

February 23, 1987
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Introduced By: Ron Sims

Proposed No.: 87 - 101

ORDINANCE NO. 7986

AN ORDINANCE relating to animal control, specifically licensing, spaying and neutering, waiver of fees and penalties, and administrative rules for animal adoption; amending Ordinance 1396, Article II, Section 1 and K.C.C. 11.04.030, Ordinance 1396, Article III, Section 5 and K.C.C. 11.04.210; and adding a new section.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

SECTION 1. Ordinance 1396, Article II, Section 1 and K.C.C. 11.04.030 are hereby amended to read as follows:

A. License requirements. All weaned dogs and cats harbored, kept or maintained in King County shall be licensed and registered annually; provided, however, that dogs kept in kennels need not be licensed as provided in Section 11.04.040; provided further, that this section shall not apply to dogs used by the department of public safety for police work.

B. License issuance. Dog and cat licenses shall be issued by the animal control section upon application and payment of an annual license fee made payable to the department of finance according to the schedule provided in Section 11.04.035 of this chapter:

1. License will be valid for a term of one year from the date of issuance, expiring on the last day of the twelfth month. There is no proration of any license fees. Renewal licenses will retain the original expiration period whether renewed prior to, on, or after their respective renewal month;

1 2. King County residents sixty-five years of age or older
2 may purchase a special permanent license for the lifetime of cats
3 or dogs which are neutered or spayed and for which they are the
4 registered owner when said animals are maintained at said owner's
5 registered address. Such residents shall not be required to
6 annually purchase a new license for the lifetime of such licensed
7 animals; provided, that no person shall be issued more than three
8 special permanent licenses for any combination of three cats and
9 dogs for which they are the registered owner;

10 3. Applications for a dog or cat license shall be on forms
11 provided by the animal control section;

12 4. All license tags issued herein shall be securely
13 affixed to a substantial collar, harness or other means and shall
14 be worn by the dog at all times. As an alternative to a license
15 tag, an animal may be identified as licensed by being tattooed on
16 its right ear or on its inside right thigh or groin with a
17 license number approved or issued by the animal control section.

18 C. Penalty. 1. A late penalty shall be charged on all dog
19 and cat license applications, according to the schedule provided
20 in Section 11.04.035 of this chapter.

21 2. No late penalty shall be charged on new license
22 applications if:

23 a. The owner submits proof of purchase of acquisition of
24 the animal within the preceding thirty days; or

25 b. The owner has moved into the county within the
26 preceding thirty days; or

27 c. The animal is currently or has been within the
28 preceding thirty (30) days, under the age which requires a
29 license ((~~six-months~~)); or

1 d. The owner purchases the license(s) voluntarily, prior
2 to in person or field contact by animal control personnel; or

3 e. The owner submits other proof deemed acceptable in
4 the section's administrative rules and regulations.

5 D. Fees collected. All fees and fines collected under this
6 chapter shall be deposited in the county current expense fund.

7 E. Checks. It shall be a violation of this chapter for any
8 person to knowingly issue a check for which funds are
9 insufficient or to stop payment on any check written in payment
10 of fees contained in this chapter. Any license(s) or penalties
11 paid for with such checks are, in the case of the license,
12 invalid; and in the case of the penalty, still outstanding.

13 Costs incurred by the county in collecting checks of this nature
14 shall be considered a cost of abatement and are personal
15 obligations of the animal owner under K.C.C. 11.04.300.

16 F. Nonapplicability. The provisions of this section shall
17 not apply to dogs or cats in the custody of a veterinarian or
18 animal shelter or whose owners are nonresidents temporarily
19 within the county for a period not exceeding thirty days.

20 SECTION 2. Ordinance 1396, Article III, Section 5 as amended
21 and K.C.C. 11.04.210 are hereby amended to read as follows:

22 Impounding. A. The director of the animal control authority
23 and his authorized representatives may apprehend any animals
24 found doing any of the acts defined as a public nuisance and/or
25 being subjected to cruel treatment as defined by law. After such
26 animals are apprehended, the animal control authority shall
27 ascertain whether they are licensed, or otherwise identifiable.
28 If reasonably possible, the animal control authority shall return
29 the animal to the owner together with a notice of violation of
30 this chapter. If it is not reasonably possible to immediately
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1 return a currently licensed animal to its owner, the animal
2 control authority shall notify the owner within a reasonable time
3 by regular mail or telephone that the animal has been impounded
4 and may be redeemed. Any currently licensed animal impounded
5 pursuant to this chapter shall be held for the owner at least one
6 hundred twenty hours, after posting of the notification of
7 impoundment by regular mail or after telephone contact by the
8 impounding agency; any other animal impounded pursuant to this
9 chapter shall be held for its owner at least seventy-two hours
10 from the time of impoundment. The county shall not sell any
11 animals to research institutes or licensed dealers for research
12 purposes. Any animal suffering from serious injury or disease
13 may be humanely destroyed, or, in the discretion of the
14 impounding authority, may be held for a longer period and
15 redeemed by any person on payment of charges not exceeding those
16 prescribed herein.

17 B. Any animal not redeemed shall be treated in one of the
18 following ways:

19 1. Made available for adoption at a fee of five dollars
20 per animal.

21 a. Any person may adopt an animal impounded pursuant to
22 the provisions contained in this chapter when all billable costs,
23 redemption fees, penalties, and boarding costs incurred in such
24 impoundment are made payable to the county finance director,
25 which may be accepted by the animal control authority acting as
26 agent for the county.

1 b. There shall be a spay/neuter deposit of \$25.00 on all
2 adopted animals. All dogs and cats adopted from the King County
3 animal shelter shall be spayed or neutered within thirty days
4 from the date of adoption, or the age of six months for females
5 or nine months for males, whichever comes last. The deposit will
6 be returned to the adopting person upon submission fo proof that
7 the sterilization was performed within the applicable time period
8 ((180-days-of-the-date-of-adeption)).

9 c. The director shall have the authority to set
10 administrative rules regarding the adoption of animals from King
11 County shelters.

12 2. Humanely destroyed by euthanasia.

13 NEW SECTION. SECTION 3. Waiver of fees and penalties.

14 A. The director has the authority to waive licensing fees,
15 late licensing penalty fees, and redemption and sheltering fees,
16 in whole or in part, when to do so would further the goals of the
17 animal control section and be in the public interest.

18 B. In determining whether a waiver should apply, the
19 director must take into consideration the following elements:

20 1. The reason the animal was impounded;

21 2. The reason or basis for the violation, the nature of
22 the violation, the duration of the violation, and the likelihood
23 the violation will not recur;

24 3. The total amount of the fees charged as compared with
25 the gravity of the violation;

1 4. The effect on the owner, the animal's welfare and the
2 animal control section if the fee(s) or penalties are not waived
3 and no payment is received.

4 INTRODUCED AND READ for the first time this 17th day
5 of February, 1987.

6 PASSED this 23rd day of March, 1987.

7 KING COUNTY COUNCIL
8 KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

9 Bill Reams
10 VICE Chairman

11 ATTEST:

12
13 Janet M. Owens
14 Clerk of the Council

15 APPROVED this 2 day of April, 1987.

16 Jim Hill
17 King County Executive