

SEC. 7-1-7 IMPOUNDMENT OF ANIMALS.

- (a) **Animal Control Agency.**
 - (1) The City of Galesville may contract with or enter into an agreement with such person, persons, organization or corporation to provide for the operation of an animal shelter, impoundment of stray animals, confinement of certain animals, disposition of impoundment animals and for assisting in the administration of rabies vaccination programs.
 - (2) The City of Galesville does hereby delegate any such animal control agency the authority to act pursuant to the provisions of this Section.
- (b) **Impounding of Animals.** In addition to any penalty hereinafter provided for a violation of this Chapter, any Police or Humane Officer may impound any dog, cat or other animal which habitually pursues any vehicle upon any street, alley or highway of the City, assaults or attacks any person, is at large within the City, habitually barks, cries or howls, kills, wounds or worries any domestic animal or is infected with rabies. In order for an animal to be impounded, the impounding office must see or hear the violation of this Section or have in his possession a signed statement of a complaining witness made under oath alleging the facts regarding the violation and containing an agreement to reimburse the City for any damages it sustains for improper or illegal seizure.
- (c) **Claiming Animal; Disposal of Unclaimed Animals.** After seizure of animals under this Section by a law enforcement or humane officer, the animal shall be impounded. The officer shall notify the owner, personally or through the U.S. Mail, if such owner be known to the officer or can be ascertained with reasonable effort, but if such owner be unknown or unascertainable, the officer shall post written notice in three (3) public places in the City, giving a description of the animal, stating where it is impounded and the conditions for its release, after the officer has taken such animal into his possession. If within seven (7) days after such notice the owner does not claim such animal, the officer may dispose of the animal in a proper and humane manner; provided, if an animal before being impounded has bitten a person, the animal shall be retained in the Animal Shelter for ten (10) days for observation purposes. Within such times, the owner may reclaim the animal upon payment of impoundment fees, such fees to be established by resolution of the Common Council. In the alternative, animal control or humane agencies serving the City may provide notice pursuant to their operating procedures and state law. No animal shall be released from the pound without being properly licensed if so required by state law or City Ordinance.
- (d) **Sale of Impounded Animals.** If the owner doesn't reclaim the animal within seven (7) days, the animal warden may sell the animal to any willing buyer.
- (e) **City Not Liable for Impounding Animals.** The City and/or its animal control agency shall not be liable for the death of any animal which has been impounded or disposed of pursuant to this Section.