

ORDINANCE NO. 341

THIS IS AN ORDINANCE OF THE VILLAGE OF PETERSBURG, NEBRASKA, REGULATING THE KEEPING OF AND RUNNING-AT-LARGE OF DOGS; DEFINING DANGEROUS DOGS; PROVIDING FOR RABIES VACCINATION AND METHODS OF HANDLING; REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 206; AND PROVIDING A PENALTY.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Chairman and the Board of Trustees of the Village of Petersburg, Nebraska:

Section 1. DOGS DECLARED A NUISANCE. All dogs found running at large upon the streets and public grounds of the Village are hereby declared a public nuisance and shall be impounded by the Village police as provided herein. Every lot or parcel of land in the Village where more than two (2) adult dogs, which are defined as dogs over the age of 3 months shall be confined, treated, boarded, housed or cared for, are declared to be a public nuisance.

Section 2. BARKING AND OFFENSIVE DOGS PROHIBITED. It shall be unlawful for any person to own, keep or harbor any dog which by loud, continued or frequent barking, howling or yelping shall annoy or disturb any neighborhood or person, or which habitually barks or chases pedestrians, bicycles, motor vehicles, or riders of horses while they are on any public sidewalks, streets or alleys in the Village; provided, the provisions of this section shall not be constructed to apply to any Village dog shelter.

Section 3. RUNNING AT LARGE. "Running at large" shall mean any dog found off the premises of the owner and not under the control of the owner or a responsible person, either by leash, cord, chain, wire, rope, cage or other suitable means of physical restraint. It shall be unlawful for any person to suffer or permit any dog to run at large within said Village and every dog found running at large in violation hereof is declared to be a public nuisance and may be picked up by the animal control officer or Village police officer.

Section 4. DANGEROUS DOGS; DEFINITIONS.

"Animal Control Authority" shall mean the Village Board of Petersburg.

"Animal Control Officer" shall mean any individual employed, appointed or authorized by the Animal Control Authority for the purpose of aiding in the enforcement of this act or any other law or ordinance relating to the licensing, control, or seizure and impoundment of animals, and shall include any state or local law enforcement personnel or other employees whose duties in whole or in part include assignments that involve the seizure and impoundment of any animal.

"Dangerous Dog" shall mean any dog that:

1. has killed or inflicted severe injury on a human being on public or private property.
2. has killed a domestic animal while the dog was off the owner's property.

A dog shall not be defined as a dangerous dog if any threat or any damage was sustained by a person who, at the time, was committing a willful trespass or any other tort upon the property owner of the dog; nor shall a dog be considered a dangerous dog if the dog was provoked or abused by the party complaining.

“Domestic animal: shall mean a cat, a dog or livestock.

“Owner: shall mean any person, firm, corporation, organization, political subdivision or department possessing, harboring, keeping or having control or custody of a dog.

“Severe injury” shall mean any physical injury that results in lacerations requiring multiple sutures or cosmetic surgery, or one or more broken bones, or that creates a potential danger to the life or health of the victim.

Section 5. DANGEROUS DOGS; CLASS OF DOGS PROHIBITED. The following breeds or any mix of the following breeds are hereby declared to be Dangerous Dogs: Akita; Chow; Doberman Pinscher; English Bull Terrier; German Shepherd, including the American White Shepherd; Pit Bull Breeds, including but not limited to The American Pit Bull Terrier, American Staffordshire Terrier and the Staffordshire Bull Terrier; Rottweiler; Wolf Hybrids; American Bandogge Mastiff; Bullmastiff; Neopolitan Mastiff; Presa Canario Boeboel; Kyiapso; Siberian/Alaskan/Eskimo/Greenland Husky; Alaskan Malamute; Olde English Bulldogge; Catahoula; and Dalmation. It is unlawful to keep, shelter or harbor such breeds of dogs for any purpose within the Village limits.

Section 6. DANGEROUS DOGS; FAILURE TO COMPLY. Any dangerous dog may be immediately confiscated by an animal control officer if the owner is in violation of this article, and said officer may enter upon private property in order to confiscate the animal. In lieu of confiscation, the animal control officer may immediately destroy the dangerous dog if it poses a threat of harm to said officer or any other person or property. The owner shall be responsible for the costs incurred by the Animal Control Authority for the care and boarding of a dangerous dog confiscated by an animal control officer or for the destruction of any dangerous dog if the owner violated this Ordinance. (Ref. Neb. Rev. Stat. § 54-620)

Section 7. RABIES VACCINATION. every dog three months of age or older shall be vaccinated against rabies pursuant to Nebraska law. Puppies shall be vaccinated within 30 days after having reached three months of age. Unvaccinated dogs acquired or moved into the Village must be vaccinated within 30 days after purchase or arrival, unless under three months of age as specified above. The provisions of this ordinance with respect to vaccination shall not apply to any dogs owned by a person temporarily residing within this city for less than 30 days, any dog brought into the Village for show purposes, or any dog brought into this Village for hunting purposes for a period of less than 30 days; such dogs shall be kept under the strict supervision of the owner.

Section 8. RABIES SUSPECTED; IMPOUNDMENT. Any dog or other animal suspected of being afflicted with rabies or any dog not vaccinated in accordance with the provisions set forth above which has bitten any person or has caused an abrasion of the skin of any person shall be seized by a police officer or animal control officer of this Village and shall be impounded under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian or public health authority for not less than ten days. If, upon examination by a veterinarian, the

dog or other animal has no clinical signs of rabies at the end of such impoundment, it shall be released to the owner upon said owner paying the costs of said impoundment, or, in the case of a stray, shall be disposed of in whatever manner deemed best by the Village police officer. (Ref. Neb. Rev. Stat. § 74406)

Section 9. RABID DOGS; CAPTURE IMPOSSIBLE. The animal control officer shall have the authority to kill any domestic animals with the characteristics of rabies which make capture impossible because of the danger involved.

Section 10. RABID DOGS; PROCLAMATION. It shall be the duty of the Village Board of Chairman whenever, in their opinion, the danger to the public safety from rabid dogs is great or imminent, to issue a proclamation ordering all persons owning, keeping or harboring any dog to muffle the same, or to confine it for a period of not less than 30 days or more than 90 days from the date of such proclamation, or until such danger is past. The dogs may be harbored by any good and sufficient means in a house, garage or yard on the premises wherein the said owner may reside. Upon issuance of the proclamation it shall be the duty of all persons owning, keeping or harboring any dog to confine the same as herein provided.

Section 11. VIOLATIONS. Any person who violates any provision of this Ordinance is hereby declared to be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be fined not more than \$500 and shall pay for the cost of prosecution. A separate offense shall be deemed committed on each day upon which a violation of this Ordinance occurs or continues. In addition to the foregoing penalties, the person who violates this Ordinance shall pay all expenses including shelter, food, handling, veterinary care and expert testimony necessitated by enforcement of this Ordinance.

Section 12. REPEAL OF ORDINANCE #206. Ordinance #206 is hereby repealed.

Introduced by:

Seconded by:

Passed and approved this 4th day of January, 2005.

Published: 1/12/05

Anthony Thieman
Chairman of the Board,
Village of Petersburg

ATTEST:
Jeanne Stokes
Village Clerk