between the intact and spayed/neutered fees. Proper documentation to qualify for the fee reduction shall include at least one of the following:
 - 1. A copy of an official paid entry form from an AKC recognized event dated within one year of the rabies vaccination date.
 - 2. Name of animal listed on an official entry booklet dated within one year of the rabies vaccination date for an AKC recognized event in which the dog or cat is being, or was shown.
 - 3. Confirmation or acknowledgement of entry to an AKC recognized event dated within one year of the rabies vaccination date.
 - 4. A copy of a Championship certificate.
 - ii. **Field trials/registered dogs:** If a dog competes in a sanctioned field trial event, is registered with a recognized purebred dog registry (such as the Field Dog Stud Book) and is bred as a result of its field trial status (i.e., Champion), that dog shall be eligible for a reduction to the spayed/neutered fee. If the intact rabies registration tag fee has been paid to a veterinarian's office, the owner must submit to the Health Officer proper documentation of the animal's eligibility for the fee reduction along with a request for a refund of the difference between the intact and spayed/neutered fees. Proper documentation to qualify for the fee reduction shall include the following:

ADOPTED by the Board of Health: February 16, 2011

AMENDED: April 25, 2012; March 20, 2013; March 25, 2015; August 19, 2015; June 1, 2016; April 26, 2017; April 24, 2019; February 2025; April 30, 2025

- i. Confirmation of registration with a recognized purebred dog registry (such as the Field Dog Stud Book); **and**
 - ii. A copy of a Championship certificate or other award from sanctioned field trial competition.
- iii. **Medically exempt from surgical sterilization:** A dog or cat that cannot be surgically altered due to a medical condition that could adversely affect the dog or cat's life shall be eligible for a reduction to the spayed/neutered rabies tag registration fee. The attending veterinarian shall complete a Medical Exemption Waiver, on a form provided by the Health Officer, and shall submit the form to the Health Officer along with the rabies vaccination certificate. The form shall include the medical condition of the dog or cat and the recommendation that the dog or cat should not be surgically altered. If the rabies tag registration fee was collected by the animal hospital at the time of vaccination, the owner shall receive a refund of the difference between an intact and spayed/neutered fee.

f) **Registration with less than one year on vaccination:** When there is one year or less remaining on the existing 3 year registration period for a dog or cat, the owner shall receive a new 3 year tag, and will be required to pay the applicable 1 year tag fee (depending upon the animal's reproductive status). The expiration of the registration period will remain unchanged.

g) **Medically exempt from vaccination:** A medically exempt tag will be issued by the Health Officer when a veterinarian submits a Medical Exempt Waiver that specifies a medical condition that contraindicates the rabies vaccination.

- 1. The owner shall pay the applicable 1 year rabies tag registration fee to obtain a medical exempt registration tag.
- 2. The medical exempt registration tag and letter is valid for 1 calendar year from the date of the written statement. The dog or cat's medical condition must be re-evaluated on an annual basis.
- i. If the dog or cat is involved in a bite during the time in which the animal is not vaccinated, the biting dog or cat shall be confined as required in Lake County Code of Ordinances Chapter 172, Section 172.05 (A) (hospital confinement) unless a veterinarian provides a written statement that the animal may be confined per Lake County Code of Ordinances Chapter 172, Section 172.05 (B) (home confinement).

IV. **Notices of Ordinance Violation:** The Health Officer shall only issue a Notice of Apparent Violation or a Notice of Ordinance Violation Ticket when the Health Officer witnesses the alleged violation of Lake County Code of Ordinances Chapter 172.

ADOPTED by the Board of Health: February 16, 2011

AMENDED: April 25, 2012; March 20, 2013; March 25, 2015; August 19, 2015; June 1, 2016; April 26, 2017; April 24, 2019; February 2025; April 30, 2025

- a) **Conditions when a Notice of Ordinance Violation Warning Ticket may be issued:** Under the following conditions the Health Officer may elect to issue a Notice of Ordinance Violation Warning Ticket with the understanding that the violator will come into compliance in the period of time specified on the warning and:
 - 1. The violation is a first offense; or
 - 2. The owner makes a reasonable request for time to meet requirements (e.g., due to financial or time considerations)
- b) **Issuing Notices of Ordinance Violation; exceptions:** Under the following conditions the Health Officer may elect to not issue a Notice of Ordinance Violation:
 - 1. An owner relinquishes an impounded animal; or
 - 2. A dog or cat is found to be not vaccinated against rabies or not registered, but is within 30 days of the required deadline for either (e.g., a 4 ½ month old dog is not yet vaccinated/registered).

V. Animal Impoundment

- a) **Animals running at large; exceptions:** The Health Officer may elect to not impound an animal picked up while running at large when:
 - 1. The owners are actively looking for the animal;
 - 2. The violation is a first offense;
 - 3. The animal is microchipped and registered to a local owner; or
 - 4. The animal is wearing a current rabies tag.
- b) **Unidentifiable animals:** Animals having no identification or microchip, impounded in accordance with Lake County Code of Ordinances Chapter 172 and the Illinois Animal Control Act not redeemed by an owner must be held to allow reclamation by an owner, agent, or caretaker prior to the disposal of the animal:
 - 1. Dogs and exotic animals shall be held a minimum of 5 business days, and
 - 2. Cats shall be held a minimum of 3 business days.
- c) **Impounded animals with implanted microchips:**

ADOPTED by the Board of Health: February 16, 2011

AMENDED: April 25, 2012; March 20, 2013; March 25, 2015; August 19, 2015; June 1, 2016; April 26, 2017; April 24, 2019; February 2025; April 30, 2025

1. When evidence of a microchip is found in an impounded animal and it has been determined that the owner information associated with the microchip is no longer accurate, the animal may be disposed of in accordance with Lake County Code of Ordinances Chapter 172, the Illinois Animal Control Act and Section (b) of this part. The listed owner may be held responsible for fees associated with the impoundment of the animal.
2. The municipal service visit fee may be waived when a microchipped dog is impounded at the request of the municipality when at least one of the following conditions are met:
 - i. The owner information linked to the microchip does not provide current or accurate owner information, or
 - ii. The owner information linked to the microchip is outside the requesting municipality's jurisdiction.

VI. Pet Limit Exemptions

- a) **Long term temporary housing:** When an owner is required to be away from home for an extended, but limited period of time (for example on military duty), and the owner's dogs and/or cats needs to be harbored for this amount of time, the person temporarily harboring the dogs and/or cats shall be exempt from the pet limit restrictions of Lake County Code of Ordinances Chapter 172, Section 172.15 (A), providing all other requirements of Chapter 172 are met and the harborer assumes the responsibilities of the owner during the time the owner is absent.

VII. Nuisance Wildlife and Animal Traps

- a) **Trapping/releasing nuisance wildlife:** The Health Officer shall trap and release wildlife when the wildlife is present in the living quarters/occupied rooms of a residence. The Health Officer shall not trap wildlife in non-occupied portions of a residence including, but not limited to attics, garages, crawl spaces and the inside of walls. Wildlife shall be released in accordance with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Nuisance Wildlife Control Permit requirements (17 ILL. ADM. CODE, CH. I, SEC. 525).
- b) **Nuisance and domestic animal trap deposit fees:** Refundable deposit fees for the use of traps by the public or by other agencies for trapping nuisance wildlife and domestic animals shall be assessed in accordance with the Lake County Animal Care and Control Program Fee Schedule. The Health Officer may waive the collection of the refundable deposit fee in circumstances including, but not limited to:
 1. When the Health Officer has made previous attempts to capture an animal, but has been unsuccessful;

ADOPTED by the Board of Health: February 16, 2011

AMENDED: April 25, 2012; March 20, 2013; March 25, 2015; August 19, 2015; June 1, 2016; April 26, 2017; April 24, 2019; February 2025; April 30, 2025

2. When a municipality or police department is requesting the trap and signs an agreement that it will be responsible for its care and/or replacement if necessary;
3. When a trap is requested to capture a stray biting animal;
4. When a trap is requested for an animal hoarding situation; or
5. When a trap is requested to capture nuisance wildlife located inside an occupied portion of a residence.

VIII. Trap Neuter and Return (TNR) Colony Cat Impoundments: When a cat from a recognized TNR colony (as established by microchip and/or ear tip) is impounded for the first time in a consecutive two-year period, and where there is no documented nuisance associated with the cat or the colony of which it is a part, the following fees, as established in Lake County Animal Care and Control Program Fee Schedule, shall be paid in order to redeem the cat:

- a) Applicable boarding fee;
- b) Transportation fee (if transported by the Health Officer);
- c) Rabies vaccination fee (if the cat is not currently vaccinated);
- d) All fees associated with required rabies confinement/observation; and
- e) All fees for required veterinary services provided.

For a second or subsequent impoundment in a consecutive two-year period of a cat from a recognized TNR colony, or for a first impoundment and there is a documented nuisance associated with the cat or the colony of which it is a part, all applicable fees will be assessed.

Only cats specifically registered to a recognized TNR program will be released to the TNR program or colony caretaker. All other cats will be disposed of in accordance with the Lake County Health Department Animal Care and Control Program Procedures and Policies, Lake County Code of Ordinances Chapter 172, and the Illinois Animal Control Act.

IX. Payment Plans: Payment plans may be granted at the discretion of the Health Officer. The owner must sign an agreement acknowledging that a payment plan has been initiated and shall agree to make monthly payments until the balance is paid in full. An administrative fee for entering into a payment plan shall be assessed per the Lake County Animal Care and Control Program Fee Schedule, but this fee may be waived if full payment is made within 2 weeks.

ADOPTED by the Board of Health: February 16, 2011

AMENDED: April 25, 2012; March 20, 2013; March 25, 2015; August 19, 2015; June 1, 2016; April 26, 2017; April 24, 2019; February 2025; April 30, 2025

a) **Conditions that render an individual ineligible for a payment plan include, but are not limited to:**

1. The owner is currently enrolled in a payment plan and is delinquent in their payments (unless the prior payment plan balance is paid in full);
2. The owner is delinquent in payment of other fees (unless the balance is paid in full); or
3. The owner is unable to provide a current Lake County address.

ADOPTED by the Board of Health: February 16, 2011

AMENDED: April 25, 2012; March 20, 2013; March 25, 2015; August 19, 2015; June 1, 2016; April 26, 2017; April 24, 2019; February 2025; April 30, 2025