

TOWN OF ROCKFORD, MINNESOTA
ORDINANCE NO. 85-1

ORDINANCE PROHIBITING DOGS FROM RUNNING AT LARGE,
AND PROHIBITING VICIOUS DOGS

The Town Board for the Town of Rockford, Wright County, Minnesota, ordains:

Section 1. Definitions

- A. The terms "running at large" and "run at large", when used in this ordinance, shall mean and be defined as any place within the platted residential area in the Town of Rockford other than on the premises of the owner, keeper or custodian of any dog.
- B. As used in this ordinance "owner" shall mean any person, keeper, custodian, firm or corporation owning, harboring or keeping a dog.

Section 2. Barking Dogs

No person, owner or keeper shall keep or harbor a dog, within the platted residential area in the Town of Rockford which habitually barks, howls, or cries between the hours of 10 P.M. and 6 A.M. Any such dog is hereby declared to be a public nuisance and shall be impounded and destroyed.

Section 3. Vicious Dogs

No owner or keeper shall keep or harbor a dog within the platted residential area in the Town of Rockford which is known to be vicious or destructive. Any such dog is hereby declared to be a public nuisance and shall be impounded and destroyed.

Section 4. Running at Large Prohibited

No dog shall be permitted to run at large within the platted residential area in the Town of Rockford.

Section 5. Leash and Control

The restriction imposed by Section 4 above shall not prohibit the appearance of any dog upon the streets or public property when such dog is on a leash and kept under the control of the accompanying person, or when such dog is not on a leash, but is under the immediate and complete control of the person charged with its care, either by voice control or otherwise.

Section 6. Contract - Dog Catcher

The Town Board is empowered to contract with a dog pound keeper, a dog catcher and any other officers, including police officers, necessary to enforce the provisions, terms and conditions of this ordinance.

Section 7. 5 Day Notice

Any dog impounded under the provisions of this ordinance shall be kept in a pound for a period of 5 days after a notice of such impounding has been posted in the Town Hall, and the owner, if known, has been notified, except as otherwise ordained in Section 8. All dogs impounded hereunder shall be fed and treated in a humane manner.

Section 8. Unclaimed Dogs

If any dog so impounded for any violation of this ordinance has not been claimed or redeemed within the 5 days as herein provided, the pound keeper or any other duly designated officer or agent of the town is hereby authorized and empowered to destroy said dog in a humane manner according to law, or to surrender, without cost, the same to a humane society.

Section 9. Redemption of Dogs

A. If within the said 5 days the owner of such impounded dog shall pay the costs of such impounding, the owner shall be given the possession of the impounded dog.

B. Upon the expiration of said 5 days and before such impounded dog has been destroyed, any person may claim or redeem such impounded dog by paying the costs aforesaid.

Section 10. Cost of Impounding

The costs for the impounding and care of any impounded dog shall be Five Dollars (\$5.00) per 24-hour day, or fraction thereof.

Section 11. Impounding Vicious Dogs and Continuing Nuisance

A. The dog catcher or any other duly designated officer or agent of the town is hereby empowered and authorized to kill any dog found in violation of this ordinance, whenever such dog cannot be safely taken up and impounded.

B. Any dog running at large within the platted residential area in the Town of Rockford, and which running at large creates a continuing public nuisance, may be destroyed by the duly designated officer or agent of the town without notice.

Section 12. Interference with Officers

It shall be unlawful for any unauthorized person to break open the pound or attempt to do so, or to take or let out any dogs therefrom, or to take or attempt to take from any officer or agent, any dog taken up by him in compliance with this ordinance or in any manner to interfere with or hinder such officer or agent in the discharge of his duties under this ordinance.

Section 13. Inspection

The duly designated officer or agent of the town is hereby authorized, empowered and instructed to enter upon any private premises within the platted residential areas in the Town of Rockford in the enforcement of the provisions of this ordinance.

Section 14. Penalty

Any person, firm or corporation violating any of the provisions of this ordinance shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine not to exceed Seven Hundred Dollars (\$700.00) and/or by imprisonment not to exceed ninety (90) days, or both.

Passed in the name of the Town of Rockford by the Town Board this 24th day of September, 1985.

This ordinance shall be effective upon publication.

(S E A L)

Dennis Berie
Chairman

James O. Taylor
Clerk