

**City of Steele Code
of Ordinances**

ORDINANCE NO. 74

**AN ORDINANCE REPEALING AND
REPLACING ORDINANCE NO. 74**

**REGARDING THE TREATMENT
AND CONTROL OF ANIMALS**

Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Steele, in Kidder County, North Dakota:

1. Definitions. As used in this title, the following words shall have the meaning respectively ascribed to them:

a. "Animal" means every living animal except the human race.

b. "At large" means the animal is off the premises of the owner and is not securely confined in a vehicle or other enclosure or effectively restrained with a leash, cord or chain.

c. "Cruelty" or "torture" means every act, omission, or neglect whereby unnecessary or unjustifiable pain, suffering or death shall be caused or permitted.

d. Vicious dog means without provocation, bites, or attacks human beings or other animals, either on public or private property, or, in a vicious or terrorizing manner, approaches any person in apparent attitude of attack upon a street,

sidewalk, or any public ground or place.

e. "Dangerous animal" Means any animal which has a propensity, tendency, or disposition to attack, bite cause injury or to otherwise endanger the safety or menace human beings or domestic animals.

f. "Dog" or "cat" means both the male and female of the species.

g. "Owner" means any person, firm, association, corporation, or combination thereof keeping or harboring a dog or cat or other animal.

2. No person shall keep or maintain within the corporate limits of the city any animals named hereafter:

- a. Horses
- b. Mules
- c. Cattle
- d. Sheep
- e. Goats
- f. Swine
- g. Bears
- h. Felines other than domestic house cats

- i. Venomous snakes
- j. Wolves
- k. Alligators
- l. Crocodiles
- m. Bees
- n. Scorpions
- o. Skunks
- p. Foxes
- q. Raccoons
- r. Any other poisonous or venomous animal.

3. No person shall keep fowl of any kind within the city except in those commercial zones where fowl would be kept temporarily for sale.

4. Restraint, running at large prohibited; dogs to be leashed required.

a. It is unlawful and is declared a nuisance for any person to pennit or allow any dog of which he is the owner or keeper to run at large within the city, or for the dog to be free of restraint.

b. A dog shall be considered under restraint if it is (a) within the real property limits of its owner and securely confined thereon by a physical fence or underground pet fence; or (b) secured by a tether which does not allow the dog to reach within the property of another person, a public walkway or a road (c) secured by a leash or lead no more than six feet in length being held by a person capable of controlling that dog. A dog that frees itself from its owner's real property limits, from a leash, tether or lead, or a dog that is in a vehicle in a manner that would not prevent escape or contact with other persons or animals shall be considered as not being under restraint.

c. A dog shall be deemed running at large when off or away from the premises of the owner, possessor, keeper, or member of his immediate family and not under control, either by leash, cord, or chain of not more than six feet in length.

d. Violation of this section constitutes a public nuisance, and the owner or keeper of the dog or cat shall be subject to a one hundred dollars (\$100.00) fine for each violation. Any person cited for a violation of this section shall be deemed to be charged with a non-criminal offense and may utilize the same procedures for appearance, payment of statutory fee, posting and forfeiture of bond, waiver of hearing, or hearing as is provided for non criminal traffic offenses.

e. Animal Habitually at Large:

1. "Habitually at large" is de-

fined as 5 or more convictions of Dog at large within 2 years.

2. Whenever there is reasonable cause to believe an animal is habitually at large, an application may be presented to the Steele Municipal Court for a finding that the animal is habitually at large.

3. After receiving evidence at a hearing on the matter, the Municipal Court shall enter an order containing the court's findings, established by a preponderance of the evidence, whether the City has met its burden of showing the animal is habitually at large.

4. If the Defendant does not appear at the hearing, testimony may still be taken.

5. If the Court determines the animal is habitually at large, the Court shall order the removal of the animal from city limits with proof of relocation or surrender of such animal to the custody of the Steele Police Department or designee.

6. Failure to surrender an animal deemed habitually at large within seven

days of the order to surrender is a Class B Misdemeanor.

5. Wastes.

a. It shall be unlawful for any owner or person having control of a dog or cat to fail to collect and properly dispose of the dog's or cat's solid waste when eliminated.

b. Violation of this section constitutes a public nuisance, and the owner or keeper of the dog or cat shall be subject to a fifty-dollar (\$50.00) fine for each violation. Any person cited for a violation of this section shall be deemed to be charged with a non-criminal offense and may utilize the same procedures for appearance, payment of statutory fee, posting and forfeiture of bond, waiver of hearing, or hearing as is provided for non-criminal traffic offenses.

6. Vicious dogs at Large and Dangerous Animal Prohibited.

a. No Vicious dog or Dangerous Animal may be at large at any time within the limits of the City, and it shall be unlawful for the owner or other person having any Vicious dog or dangerous animal in his or her possession or under his or her control, or in any manner keeping or harboring any such animal within the limits of the City, to cause or permit any such animal to be at large in the City.

b. If any dog or animal bites or

attempts to bite any person while such animal is at large, then such animal shall be conclusively presumed to be a dangerous animal or a vicious dog.

c. If any dog or animal attacks or attempts to attack any other dog or cat or other animal while such animal is at large, or chases or otherwise attempts to catch a person, then such animal shall be conclusively presumed to be a vicious dog or Dangerous Animal.

d. Violation of this section constitutes a public nuisance, and the owner or keeper of the dangerous animal shall be subject to a fine not to exceed Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00). The judge can also require the animal shall be confined within a building or secure enclosure and may not be removed from the building or enclosure without being effectively restrained by chain or leash and/or properly muzzled.

e. Upon a second or subsequent violation, a municipal judge may order the surrender of the animal to the humane society or other animal placement organization, or to the Chief of Police, for placement of the animal outside of the City, or may order the humane destruction of the animal. The owner of a vicious dog shall be liable for and shall pay all costs associated with impoundment, removal, euthanasia or other associated costs incurred.

f. In the event a vicious dog or dangerous animal cannot be taken up and caught by the Chief of Police without the Chief of Police exposing himself to danger or personal injury from such dog or animal, or without exposing other persons to danger or personal injury from such dog or animal, it shall be lawful for any Law Enforcement Officer to forthwith destroy such dog or animal.

7. Noisy Animal.

a. It shall be unlawful for any person owning an animal or keeping one under his or her control to allow loud and frequent yelping, barking, howling, or other noise which annoys any person.

b. Any disturbing noise audible to a person within an enclosed building located on neighboring property is sufficient to constitute "loud." Any disturbing noise lasting for a period of thirty (30) minutes or longer constitutes "frequent."

c. Violation of this section con-

stitutes a public nuisance, and the owner or keeper of the animal shall be subject to a fifty-dollar (\$50.00) fine for each violation. Any person cited for a violation of this section shall be deemed to be charged with a non-criminal offense and may utilize the same procedures for appearance, payment of statutory fee, posting and forfeiture of bond, waiver of hearing, or hearing as is provided for non-criminal traffic offenses.

8. Destruction of Property. It shall be unlawful for any person to allow any animal owned by the person or under the person's control to destroy any property not the property of the owner or keeper.

Violation of this section is punishable by fines not to exceed Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00), and restitution as determined by the judge of municipal court.

9. Cruelty to Animals. It shall be unlawful for any person to: maim, mutilate, or kill any animal, or cruelly work any animal when unfit for labor.

b. Fail to provide any animal in their charge or control with necessary food, water, or shelter.

c. Keep any animal in any enclosure without exercise or wholesome change of air.

d. Abandon any animal or cause such an act to be done.

e. Unjustifiably administer or expose any known poisonous substance or noxious drug, whether mixed with food or not, which may be eaten by any domestic animal.

f. Carry or transport any live animal in any vehicle, cage, railroad car, or by any other means that does not permit adequate ventilation and space for the reasonable comfort of the animal, nor carry or transport an animal in any other cruel manner.

g. Willfully frighten, shoot at, wound, kill, capture, ensnare, net trap or in any other manner molest or injure any songbird or insectivorous bird; or in any manner to molest or injure the nest eggs or young of any such bird; or to have in possession the nest

eggs, young or body of such bird, except as authorized by the Chief of Police.

h. This section does not apply to the eradication, by lawful and safe methods, of rodents, including rats,

mice, gophers, and moles.

1. Violation of this section is punishable by fines not to exceed Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00). If a Police Officer deems fit they may issue a citation removing this violation from city court to District under Century code 36-21.2 Treatment of Animals.

10. Vaccination. It shall be unlawful for any person to own or have under his control any dog or cat which has not been inoculated against rabies, if over six (6) months of age.

Violation of this section constitutes a public nuisance, and the owner or keeper of the animal shall be subject to a fifty-dollar (\$50.00) fine for each violation.

11. Number of Dogs or Cats. It shall be unlawful for any person to keep or harbor more than a total of three dogs or cats, six months of age or older, at any one residential location.

Violation of this section constitutes a public nuisance, and the owner or keeper of the animal shall be subject to a fifty-dollar (\$50.00) fine for each violation.

12. If an animal is impounded, they are taken to the Steele Veterinary Clinic or nearest available clinic. All animals are held for seven (7) days before any attempts to adopt them out or humanely destroy the animal are made.

Any fees associated with impoundment are set by the Steele Veterinary Clinic. Any fees are paid directly to the Steele Veterinary Clinic.

If the identity of the owner of an animal which is impounded is known or becomes known, they shall be notified as soon as possible. The owner or keeper will be responsible for settling all fees with the Steele Veterinary Clinic before releasing the animal.

13. If a domestic animal is suspected of being rabid, the Steele Police Department will follow the guidelines from the Steele Veterinary clinic and the guidelines from the North Dakota Department of Health.

First Reading on: 6-8-2026
Second Reading and Passage on 7-13-2026