

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### Animal Neglect

It is unlawful for a person who impounds or confines, in any place, an animal, excluding livestock, to fail to supply the animal during confinement with a sufficient quantity of food or water, or to fail to provide a confined dog or cat with adequate shelter, or to torture, deprive of necessary sustenance, mutilate, beat, or kill such animal by any means which causes unjustified pain, distress or suffering.

### Number of Animals Restricted

Not more than four (4) dogs or cats or combinations thereof over the age of six (6) months shall be kept by any person on any premises in the City except in bona fide kennels or pet shops.

### Annoyance or Disturbance

It is unlawful for the owner of a dog to allow or permit such dog to cause serious annoyance or disturbance to any person by frequent and habitual howling, yelping, barking, or otherwise, or by running after or chasing persons, bicycles, automobiles or other vehicles.

### Cats Disturbing the Peace

No owner shall permit a cat to cause annoyance or disturbance to any person or persons in any manner including frequent and habitual hissing, meowing or fighting; defecation on property other than that of the owner; and the defacing or scratching or marring of any personal property other than that of the owner of said animal.

### Abandonment of Cats and Dogs

A person who has ownership or custody of a cat or dog shall not abandon the cat or dog, except the person may deliver the cat or dog to another person who will accept ownership and custody or the person may deliver the cat or dog to an animal shelter or pound.

### Owner's Duty

It is the duty of the owner of any dog, cat or other animal which has bitten or attacked a person or any person having knowledge of such bite or attack to report this act to a local health or law enforcement official.

Thank you for your  
cooperation!



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For more information on Animal Protection and Control, please visit  
<http://polkcityia.gov/search?q=animal%20control>

# Pet Owner Responsibilities

## Animal Protection and Control



**HAVING A PET IS BOTH A  
PLEASURE AND A  
RESPONSIBILITY.**

**KNOW THE LAW**

## DEFINITIONS

**Owner** - any person owning, keeping, sheltering or harboring an animal.

**Pets** – a living dog, cat or an animal normally maintained in a small tank or cage in or near a residence, including but not limited to a rabbit, gerbil, hamster, mouse, parrot, canary, mynah, finch, tropical fish, goldfish, snake, turtle, gecko or iguana.

## ANNUAL LICENSE REQUIRED

Every owner of a cat or dog six (6) months old or older shall procure a license for such cat or dog from the Clerk's office on or before the first day of January each year and shall pay to the Clerk a fee of \$8.00 for each animal. Fees paid on or after April 1 each year shall be \$15.00 for each license. An additional \$1.00 charge shall be assessed for all fees paid and licenses issued by mail."

1. No such license shall be issued until the owner shall procure for examination a certificate of a veterinarian licensed to practice in the State of Iowa that the cat or dog has been vaccinated against rabies and that the vaccination does not expire within six (6) months from the effective date of the license.
2. Upon payment of the license fee and production of the certificate, the Clerk's office shall issue to the owner a license which shall contain the name of the owner, the owner's place of residence and a description of the cat or dog. Said license shall be executed in duplicate, one copy of which shall be retained by the Clerk's office as a public record.

The Clerk shall also issue and deliver to said owner a metal tag stamped with the number of the license and the year for which it is issued. The tag shall be worn at all times by the cat or dog for which the license is issued. Every cat or dog found off the property of its owner without said license tag attached to its collar or harness shall be deemed to be unlicensed.

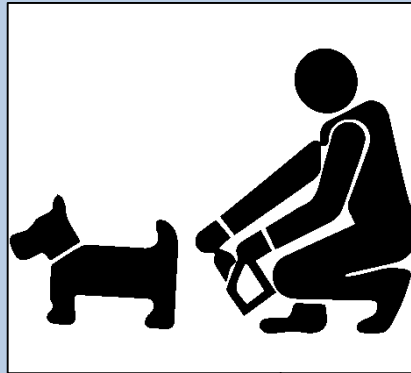
## ALWAYS PICK UP AFTER YOUR PET

Not only do pet owners have a responsibility for the care, feeding and general welfare of their pets, they have a responsibility for proper disposal of pet waste.

### **Why? It's the law.**

According to Polk City City Ordinance 55.18: It is the duty of every person owning or having custody or control of an animal to clean up, remove and dispose of the feces deposited by such animal upon public property, park property, public right-of-way or the property of another person.

Failure to comply with the law could result in a municipal infraction fine of up to \$750.00 for the first offense, and up to \$1,000.00 for each offense thereafter.



### **What's the big deal?**

We all know that pet waste is unsightly and smelly, but did you know pet waste can be a health hazard. If improperly disposed of, it can expose humans and other animals to harmful bacteria, viruses and parasites. If a dog leaves two piles of waste on the ground on a daily basis, think how much waste accumulates in a week, month or year. Get the picture?

### **What can I do?**

- Always clean up after your pet, even in your own yard. Your pet's waste is NOT a fertilizer.
- Carry disposable bags with you while you walk your pet
- Throw your pet's waste in the trash, tie the bags off so they don't spill
- Be a good neighbor – tell others about the risks of leaving their pet's waste on the ground, yard, and street

## KEEP YOUR PET ON A LEASH

It is unlawful for any owner to allow an animal to run at large within the corporate limits of Polk City.

Animals found at large in violation shall be seized and impounded, or at the discretion of the peace officer, the owner may be served a summons to appear before a proper court to answer charges made thereunder.

## DISPOSITION OF ANIMALS.

### **Notification to Owner.**

Following seizure of any properly licensed cat or dog with identification tags attached, the owner shall be notified of such seizure by telephone or by letter mailed to the owner's address as disclosed on the tags.

### **Animal Held for 24 Hours.**

After seizure of a cat or dog, the animal will be kept at City facilities for a maximum of 24 hours. If seized on a Friday, the animal will be kept no later than 2:00 p.m.

### **Impounding**

In addition to any other requirements, the owner of a seized cat or dog shall be charged a fee, and may reclaim such cat or dog only upon payment of such fee, in the following amount:

1. If the cat or dog does not have a current license: \$40.00 for the seizure.
2. If the cat or dog has a current license:
  - A. \$25.00 if it is the first seizure during the calendar year;
  - B. \$50.00 if it is the second seizure during the calendar year;
  - C. \$75.00 if it is the third seizure during the calendar year; or
  - D. \$100.00 for each subsequent seizure during the calendar year