

LYON COUNTY ORDINANCE NO. 20

WHEREAS, it is the purpose and intent of the Lyon County Board of Commissioners to regulate the handling of dogs that have bitten any person in a manner where the health, safety and welfare of all persons in Lyon County, residents and visitors alike, are protected;

NOW THEREFORE, the Lyon County Board of Commissioners ordains the following:

Subd. 1(a). Any dog that has bitten any person and caused an abrasion of the skin of such person shall be subject to seizure and impoundment by the county for a period of not less than ten days. Seizure and impoundment shall occur in every case where law enforcement is summoned unless the owner of the dog satisfies both law enforcement and the person bitten, or in the case of a minor the person's parent or guardian, that the dog can and will be safely and properly contained at the owner's residence for a ten-day period. When a dog is confined at the owner's residence the owner shall arrange and pay for the dog to be examined by a veterinarian at the end of the ten-day period. Following the examination, the owner of the dog shall immediately provide documentation to law enforcement that the dog has been examined by a veterinarian and shows no signs of rabies. In cases where the dog is seized, impoundment shall be at a veterinarian's place of business where the dog may be observed and examined on a frequent basis. If an impounded dog shows no sign of rabies at the end of the ten-day period, it may be released to the owner upon the owner's payment of the impoundment fee and any veterinarian fee. If the dog dies or the veterinarian observes signs suggestive of rabies, the dog shall be sacrificed and the brain tissue examined for evidence of infection by the rabies virus. The owner of the dog shall pay any and all costs associated with said examination.

b. Nothing in this ordinance shall prevent a licensed veterinarian from releasing the dog to its

owner before the expiration of the ten -day period if the veterinarian is satisfied that the dog does not pose a public safety risk. If the veterinarian releases the dog to the owner the veterinarian shall immediately notify law enforcement of the animal's release and the reasons for its release. Law enforcement shall be responsible for notifying the person bitten, or in the case of a minor the person's parent or guardian, of the dog's release from quarantine.

Subd. 2 **Penalty.** The owner of a dog that has bitten any person and caused an abrasion of the skin shall immediately comply with the provisions of Subd. 1(a) upon notification by law enforcement. Failure to comply with any part of Subd. 1(a) by the dog's owner is a misdemeanor.

Voting For: Buysse, Fenske, Gladis, Nelson

Absent: Goodenow