

HOW CAN I HELP?

Keeping pets safe in our community and keeping animal problems under control is a tough job. When pet owners accept the responsibility to abide by the city's ordinance, the Animal Control Officer's job goes more smoothly. Your support in adhering to the law is important in keeping our city safe for both our pets and citizens.

ANIMAL CONTROL ORDINANCE

Sec. 14, Animals

A copy of the ordinance may be reviewed at the city's web site: www.ridgelandms.org. Questions may be directed to the Animal Control Office within the Ridgeland Police Department at 601.856.2121.



Randy Tyler
Chief of Police

115 W. School Street
Ridgeland, MS 39157
601.856.2121 phone
601.853.2028 fax

ANONYMOUS TIP LINE:
601.853.2006

MISSION STATEMENT:

The Ridgeland Police Department provides police services in order to enhance community safety, protect life and property, and reduce crime and the fear of crime. The Department works with the community to improve the safety and quality of life in our city by identifying and resolving public safety concerns.

the city of **RIDGELAND**



Summary of Ridgeland's ANIMAL CONTROL ORDINANCE



Produced by the
Ridgeland Police Department
Department of Animal Control

SUMMARY

Abandonment: It is unlawful to abandon animals.

Cruelty: It shall be unlawful for any person to overload, torture, torment, unjustifiably injure, deprive of necessary sustenance, food or drink, or cruelly beat or ill-treat or needlessly mutilate or otherwise abuse any animal within the city.

Dangerous dogs: Any dog when unprovoked, approaches, in a dangerous or terrorizing manner, any person in an apparent attitude of attack; causes injury or otherwise endangers the safety of human beings or domestic animals or attacks a human being or domestic animal on public or private property. Animals found to be dangerous must be kept confined.

Exposing to poisons: No person shall willfully or negligently poison any animal.

Impoundment: An unrestrained dog/cat that is a public nuisance shall be taken by the police or animal control officer and impounded in an enclosure or animal shelter. Livestock that is at-large will be captured and impounded at an appropriate facility.

Motor Vehicles: It shall be unlawful for any person to leave an animal unattended inside a motor vehicle within the city when such action is reasonably potentially harmful to the animal. Motor vehicle operators who strike an animal shall notify the police immediately.

Owner responsibility: Exercise proper care and control of your animal and prevent your animal from becoming a public nuisance, i.e., excessive barking, damaging private or public property, repeatedly at-large, molests passersby or passing vehicles, or attacks other animals.

ENFORCEMENT

The Ridgeland Police Department provides animal control services and enforcement of the law for our community. We are responsible for the protection of animals from neglect, injury, abuse and inhumane treatment at the same time while protecting the health, welfare and safety of the public.



Provide your animal with sufficient food, water, proper shelter and protection from the weather, and veterinary care when needed.

Removal of waste: A pet owner/custodian is responsible for the removal of any excreta deposited on public and/or private property. The owner must not allow his own property to become unsanitary.

Rabies control: Anyone who owns or harbors a cat or dog 3 months of age or older must have the animal vaccinated for rabies and be able to provide proof of vaccinations. Dogs are required to wear a collar with the tag secured.

Running at-large (unrestrained): It is unlawful for owners to permit their dogs, cats or other animals to run at-large. Your pet must be secured by a leash or lead of less than six feet or tethered or fenced within property belonging to you.

School ground/parks: Animals are prohibited on school grounds or in city parks.

BANNED DOGS

Banned breeds of dogs are banned entirely and may not be owned, harbored or kept within the City of Ridgeland as of March 17, 2009. Banned breeds of dogs are defined as any of the following:

- American Pit Bull Terrier;
- Staffordshire Bull Terrier;
- American Staffordshire Terrier;
- Wolf-dog hybrid.

Enforcement, Registration, and Confinement of Banned Dogs:

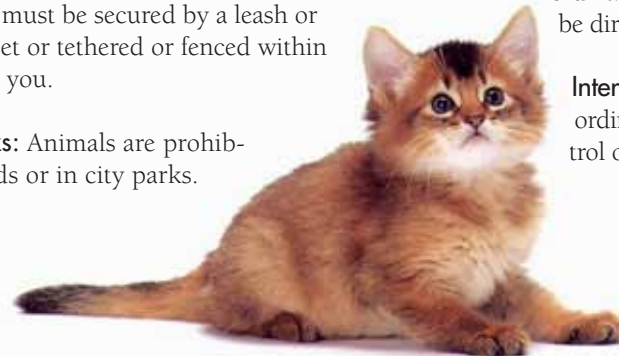
The city's ordinance further defines the laws as applicable to banned dogs; owners of banned dogs shall read and comply with Article VI. Owners are required to carry a liability insurance policy as set forth in Article III. Dogs, Sec. 14-88, (d), (3).



VIOLATION & PENALTIES

Penalties, fines, and fees for various violations are defined in several Articles and Sections throughout the ordinance. Questions regarding this item may be directed to the animal control officer.

Interference: It shall be a violation of this ordinance to interfere with the animal control officer in the performance of his duties.



For Information and Services
Phone: 601.856.2121
AnimalControl@ridgelandms.org