

ORDINANCE NO. 1374

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF KALAMA, WASHINGTON AMENDING KALAMA MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 6.04.130 ANIMAL – IMPOUNDMENT AND REDEMPTION TO UPDATE EXISTING LANGUAGE TO REFLECT CURRENT PROCEDURES

WHEREAS, the City finds the existing municipal code is in need of updating in order to more accurately reflect and authorize the procedures used by the Police Department to notify the public of found dogs, thereby needing to be updated for accuracy;

NOW THEREFORE the City Council of the City of Kalama do ordain:

Section 1. Kalama Municipal Code Chapter 6.04.130 is amended to read as follows:

6.04.130 - Impoundment and redemption.

- A. Impoundment. An officer may impound any animal in violation of Section 6.04.050.
- B. Notification of Owner. Upon any animal being impounded, animal services shall, as soon as feasible, notify the owner, if the owner is known, of the impoundment of the animal, and the terms required for the animal's return to the owner. Notification may be by telephone, or by other means appropriate for the circumstances, and shall include a description of the animal, the reason for impoundment, the general location where the animal was found, and the date when the impounding occurred, and shall advise the owner that the animal may be placed for adoption, sale, or euthanized by animal services unless reclaimed within the time limits provided in this section.
- C. Reclaim of Animal. The owner may reclaim any animal impounded under this chapter within a seventy-two-hour hold period, excluding Sundays and holidays, from the time of impoundment by paying a service charge pursuant to a posted schedule of fees duly adopted by the city, and, if the animal is an animal which is not licensed, shall also pay the appropriate fee for a license. Payment of any service or impoundment charges are in addition to any fine, penalty, or medical fee incurred.
 - 1. Failure by Owner to Reclaim. If the owner of the animal can be identified and fails to reclaim the animal or sign a release of ownership of the animal within the seventy-two-hour holding period, the animal will be considered released to animal services. However, the owner will remain responsible for payment of the impound, medical and service fees.
 - 2. Availability for Adoption. If the animal is not redeemed by the owner within seventy-two hours of notice of impoundment, it will be made available for adoption or sale during the next seventy-two hours, excluding Sundays and holidays, unless in the opinion of the animal services director or director's designee, the animal is unsuitable for adoption, in which case it may be humanely destroyed.

3. Late Reclaim. If a pet is adopted after the seventy-two-hour holding period, and an owner appears to reclaim the animal after that time, return of the animal to the original owner shall be at the discretion of the adopter.
- D. Owner Unknown. If the owner of an animal is not known, ~~a notice providing appropriate information as described in subsection B above shall be recorded onto a telephone message device maintained by animal services. This notice shall continue to be recorded for a period of seventy-two hours from the date of impoundment, or less if said animal is reclaimed or adopted after the seventy-two-hour holding period required by subsection C of this section.~~ **animal services shall attempt to locate and identify the owner of the animal. These efforts to locate and identify the owner may include information posted in various locations in the city, newspaper advertisements, internet or social media postings, and other appropriate measures as needed. These efforts shall continue** for a period of seventy-two hours from the date of impoundment, or less if said animal is reclaimed **by it's owner.**
- E. Sick and Injured. All seriously sick or injured animals, licensed or not, may be impounded when not in the owner's possession and may be given emergency medical treatment or euthanized. Costs for any medical treatment provided in this manner will be the responsibility of the owner of the animal, if known, or, if unknown, by animal services. The animal services director or designee shall immediately notify the owner, if the owner is known, and if the owner is unknown, make all reasonable efforts to locate and notify the owner.
- F. Abandoned Animals. Officers are empowered to impound any animal found abandoned within any building, establishment, or premises, whether public or private. Upon such impoundment, animal services shall treat such animal in the same manner as other impoundments provided for in this chapter. Litters of puppies and kittens under three months of age brought to or left at the animal shelter may be made available for adoption, placed in foster care or euthanized immediately at the discretion of the director or the director's designee.
- G. Humane Destruction. If any animal is not redeemed or adopted at the end of the seventy-two-hour holding period from the time it entered the shelter, it may be euthanized.

Section 2. Severability. If any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause, or phrase of this ordinance is declared unconstitutional or invalid for any reason, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining parts of this ordinance.

Section 3. This ordinance shall become effective five days after passage, approval, and publication as provided by law.

Passed by the City Council of the City of Kalama at a regular meeting held on the 16th day of December, 2015

Mayor Pete Poulsen

Attest:

Coni McMaster, Clerk/Treasurer

Approved as to form:

City Attorney

Passed: _____

Published: _____

Effective: _____

DRAFT