

CHAPTER 10**Animal Control and Welfare****Table of Contents**

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10.01 Purpose and Intent. This ordinance is created for the purpose of:

1. Establishing and enforcing an effective rabies control program within Vilas County; and

2. Creating an effective and efficient manner of enforcing laws relating to the control and welfare of dogs and other domestic and exotic pets.

10.02 State Laws Adopted – Authority. The County Board’s authority for adopting
[Vilas County General Code of Ordinances](#)

this Ordinance is SS 59.54(6), 95.2, 173.03, and Chapter 174 of the Wisconsin Statutes. These statutes are hereby incorporated herein by reference as published in the most recent revision of the Wisconsin Statutes. Any amendments which are from time to time made in the Statutes shall automatically be made in this Ordinance.

10.03 Application. No provision of this Ordinance shall apply to the City of Eagle River or in any town or village within Vilas County that has enacted a more restrictive animal control ordinance.

10.04 Definitions. Words or phrases, unless specifically defined herein, shall be interpreted as having the same meaning as they have in Wisconsin Statutes and Wisconsin Administrative Code. As used in this Chapter, the following terms mean:

(1) *Animal* means every living: (a) warm-blooded creature, except a human being; (b) reptile or (c) amphibian.

(2) *Animal Control Officer* means any person designated by a town or city government agency to enforce the adopted ordinances of the town, county or state statutes, as they pertain to animal control, except authority restricted to the Vilas County Humane Officer.

(3) *Animal Shelter* means a facility that is operated for the purpose of providing for and promoting the welfare, protection, and humane treatment of an animals, that is used to shelter at least 25 dogs in a year, and that is operated by a humane society, animal welfare society, animal rescue group or other nonprofit group.

(4) *Bite* means the puncture or tear of the skin inflicted by the teeth or claws of an animal.

(5) *Confined* means the restriction of an animal at all times by the owner or agent of the owner

to an escape proof building, vehicle or other enclosure.

(6) *Cruel* means causing unnecessary and excessive pain or suffering or unjustifiable injury or death.

(7) *DATCP* means the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection.

(8) *Domestic Animal* Includes dogs, cats and livestock as defined in Wis. Stat. Sec. 174.001 as “any horse, bovine, sheep, goat, pig, llama, alpaca, domestic rabbit, farm-raised deer, as defined in s. 95.001(1)(ag), or domestic fowl, including any farm-raised game bird, as defined in s. 169.01(12m).”

(9) *Dwelling Unit*, for the purposes of Chapter 10 exclusively, means a building or portion thereof, designated or used exclusively for residential purposes.

(10) *Health Officer* means the person or duly designated representative of such person authorized by Vilas County to enforce public health laws and implement public health program activities.

(11) *Humane Officer* means the person appointed by the Vilas County Board of Supervisors to be responsible for investigating animal related crimes and for enforcing § 95.21 and Chapters 173, 174 and 951 of the Wisconsin Statutes and this Ordinance.

(12) *Kennel or Cattery* means any premises wherein any person engages in the business of boarding, breeding, buying, letting for hire, training for a fee or selling of dogs or cats.

(13) *Licensing Authority* means the municipal treasurer or its delegated collecting agent.

(14) *Owner* means any adult person, other than a humane officer, who owns, harbors, keeps, feeds and/or shelters one or more domestic or other animals.

(15) *Provocation of an animal* means an action to incite or stimulate an animal into an aggressive response.

(16) *Quarantine or Isolation Facility* means a humane society, shelter, veterinary hospital, municipal pound, which is equipped with a pen or a cage which isolates one animal from contact with other animals.

(17) *Running at Large* means any domestic animal not under the control of the owner or the owner’s designee or not having the animal within the real property limits of the owner.

(18) *Service Animal* means any dog that is individually trained to do work or performs tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability. Service animals are required to be leashed or harnessed except when performing work or task where such tethering would interfere with the dog’s ability to perform.

(19) *Veterinarian* means a person who is currently licensed in the State of Wisconsin to practice veterinary medicine.

(20) *Veterinary Hospital/Clinic* means any establishment maintained and operated by a licensed veterinarian, for preventive medicine, surgery, diagnosis and treatment of disease and injury of animals.

(21) *Vicious animal* means any animal that, when unprovoked, inflicts bites or injuries, kills or attacks a human being or domestic animal on either public or private property.

EXCEPTIONS: Vicious animal does not apply to (a) any dog used by the Vilas County Sheriff’s Office while being utilized for law enforcement purposes while under the control and direction of a law enforcement officer; (b) any injury or damage sustained by a person who was entering the owner’s property to commit a burglary, robbery, assault, willful trespass or other crime; and (c) injury or damage sustained by a person who was teasing, tormenting, abusing, assaulting or otherwise provoking the animal; and (d) no dog shall be declared vicious

solely because it bites or attacks a person assaulting its owner, excluding a police officer attempting to subdue or effect the arrest of a suspect.

(22) Wild or Exotic Animal means any animal of a wild nature that is normally found in the wild and that is not a domestic animal.

10.05 Administration and Enforcement.

1. This Ordinance shall be administered jointly by the Vilas County Sheriff's Office, the Vilas County Public Health Department, the Vilas County Humane Officer and the Vilas County Public Health Board.

2. Enforcement: This Ordinance may be enforced by the issuance of citations by the Vilas County Sheriff's Office, the Vilas County Health Officer and the Vilas County Humane Officer. The Corporation Counsel shall prosecute all violations of this Ordinance and may file actions for injunctive relief and shall advise the agencies entrusted with administration of this Ordinance on legal matters pertaining to this Ordinance.

10.06 Program Expenditures Supported by License Fees.

1. Dog License Taxes: The dog license taxes paid to the County Treasurer shall be kept in a separate account and shall be known as the "Dog License Fund", which shall be appropriated and disbursed for the purposes and in the manner following:

(a) The County Treasurer shall pay to the State Treasury five percent (5%) of the minimum tax provided for under section 174.05(2), Wisconsin Statutes, of all dog license taxes.

(b) Expenses necessarily incurred by the County in purchasing books, forms and other supplies required in the administering of the dog license law.

(c) Expenses incurred by the County under Wis. Stat. §95.21(4)(b) and (8).

2. Claims: Any amount remaining in the fund after deducting the above expenses shall be made available for and may be used as far as necessary for paying claims allowed by the

County to the owners of domestic animals, for damages done by dogs during the license year for which taxes were paid. In addition, no claims shall be paid to any person who has failed to obtain a license for a dog that is required to be licensed.

3. Surplus Funds: Any amounts left in the "Dog License Fund" after the payment of claims shall be distributed to the Town's pursuant to the mandates of Wis. Stat. §174.06, §174.07 and §174.09, and pursuant to any amendments thereto.

10.07 Dog License Tax.

1. The owner of a dog more than five (5) months of age on January 1st of any year or five (5) months of age within the license year shall annually on or before the date the dog becomes five (5) months of age shall pay the dog license tax and obtain a dog license. Any license-eligible dog obtained during the license period or brought into the County must be licensed within thirty (30) days of obtaining the animal or bringing the animal into the County. Dogs specially trained for blind, deaf and mobility-trained persons are exempt from this tax and shall annually receive a free dog license from the local collecting agent upon application.

2. Effective January 1, 2013, the minimum dog license tax is \$5.00 for a neutered male dog or spayed female dog, upon presentation of evidence that the dog is neutered or spayed, and \$10.00 for an unneutered male dog or unspayed female dog, or one-half of these amounts if the dog became 5 months of age after July 1st of the license year.

3. The license year commences on January 1st and ends on the following December 31st. Proof of current rabies vaccination in the form of a signed certificate from a licensed veterinarian or a copy thereof shall be presented at the time of licensing to the city or town treasurer or clerk issuing the license pursuant to §174.05 and §174.07, Wisconsin Statutes. The licensing person shall prepare a report to the County Clerk as prescribed in §174.08, Wisconsin Statutes.

4. Multiple Dog license: Any person who keeps more than one dog may, instead of the license tax required by this Chapter, apply to the collecting official for a multiple dog license for the keeping of the dogs. Such person shall pay for the license year a license tax of \$35.00 for 12 or fewer dogs and an additional \$3.00 for each dog in excess of 12. Upon payment of the required multiple dog license tax and upon presentation of evidence that all dogs over 5 months of age are currently immunized against rabies, the collecting official shall issue the multiple dog license and a number of tags equal to the number of dogs authorized to be kept by the person.

5. Dog License Tag: After issuing the license and collecting the associated fee(s) the official shall deliver to the owner a tag of durable material bearing the same serial number as the license, the name of the county in which issued and the license year.

6. Dog License Tags to be Attached to Collar: The owner shall securely attach the tag to a collar and a collar with the tag attached shall be kept on the dog for which the license is issued at all times but this requirement does not apply to a dog during competition or training, to a dog securely confined indoors, to a dog while hunting, to a dog securely confined to a fenced area or to a dog while actively involved in herding or controlling livestock if the dog is under the control of its owner.

7. Duplicate Dog License Tags: A new tag with a new number shall be furnished to the owner by the collecting official in place of the original tag upon presentation of the license. The collecting official shall then endorse the new tag number on the license and shall keep a record on file.

10.08 County Rabies Control Program.

1. The County hereby adopts the State Rabies Control Program and the provisions of §95.21, Wis. Stats.

2. Initial Rabies Vaccination: The owner of a dog shall have the animal vaccinated for rabies by a licensed veterinarian by five (5) months of

age and the dog must receive a booster vaccination within one year of the initial vaccination. An owner, who imports a dog into Vilas County that has reached five (5) months of age, must have the dog vaccinated as evidenced by a current certificate of rabies vaccination from this state or another state.

3. Re-Vaccination: The owner of a dog shall have the animal re-vaccinated before the date that the immunization expires, as stated on the certificate. Vilas County recognizes immunizations of up to three years, if such a vaccine is administered. If no expiration date is specified on the certificate, the animal must be revaccinated within one (1) year of the previous vaccination.

4. Rabies Vaccination Tag: After issuing the certificate of rabies vaccination, the person who administers the vaccine under §95.21(2)(a), Wisconsin Statutes, shall deliver to the owner a rabies vaccination tag of durable material bearing the same serial number as the certificate, the year the vaccination was given and the name, address and telephone number of the supervising veterinarian.

5. Rabies Vaccination Tag to be Attached: The owner shall attach the rabies vaccination tag or a substitute tag to a collar and a collar with the tag attached shall be kept on the dog at all times but this requirement does not apply to a dog during competition or training to a dog while hunting, to a dog securely confined indoors, to a dog securely confined in a fenced in area or to a dog while actively involved in herding or controlling livestock if the dog is under the control of its owner. The substitute tag shall be of durable material and contain the same information as the rabies vaccination tag.

6. Duplicate Rabies Vaccination Tag: The person who administers the vaccine under §95.21(2)(a), Wisconsin Statutes may furnish a new rabies vaccination tag with a new serial number to an owner in place of the original tag upon presentation of the certificate of rabies vaccination. The person, who administers the vaccine under §95.21(2)(a), Wisconsin Statutes,

shall then indicate the new tag number on the certificate and keep a record in the file.

10.09 Animal Bite, Reporting and Quarantine Protocol.

1. Health care providers, attending physicians, and attending veterinarians are required to report all incidents of suspected and/or confirmed animal bites on persons in Vilas County within twenty-four (24) hours to the appropriate law enforcement agency. This includes bites occurring to the owner or immediate family. In the case that no health care providers, physicians, or veterinarians are contacted, the owner is responsible for reporting the incident within twenty-four (24) hours.

2. Quarantine of an animal is mandated if the animal is suspected of biting a person or being infected or exposed to rabies. The Vilas County Humane Officer, a law enforcement officer, or the Vilas County Health Officer, or their designee shall order the animal quarantined if the official has reason to believe that the animal bit a person, is infected with rabies or has been in contact with a rabid animal.

(a) If the law enforcement officer deems it necessary to kill the animal, the animal shall be killed in a safe manner which avoids damage to the animal's head. The law enforcement officer or designee will deliver the head to a licensed veterinarian, who will then submit the same to the Wisconsin State Lab of Hygiene for rabies testing.

(b) An animal other than a dog or cat may be killed if the officer has reason to believe that the animal bit a person or is infected with rabies.

3. Quarantine process.

(a) Delivery to isolation facility or quarantine on premises of owner: If an animal is currently immunized against rabies and has evidence of a valid certificate of rabies vaccination, it may be quarantined at the dwelling of the owner but must follow quarantine procedures. If there is no evidence that the animal is currently immunized and/or doesn't have evidence of a valid rabies vaccination, this animal must be delivered to an isolation facility as soon as possible but no later

than 24 hours after the original order is issued by the law enforcement officer and complete all rabies quarantine procedures at said facility.

(b) Health risk to humans: If a dog, cat or ferret is ordered to be quarantined because there is reason to believe that the animal bit a person, the custodian of an isolation facility or the owner shall keep the animal under strict isolation under the supervision of a veterinarian for at least 10 days after the incident occurred. "Supervision of a veterinarian" includes, at a minimum, examination of the animal on the first day of isolation, on the last day of isolation, and on one intervening day. If the observation period is not extended and the veterinarian certifies that the dog has not exhibited any signs of rabies, the animal may be released from quarantine at the end of the observation period.

(c) Risk to animal health: If a dog, cat or ferret is ordered to be quarantined because there is a reason to believe that the animal has been exposed to a rabid animal and if the dog or cat is not currently immunized against rabies, the custodian of an isolation facility or the owner shall keep the animal leashed or confined for 180 days. The owner shall have the animal vaccinated against rabies between 155 and 165 days after the exposure to a rabid animal.

(d) Sacrifice of a dog, cat or ferret exhibiting symptoms of rabies: If a veterinarian determines that a dog or cat exhibits symptoms of rabies during the original or extended observation period, the veterinarian shall notify the owner and the Health Officer or Humane Officer who ordered the animal quarantined and the veterinarian shall kill the animal in a humane manner which avoids damage to the animal's head and submit the head to the Wisconsin State Lab of Hygiene for rabies testing. If the dog or cat is suspected to have bitten a person the Health Officer shall notify the person or the person's physician.

4. The owner of any animal involved in a bite incident is responsible for all expenses incurred in connection with the quarantine, including but not limited to keeping the animal in an isolation facility, supervision and examination of the animal by a veterinarian, preparation of the carcass for laboratory

examination, and the fee for the laboratory examination, including shipping.

5. Failure of the owner to deliver an animal to a veterinarian or designated quarantine facility within twenty-four (24) hours as ordered by the court, law enforcement or humane officer shall result in seizure of the animal by a law enforcement or humane officer and shall make the owner liable for all costs associated with the seizure and quarantine.

6. Any law enforcement officer, the Health Officer or Humane Officer with reasonable cause to believe an animal has bitten, or is suspected to have bitten a person or has been bitten by another animal, shall issue a quarantine order. A quarantine order may be delivered by personal service, registered mail (with a minimum verbal notice prior, to insure notification of animal examined or quarantined within 24 hours of the incident) or by posting a quarantine sign in a minimum of two (2) conspicuous places on the property.

7. An animal owner aggrieved by such quarantine may, within thirty (30) days, petition the Vilas County Board of Health. The Board shall conduct a hearing within ten (10) days after receiving the petition to determine if the quarantine shall remain in effect or be withdrawn. The hearing shall be conducted pursuant to the procedures outlined in Chapter 227 of the Wisconsin Statutes.

10.10 Animals Running at Large, Unlicensed Animals and Untagged Dogs

1. An animal is considered running at large if it is off the premises of its owner and not under the control of the owner or some other person, except for the following: service dogs while performing their duties; dogs participating in field or obedience trials or exhibitions, dogs assisting their owner or handler in lawful hunting or herding of livestock and dogs assisting law enforcement officer engaged in lawful enforcement activities.

2. A dog is considered to be untagged if a valid license tag is not attached to a collar which

is kept on the dog whenever the dog is outdoors unless the dog is securely confined in a fenced area.

3. An animal is considered unlicensed if it is without a license required by ordinance.

4. Animals Running at Large, Unlicensed Animals or Untagged Dog Subject to Impoundment:

(a) Each municipal shall be responsible for the delivery of any animal found within their municipal boundaries to a shelter or other appropriate facility for impoundment.

(b) A designated town official shall attempt to capture and restrain any ~~dog~~ animal running at large, any unlicensed animal and any untagged dog and shall deliver the animal to an animal shelter or other site as designated by the municipality.

10.12 Impoundment and Disposition of Animals

1. Intake

(a) A humane officer or law enforcement officer may take custody of an animal within his/her jurisdiction if he/she has reasonable grounds to believe the animal is one of the following:

- (i) An abandoned, stray or unwanted animal.
- (ii) A dog not tagged as required by Wis. Stat. Ch. 174.
- (iii) An animal not licensed.
- (iv) An animal subject to a quarantine order.
- (v) An animal that has caused damage to persons or property.
- (vi) An animal used in any crime under Wis. Stat. Ch. 951.
- (vii) An animal delivered by a veterinarian under Wis. Stat. Sec. 173.13.

(b) A person other than a humane or law enforcement officer may not take an animal into custody on behalf of a political subdivision unless the animal is an abandoned or stray animal. If a person other than a humane officer or a law enforcement officer takes custody of an abandoned or stray animal on behalf of a political subdivision, he or she shall deliver the

animal to the humane officer for disposition under Wis. Stat. Sec. 173.23.

(c) Animals taken into custody shall be impounded in a temporary or permanent animal shelter and confined in a humane manner. Animals shall be inspected for name tags, license tags, or evidence of imbedded chips.

2. Notification.

(a) If a humane or law enforcement officer takes custody of an animal with knowledge of the owner; the officer shall explain to the owner the procedure by which the owner can recover the animal and the procedure to be followed if the animal is not returned to him/her.

(b) If a humane or law enforcement officer takes custody of an animal without the knowledge of the owner; the officer shall promptly notify the owner in writing if he/she can be identified and located with reasonable effort. The notice shall explain the procedure by which the owner can recover the animal and the procedure to be followed if the animal is not returned to him/her. The notice shall also inform the owner that he/she must notify any person with a lien on the animal that the animal has been taken into custody.

3. Claimed Animals. No animal shall be returned to its claimed owner if the Circuit Court has prohibited its return pursuant to Wis. Stat. Sec. 173.23(3) and/or until the impoundment, treatment and boarding fees are paid and proof of licensing, ownership and vaccinations is provided.

4. Unclaimed Animals.

(a) Declaration as unclaimed: On the fourth day after an animal is taken into custody, a humane officer may treat the animal as unclaimed if the animal is not claimed by and returned to its owner, if the animal is not held for cause pursuant to Sections 10.12(5) and 10.12(6) herein, and if review of the seizure of the animal is not pending in court.

(b) Disposition of unclaimed animals: A humane officer having custody of an unclaimed animal may do any of the following with the animal:

(i) Release the animal to any person other than its owner, if the person provides proof of name and address, proof of animal licensure (if applicable), proof of vaccination (if applicable) and payment of the custody, care and if the person pays for the care and custody of the animal.

(ii) Sell the animal at a public auction or at a licensed animal market if the animal is not a cat or dog.

(iii) Euthanize the animal no sooner than seven days after the animal was taken into custody.

(iv) Release the animal under Wis. Stat. 174.13 for educational purposes if the animal is a stray or abandoned dog.

5. Injured or Dangerous Animals. A humane officer who has custody of an animal shall have the animal euthanized if ordered to do so by a court of competent jurisdiction. A humane officer who has custody of an animal may have the animal euthanized if there are reasonable grounds to believe any of the following:

(a) the animal is hopelessly injured and without any reasonable chance of recovery;

(b) the animal is an imminent threat to public health and safety; or

(c) The animal is an imminent threat to the health and safety of itself or its custodian.

6. Animals Delivered by Veterinarian. A Humane or Law Enforcement Officer may accept an animal delivered by a veterinarian if the animal has not been picked up by its owner and all of the following apply:

(a) The veterinarian notified the owner of the animal by certified mail, return receipt requested, that the animal was ready to be picked up and the animal would be delivered to a humane officer if not picked up within 7 days.

(b) The veterinarian retained the animal for 7 days after the day on which the return receipt was signed or until the letter was returned to the veterinarian as undeliverable.

(c) The veterinarian certifies in writing to the humane officer or law enforcement officer that Sections 10.12(7)(a) and 10.12(7)(b) apply.

(d) The veterinarian provides the humane

or law enforcement officer all records in his/her possession that concern the animal's ownership, health or licensure.

7. Animals Held for Cause.

(a) Grounds. The County may withhold, or direct the Humane Officer to withhold, an animal in custody from an owner who makes an otherwise adequate claim for the animal under 10.12(4) on any of the following grounds:

(i) There are reasonable grounds to believe that the owner has used the animal in a crime under Wis. Stat. Ch. 951 or that the animal constitutes evidence of a crime under Ch. 951.

(ii) There are reasonable grounds to believe that the animal poses a significant threat to public health, safety or welfare.

(iii) A court has ordered the animal withheld for any reason.

(b) Examination Permitted. If an animal is withheld under sub. (a), upon request by the owner, a veterinarian retained by the owner may examine the animal.

(c) Costs. The owner of an animal withheld under sub. (a) is not liable for any costs of custody, care or treatment except as provided by court order.

(d) Return. Except with respect to an animal taken into custody based on reasonable grounds to believe the animal was used in any crime under Wis. Stat. Ch. 951, the Humane Officer shall release the animal to the owner if the owner pays the impoundment, treatment and boarding fees and provides proof of licensing, ownership and vaccination.

8. Review of Seizure or Withholding. A person claiming that an animal he/she owns was improperly taken into custody or is wrongfully withheld may seek return of the animal by petitioning for an order from the circuit court pursuant to Wis. Stat. Sec. 173.22

10.13 Vicious Animals.

1. Declaration of a Vicious Animal: The Humane Officer or any law enforcement officer, after conducting an investigation into the circumstances surrounding an attack by an animal, is hereby empowered to declare an owned animal in question vicious. The owner of

the animal shall be served personally or by certified mail with return receipt requested, with an order declaring the animal vicious. Any owner aggrieved by said order may petition to the Vilas County Board of Health for review of the order. Upon receipt of the petition, the Board shall schedule and conduct a hearing in conformance with Wisconsin Statutes, Chapter 227. After the hearing, the owner shall be notified in writing of the determination. If the owner or caretaker of the animal contests the determination, he/she may (within 30 days) seek review of the decision by the circuit court.

2. When an animal has been declared vicious and has not been ordered destroyed pursuant to §174.02(3) of the Wisconsin Statutes, the owner shall comply with the following:

(a) animal must be confined indoors or in a securely enclosed and locked pen or structure suitable to prevent the entry of young children and designed to prevent the animal from escaping.

(b) if the owner sells or transfers ownership of the animal to another person or entity, the owner shall notify the humane officer of the name and contact information of the new owner and shall provide the new owner a copy of the vicious animal declaration.

3. While off the owner's premises, the vicious animal must be muzzled and restrained by a suitable chain or leash not exceeding four (4) feet in length and under the control of the owner or keeper. The muzzle must be made in a manner that will not cause injury to the animal or interfere with its vision or respiration but must prevent it from biting any person or animal.

4. All owners of vicious animals shall display, in prominent places on their premises, near all entrances to the premises, signs in letters of not less than 2 inches high using the words "Warning – Vicious Animal." A similar sign is required to be posted on the kennel or pen of the animal.

5. No person shall sell or transfer possession of a "vicious animal" to another person without

first notifying the person that the animal has been deemed a “vicious animal.”

6. Tampering with Signs: Anyone tampering with signs posted pursuant to this section shall be subject to forfeiture.

7. Court Order to Destroy Animal. The Circuit Court may order an officer to kill a dog if the Court finds the following: a) the dog caused serious injury to a person or domestic animal on 2 separate occasions; b) the attacks occurred off the owner’s property, c) the attacks occurred without reasonable cause; and d) the owner of the dog was notified or knew prior to the 2nd injury that the dog caused the first injury. The animal’s owner shall be responsible for costs of destruction.

10.14 Animal Care and Neglect. This section incorporates the provisions of Chapter 951 of the Wisconsin Statutes. The Sheriff’s Office and/or the County Humane Officer will investigate crimes against animals.

1. No person may abandon or abuse any animal. Any law enforcement officer or humane officer may remove, shelter and care for an animal found to be cruelly exposed to the weather, starved or denied adequate water, neglected, abandoned or otherwise treated in a cruel manner and may deliver such animal to another person to be sheltered, cared for and given medical attention, if necessary. In all cases the owner, if known, shall be immediately notified and such officer, or other person, having possession of the animal shall have a lien thereon for its care, keeping and medical attention and the expense of notice.

2. If the owner or custodian of an animal under this section is unknown and cannot, with reasonable effort, be ascertained, the animal may be treated as a stray/unclaimed under Wis. Stats. §173.23.

10.16 Dead Animal Disposal. Animal owners must dispose of carcasses in a timely manner so as to prevent odors and attraction of flies and any other health or sanitary risks. No person who owns or controls a carcass, or who owns or

controls land on which a carcass is located, may leave the carcass exposed to access by dogs or wild animals for more than 24 hours during the months of April to November or for more than 48 hours during the months of December to March if the person knows or reasonably should know that the carcass is exposed.

10.17 Live Wild Native or Exotic Animals.

No person may possess and/or sell any live wild or exotic animal unless the person holds a license or other legal authority to possess the animal.

10.20 Vilas County Humane Officer.

1. AUTHORITY. It is within the authority of the Vilas County Humane Officer as well as the Vilas County Sheriff’s Office to enforce the animal welfare provisions of this Chapter. Humane Officers and sworn law enforcement officers within the County shall have authority to issue citations for violations of this Chapter. The Humane Officer shall have all the powers and duties as set forth in Wis. Stat. §173.07.

2. JURISDICTION. Pursuant to Wis. Stat. §173.03(3), the animal laws within this Chapter shall apply throughout Vilas County other than within the boundaries of any City or Village whose governing body adopts a Resolution withdrawing from Vilas County enforcement of humane laws and transmits a copy of the Resolution to Vilas County.

3. ISSUANCE OF ABATEMENT ORDER. If a Vilas County humane officer appointed by the Vilas County Board of Supervisors or a law enforcement officer employed by Vilas County after investigation has reasonable grounds to believe that a violation of a statute or ordinance is occurring and the violation is causing or has the potential to cause injury to an animal, the humane officer or law enforcement officer may issue and serve an order of abatement directed to named persons. The Public Health Board or the Public Health Board’s designee, as the official empowered to modify or withdraw Abatement Orders, may not participate in the decision to issue the Order or in any activity leading to that decision.

(a) Content of Order. An Abatement Order issued under Subsection (3), above, shall contain all of the following:

(i) The name and address of the person to whom directed;

(ii) The statute or ordinance alleged to be violated;

(iii) A prohibition on further violations;

(iv) A description of measures necessary to correct the alleged violation;

(v) A description of the hearing and appeal provisions under section 9.30(3)(b) and (c).

(b) Hearing. Any person named in an Abatement Order issued under Subsection (3) may within the ten-day period following service of the Order request a hearing before the Public Health Board or the Public Health Board's designee by filing a request for a hearing with the Public Health Department. The hearing shall be held within ten (10) days after the request is made unless the requester agrees to a later date. The hearing shall be informal in nature.

(c) Decision. Within ten (10) days after a hearing under Subsection (3), above, the Public Health Board or the Public Health Board's designee who conducts the hearing shall affirm the Order, modify and affirm the Order, or withdraw the Order.

(d) Appeal. Any person adversely affected by a decision under Subsection 3(c), above, may seek judicial review by commencing an action in Circuit Court within thirty (30) days after the day that the decision is issued.

10.21 Roles of Vilas County Municipalities.

1. Vilas County towns and cities shall annually provide the County Clerk with the contact information of the designated constable/animal control officer or dog catcher, and whether the town or city operates its own shelter facility or contracts with a licensed shelter facility.

2. Issues involving the control and supervision of animals in Vilas County shall be the primary responsibility of the town, village or city in which they occur.

10.22 Penalties. Any person, firm, corporation or entity found to be in violation of any provision of this Chapter shall be subject to a penalty as follows, unless otherwise set forth in this Chapter. \$25.00 forfeiture for first offense of any provision of this Chapter, \$50.00 forfeiture for second offense and \$75.00 forfeiture of third offense and any subsequent offense. Penalties do not include court costs or assessment fees.