

DEFINITIONS

When used in this ordinance, the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

ACO means the Animal Control Officer or his/her designated agent.

At Large means off the premises of the owner and not under the direct physical control of the owner or handler by leash, cord, chain or other similar means of direct physical control whose length is less than 20 feet. The wearing of a muzzle by a dog shall not be regarded as control under this definition

Exemption to the definition of "*at large*": Dogs that are especially trained to assist officials of government agencies in the performance of their duties and which are owned by such agencies are exempt from the definition of "*at large*".

Collar means any device securely fastened about the animal's neck with attached valid rabies and valid registration tags.

Dog means a domesticated animal male, female or neutered canine familiaris.

Dangerous Dog means a dog that

- a. makes an unprovoked attack on a person (or a domesticated animal) that causes bodily injury and occurs in a place other than an enclosure in which the dog was being kept, and that was reasonably certain to prevent the dog from leaving the enclosure on its own; or
- b. commits unprovoked acts in a place other than an enclosure in which the dog was being kept and that was reasonably certain to prevent the dog from leaving the enclosure on its own, and those acts cause a person to reasonably believe that the dog will attack and cause bodily injury to that person.

Serious Bodily Injury means an injury characterized by severe bite wounds or severe ripping and tearing of muscle that would cause a reasonably prudent person to seek medical treatment from a medical professional and would require hospitalization without regard to whether the person actually sought medical treatment.

Impoundment Fees means reasonable expenses that the Village incurs directly or indirectly, incurred by or on behalf of the Village for impounding, holding, boarding, seeking the owner of, disposing of, or selling an animal.

Owner means any person having title to any animal or a person who has, harbors, or keeps or causes or permits to be harbored or kept, any animal in his care, custody, or control.

Premises means real estate improved or unimproved.

Quarantine means strict confinement of a dog specified in an order of the Texas Board of Health or its designee

- a. on the private premises of the animal's owner or at a facility approved by the Texas Board of Health or its designee; and
- b. under restraint by closed cage or paddock, or in any other manner approved by Texas Board of Health rule.

Rabies means acute viral disease of man and animal affecting the central nervous system and usually transmitted by an animal bite.

Secure Enclosure means a fenced area or structure that is

- a. locked;
- b. capable of preventing the entry of the general public, including children;
- c. capable of preventing escape or release of a dog;
- d. clearly marked as containing a dangerous dog; and
- e. in conformance with the requirements for enclosures established by the local animal control authority.

Veterinarian means a doctor of veterinary medicine who holds a valid license to practice the profession in Texas.

Dog Control Nuisance means any dog problem that an owner causes or allows to be caused in the manner of keeping a dog that disturbs the comfort, physical senses, health or well being of another person; or that interferes with another person's enjoyment or rightful use of his own property. Unreasonable barking, howling, or screeching noises are defined as a nuisance whether the dog is on the owner's premises or not. Barking shall not be deemed a nuisance if a person is trespassing or threatening to trespass upon private property in which the dog is kept.

CHAPTER I. REGISTRATION AND VACCINATIONS

A. Registration of Dogs

1. **Registration Requirement** - The owner of a dog that is over the age of four (4) months and located within the Village limits shall register the dog with the Village.
2. **Registration of Visiting Dogs** - Any visitor who is the owner of a dog which is kept within the boundaries of the Village for a period of 30 days or less shall register the dog with the Village dog control program. A current rabies vaccination certificate must be presented for registration and the owner must ensure that the dog's rabies tag is attached to the dogs collar or harness and is worn by the dog at all times. No fee will be required for the registration and no Village permit or tag shall be required provided the visiting dog remains in the Village for a period of less than 30 days. If the visiting dog does remain in the Village for more than 30 days then the owner must obtain a Village permit and tag, and must ensure that the Village tag along with the rabies tag is properly worn by the animal at all times for the remainder of its duration in the Village.
3. **Registration Certificate**
 - a. The Village shall issue a registration certificate to the owner of an animal required to be registered under this section if the owner provides the Village with the information necessary to complete the registration certificate and pays the Village the full amount of the initial registration fees as determined by the Council.
 - b. Each registration certificate that the Village issues shall state the following:
 - 1) The name, address, and telephone number of the owner of the animal;
 - 2) The name, address, and telephone number of an alternate person responsible for the animal (if requested by the owner);
 - 3) The period for which the registration is issued;
 - 4) A description of the animal for which the registration is issued and a file photo of the dog;
 - 5) 5.The name of the animal for which the registration is issued;
 - 6) The number of the metal tag issued for the animal;
 - 7) A record of any violations of this ordinance involving the animal or the owner of the animal.
 - c. The Village shall not issue a registration certificate for a dog until the owner of the animal provides the Village with written proof of the animal's current vaccination against rabies.
 - d. The Village shall retain a copy of each registration certificate it issues.
4. **Registration Tag**
 - a. The Village shall issue a metal registration tag valid for one year, with a serial number plainly inscribed thereon for each dog the Village issues a registration certificate.
 - b. The Village shall deliver registration tags to the owners of registered dog when the Village issues the registration certificate for the animal.
 - c. The owner of a dog required to be registered under this section shall attach the registration tag provided by the Village for the dog to a collar securely fixed about the neck of the registered dog.
 - d. If the registration tag provided by the Village under this subsection is lost or destroyed, the owner of the registered dog shall apply to the Village for a new tag by presenting the dog's registration certificate and paying the fee prescribed by the Council.
 - e. **Change of Ownership** - Within thirty (30) days of any change in ownership of a registered dog under this section, the new owner shall transfer the dog's registration certificate to his or her name.
5. **Annual Registration Fee** - When the owner of a dog registers that dog, he will be required to pay an annual registration fee set by the Village Council as described in Appendix 1.
6. **Non-Resident Workers or Visitor's Dogs** - Non-resident workers, service personnel or visitors entering Point Venture must obtain permission from the owner or person in control of the property before permitting a dog to enter upon any such property. Such workers, personnel, or visitors must ensure that their dogs

have a current rabies tag and must keep their dog physically restrained to the premises or under direct physical control when working, performing a service or visiting.

B. Rabies Vaccination Requirements

1. The owner of a dog within the Village limits shall have that dog vaccinated against rabies before the dog is 4 months of age and once every 12 months thereafter.
2. The owner of a dog that is required to be vaccinated shall maintain and keep a vaccination certificate issued by a veterinarian evidencing the status of the animal's rabies vaccination.

CHAPTER II. PROHIBITIONS

- A. Unregistered Dogs** - It shall be unlawful for any person to own, harbor, or keep a dog over four (4) months of age for which the Village has not issued a current and unrevoked registration certificate
- B. Unvaccinated Dogs** - It shall be unlawful for any person to own, harbor, or keep a dog over four (4) months of age that has not been vaccinated against rabies within the preceding twelve (12) months by a veterinarian.
- C. Requirement for Collar** - It shall be unlawful for the owner of any dog regulated by this ordinance to permit such dog to be off of the owner's premises without a collar securely fastened to the dog.
- D. At Large Dogs** - It is unlawful for any person to allow a dog to run at large within the Village limits of Point Venture. An exception is made for the Point Venture Property Association park property where dogs can be unleashed if under the supervision of their owner or caretaker. The dog must be kept at least 100 feet away from other people or domestic animals. If the distance from the dog to other people or domestic animals becomes less than 100 feet then the leash law requirements apply again and the dog is considered to be "at large" if left unleashed within 100 feet.
- E. Dogs That Attack or Threaten To Attack** - It is unlawful for any owner of a dog within the Village limits to allow that dog to attack or bite a person or domestic animal (that lawfully has the right to be where he, she, or it is) without provocation and off of the owner's premises. It is also unlawful for the owner to allow the dog to commit acts that cause a person to reasonably believe that the dog will attack and cause bodily harm to the person or domestic animal (that lawfully has the right to be where he she or it is).
- F. Physical Control of Dangerous Dog** - It shall be unlawful for the owner of any dangerous dog to fail to directly physically control the dangerous dog at all times. For purposes of this paragraph, "directly physically control" means to either control by leash, cord, chain, or other similar means of physical restraint of a maximum length of six (6) feet (when the animal is on the owner's premises), or to confine said animal within an enclosure adequately constructed and maintained to ensure continuous physical restraint or in such other manner as to ensure that the animal does not leave the owner's premises.
- G. Chaining or Staking Out a Dog** - It is unlawful for any person to chain, stake out or tether any dog on any unenclosed premises in such a manner that the animal may go beyond the property line of the owner unless such person has permission of the owner or lessee of the affected property. At no time may the dog be allowed access to the public right of way while chained, staked out, or tethered.
- H. Sanitation** - It is unlawful for any owner of a dog within the Village limits to permit or allow that animal to defecate upon any public place or upon any improved property not owned or controlled by the dog's owner, unless such waste is promptly removed by the owner.
- I. Dogs in Heat** - It shall be unlawful for the owner of any unspayed female animal to allow the same to be in or about any public place in the Village while in heat (season).
- J. Dog Nuisance** - It shall be unlawful for any person to own, keep, or harbor a dog in such a way that creates a dog nuisance as defined in this ordinance.
- K. Interference With The Duties of The Animal Control Officer** - It is unlawful for any person to knowingly and intentionally interfere with the Village Animal Control Officer while in the lawful discharge of his/her duties as prescribed in this ordinance.

CHAPTER III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Animal Control Officer

- 1. Local Rabies Control Authority** - For purposes of this Chapter, the Animal Control Officer (ACO) is designated as the local health authority for the Village. The ACO may delegate such authority to persons that he or she finds appropriate as needed to effectuate the provisions of this ordinance.

Authority - Texas Health & Safety Code § 826.017.

- 2. General Duties of ACO** - The ACO shall issue warnings or citations to owners of animals that own or keep such animals in violation of this ordinance. The ACO may impound animals that are owned or kept in violation of this ordinance and take such dogs to the Village kennels, and, as soon as practicable, notify the dog's owner to claim the animal before the dog is delivered to the contract veterinarian.

Upon impoundment the ACO may deliver the dog to the contract veterinarian for handling and/or disposal, or may hold the dog at the Village kennels for a period (specified in Appendix 1) prior to delivering the dog to the contract veterinarian. The Village does grant authority to the contract veterinarian to dispose of a dog not claimed within the period specified in Appendix 1.

- 3. Additional Impoundment Authority of ACO** - The ACO is authorized and empowered to enter upon any land within the Village limits and to use reasonable means to take up and impound:
 - a. Any dog which is not being kept physically restrained from leaving the premises of its owner or handler;
 - b. Any dog suspected of being infected with rabies;
 - c. Any dangerous dog kept in violation of this ordinance;
 - d. Any dog known to have caused the injury or death of another domestic animal.
- 4. ACO Duties Regarding Dogs that Bite or Scratch Persons or Domestic Animals and/or Exhibit Rabid Characteristics**
 - a. The ACO shall investigate all reports and notifications regarding any dog that has bitten or scratched a person or another domestic animal and/or is suspected of being rabid;
 - b. The ACO shall use reasonable means to immediately impound any dog he or she believes is rabid or has exposed a person or another animal to rabies; and
 - c. The ACO shall deliver impounded dogs that he or she believes are rabid or have exposed a person or another animal to rabies to the contract veterinarian to be quarantined and evaluated for at least ten (10) days.
 - d. Impoundment Fees. The ACO or a designated representative shall collect impoundment fees, as specified by the Village Council, for all animals that are placed into impoundment.
- 5. ACO Duties Regarding Persistently Stray Dogs** - If a dog is found to be persistently at large with no registration and no owner can be identified, the ACO may impound the dog and transport it to a holding facility from which it can be reclaimed, adopted, or as a last resort, euthanized.

B. Reporting and Quarantine of Dogs Suspected of Having Rabies

- 1. Citizen's Reporting of Dogs That Have Bitten or Scratched Persons or Shown Rabid Characteristics**
 - a. Any person that is bitten or scratched or has knowledge of another person that is bitten or scratched by a dog in the Village limits and reasonably believes that such bite or scratch could transmit rabies shall immediately report the incident to the ACO.
 - b. Any person that suspects a dog has rabies in the Village limits shall immediately report the animal to the ACO.
 - c. The reports required under subsections (1) and (2) shall include the name and address of any victim and of the dog's owner, if known, and any other data which may aid in locating the victim or the animal.
 - d. The owner of an unvaccinated dog within the Village limits, that knows or suspects that his or her dog is rabid or has exposed a person or another animal to rabies, or to whom these conditions have been reported shall, upon learning of such condition or exposure:
 - 1) immediately confine their dog;
 - 2) promptly notify the ACO of the place of confinement and the reasons for the confinement;
 - 3) prevent their dog from coming into contact with any person or other animal; and

- 4) submit their dog for quarantine to the ACO.
2. Procedures for Veterinarian Quarantine. At the request and expense of the animal's owner, and with the consent of a veterinarian, quarantines required by this ordinance may be conducted at facilities maintained by, and under the supervision of, a veterinarian other than the contract veterinarian if the veterinarian submits written reports to the ACO as to the dog's health on the initial day of the quarantine and on the fifth (5th) and tenth (10th) days thereafter.
 - a. If the veterinarian determines that a quarantined dog does not show the clinical signs of rabies or other zoonose disease dangerous to human beings or animals, the dog may be released to its owner following the quarantine period if:
 - 1) the owner has an unexpired rabies vaccination certificate for the dog;
 - 2) the dog is vaccinated against rabies by a veterinarian at the owner's expense.
 - b. The veterinarian shall not release any dog under this section until the ACO receives a certificate signed by the veterinarian certifying that in his or her professional opinion the dog is free of transmissible rabies, and that it has been given any and all required rabies vaccinations.
 - c. In the event any veterinarian confines any animal under the provisions of this section, and the owner of such dog fails or refuses to claim the dog or fails to have any required vaccinations within three (3) days of the expiration of the quarantine period, the veterinarian shall release such dog into the custody of the Village to be delivered to the contract veterinarian to be handled and disposed of in accordance with state law.
 - d. If the veterinarian determines that a quarantined dog shows the clinical signs of rabies, he or she shall report such fact to the ACO, who shall authorize the humane destruction of the dog.
 - e. If a dog dies or is destroyed while in quarantine, the ACO shall authorize the removal of the head or brain of the dog for submission to the Texas Department of Health Laboratory for testing.
3. **Refusal or failure to present a dog for rabies quarantine or testing** - It is unlawful for any person to fail or refuse to quarantine or present for rabies testing; a dog that is required to be placed into quarantine or for rabies testing as prescribed in this ordinance.

C. Handling of Dogs Exposed to Rabies

1. Not currently vaccinated animals which have been bitten or directly exposed by physical contact with a rabid animal or its fresh tissues shall be:
 - a. humanely killed; or
 - b. if sufficient justification for preserving the dog exists, the exposed animal shall be immediately vaccinated against rabies, placed in strict isolation for ninety (90) days, and given booster vaccinations during the third and eighth weeks of isolation. For young animals, additional vaccinations may be necessary to ensure that the animal receives at least two (2) vaccinations at or after the age prescribed by the United States Department of Agriculture for the vaccine administered.
2. Currently vaccinated animals which have been bitten or otherwise significantly exposed to a rabid animal shall be:
 - a. humanely killed; or
 - b. if sufficient justification for preserving the dog exists, the exposed vaccinated animal shall be given a booster rabies vaccination immediately and placed in strict isolation for (forty-five) 45 days.
 - c. In situations where none of the requirements of this section are applicable, the recommendations contained in the latest edition of the publication titled The Compendium of Animal Rabies Control, published by the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians should be followed.

(This ordinance provision follows the Texas Administrative Code chapter 169, subchapter A, rule 169.30)

D. Impoundment and Other Fees

1. The owner of any dog which has been impounded for rabies examination, treatment, or disposition pursuant to this Chapter shall pay, in addition to the impoundment fees, all reasonable charges incurred by or on behalf of the Village in connection with such examination, treatment, or disposition.

2. The owner of any impounded dog not wearing, at the time of such impoundment, a registration tag required by this chapter that is permanently affixed to its collar or harness must provide satisfactory proof of the dog's vaccination at the time the dog is claimed by the owner to the Village before the Village may release the dog. If the owner does not provide such vaccination proof to the Village, the owner shall pay the Village a reasonable vaccination fee in addition to the impoundment fees and fines so that the Village may vaccinate the dog before releasing it to the owner.
3. The Village may not release any dog impounded under this Chapter until the owner pays the Village all applicable costs, fees, and fines. In the event an owner fails to claim its dog, or refuses or fails to pay all applicable fees, the Village may file a lawsuit against the owner to collect the costs, fees, and fines.

Cross-Reference - See Appendix I - Fee Schedule

E. Procedure for Dogs Causing Injury or Death to Another Animal

1. A dog that is determined by the Village ACO or a peace officer to have caused injury or death to another domestic animal within the Village limits may be impounded by the Village ACO or the peace officer and delivered to the Village contract veterinarian clinic and a court hearing set within thirty (30) days of the date of the incident to determine the disposition of the case.
2. Any dog found by the court to have injured or killed any domestic animal, may be ordered to be destroyed by euthanization at the Village contract veterinarian clinic.
3. The owner of the dog is responsible for all impound, euthanization, and disposal fees.
4. Any ACO or peace officer that witnesses a dog to have caused injury or death of another domestic animal is authorized to enter onto any land and may destroy the dog on-site.
5. It is a defense if the animal injured or killed did enter an enclosure designed to keep the dog on its own property and the injury or death occurred in that enclosure.

F. Determination that a Dog is Dangerous

1. If a person reports an incident in which a dog
 - a. makes an unprovoked attack on a person (or a domesticated animal) that causes bodily injury and occurs in a place other than an enclosure in which the dog was being kept, and that was reasonably certain to prevent the dog from leaving the enclosure on its own; or
 - b. commits unprovoked acts in a place other than an enclosure in which the dog was being kept and that was reasonably certain to prevent the dog from leaving the enclosure on its own, and those acts cause a person to reasonably believe that the dog will attack and cause bodily injury to that person, then the animal control authority may investigate the incident.
2. If after receiving the sworn statements of any witnesses, the animal control authority determines the dog is a dangerous dog, he/she shall notify the owner in writing of that fact.
3. An owner, not later than the 15th day after the date the owner is notified that a dog owned by the owner is a dangerous dog, may appeal the determination of the Animal Control Authority, to the municipal court. An owner may appeal the decision of the municipal court in the same manner as appeal for other cases from the municipal court.

G. Required Procedures for the Owner of a Dangerous Dog

1. Not later than the 30th day after a person learns that he/she is the owner of a dangerous dog, the person shall:
 - a. register the dog with the Village as a dangerous dog and pay, in full, the registration fee as determined by Council; and
 - b. restrain the dangerous dog at all times on a leash not longer than 6 feet, in the immediate control of a person on the owner's property or in a secure enclosure on the owner's property; and
 - c. obtain liability insurance coverage or show financial responsibility in an amount of at least \$100,000 per dog to cover damages resulting from an attack by the dangerous dog, causing bodily injury to a person and provide proof of the required liability insurance coverage or financial responsibility to the animal control authority for the area in which the dog is kept.

2. The owner of a dangerous dog that does not comply with subsection (1) shall deliver the dog to the animal control authority not later than the 30th day after the owner learns that the dog is a dangerous dog.
3. If, on application of any person, a justice, court, county court or municipal court finds, after notice and hearing, the owner of a dangerous dog has failed to comply with subsections 1) or 2) above, the court shall order the animal control authority to seize the dog and shall issue a warrant authorizing the seizure. The authority shall seize the dog or order its seizure and shall provide for the impoundment of the dog in secure and humane conditions.
4. 4. The owner shall pay any cost or fee assessed by the Village or county related to the seizure, acceptance, impoundment or destruction of the dog. The Village council will prescribe the amount of the fees.
5. The court shall order the animal control authority to humanely destroy the dog if the owner has not complied with subsection 1) before the 11th day after the date on which the dog is seized or delivered to the authority. The court shall order the authority to return the dog to the owner if the owner complies with subsection 1) before the 11th day after the date on which the dog is seized or delivered to the authority.
6. The court may order the humane destruction of the dog if the owner of the dog has not been located before the 15th day after the seizure and impoundment of the dog.
7. For the purposes of this section, a person learns that the person is the owner of a dangerous dog when:
 - a. The owner knows of an attack described in "Determination That A Dog is Dangerous" above.
 - b. The owner receives notice that a justice court, county court or municipal court has found that the dog is a dangerous dog under "Determination That A Dog is Dangerous";
 - c. the owner is informed by the animal control authority that the dog is a dangerous dog.

H. Registration of a Dangerous Dog

1. The Village shall issue animal registration of the dangerous dog if the owner presents proof of;
 - a. liability insurance or financial responsibility;
 - b. current rabies vaccination of the dangerous dog; and
 - c. a secure enclosure in which the dangerous dog will be kept.
2. If an owner of a registered dangerous dog sells or moves the dog to a new address, the owner, not later than the 14th day after the date of the sale or move, shall notify the Village Animal Control Officer of the new address where the dangerous dog is located. If the dog has been moved to a new jurisdiction, the owner of the dangerous dog and the Village Animal Control Officer shall notify the animal control authority in the new jurisdiction of the location of the dangerous dog.

I. Procedures for Dangerous Dog At Large or Attack by a Dangerous Dog

1. Any declared dangerous dog found to be at large, and not in the vicinity of the dog owner shall, if possible, be impounded by the Village Animal Control Officer or a peace officer. If safety factors do not allow for the safe impoundment of the dangerous dog, the dangerous dog may be destroyed on site by the Village Animal Control Officer or a peace officer.
 - a. Upon impoundment of a dangerous dog by the Village Animal Control Officer, the dog shall be delivered to the Village Contract Veterinarian or Village kennel clinic and a court hearing set within ten (10) days of the date of the incident to determine the disposition of the case.
 - b. It is the responsibility of the dangerous dog owner to pay all fees associated with the impoundment and or euthanization of the dog.
 - c. Any dangerous dog found by the court to have been at large may be ordered to be destroyed by euthanization at the Village contract Veterinarian clinic.
2. Any declared dangerous dog found to have committed an unprovoked attack on a person outside the dog's enclosure and causing serious bodily injury or death, shall be impounded by the Village Animal Control Officer or a peace officer and a court hearing set within ten (10) days of the date of the incident to determine the disposition of the case.

- a. If the owner of the dangerous dog is found guilty of an offense under this section the court shall order the dangerous dog destroyed by euthanization at the Village Contract Veterinarian clinic.
- b. It is the responsibility of the dangerous dog owner to pay all fees associated with the impoundment and or euthanization of the dangerous dog.

Appendix 1

Table of Fees and Fines for Animal Control Violations

Note: Warnings can be given in lieu of citations and fines.

	(Dollars)
Registration fee (spayed or neutered)	5
Registration fee (not spayed or neutered)	15
 Dog impound fee	
1st offense	25/day
2nd offense	25/day
3rd offense	25/day
 Dog at large	
1st offense	40
2nd offense	80
3rd offense	120
 Dog with no Village registration	
1st offense	25
2nd offense	50
3rd offense	75
 Dog without collar & tags	
With proof of tags	10
Without proof of tags (1st)	25
Without proof of tags (2nd)	50
Without proof of tags (3rd)	75
 No rabies vaccination	
1st offense	10
2nd offense	20
3rd offense	30

Dangerous Dog registration	50/yr reg
Dangerous dog at large (1st offense)	150
Dangerous dog at large (2nd offense)	175
Dangerous dog at large (3rd offense)	200
Tying animal in public ROW	
1st offense	40
2nd offense	80
3rd offense	120
Dog nuisance violation	
1st offense	25
2nd offense	50
3rd offense	75
Dog defecating on property	50
Refusal to quarantine a dog	30-500