Title 6: Animal Control Code

Chapter 4: CAT LICENSES

**Mission Statement.**

The purpose of this Cat Licenses Chapter is to provide for the health and safety of cats in our community.

**6-4-1: DEFINITIONS.**

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**6-4-1: DEFINITIONS.**

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following words and terms shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section:

AT LARGE: Off the premises of the owner, and not under the control of the owner or a member of his immediate family or a person authorized by the owner, either by leash, cord, chain or otherwise.

CONTROL: Controlled by leash, at "heel", beside a competent person, obedient to a competent person's commands, or within the proper limits of premises controlled by the owner or other person consenting thereto.

CAT: Both male and female.

OWNER: Any person or persons, firm, association or corporation owning, keeping or harboring a cat.

RESIDENCE: The house of the cat's owner, not any outbuildings, or the real property of the owner upon which said house is situated.

**6-4-2: REGISTRATION AND VACCINATION.**

A. Required: All cats kept, harbored or maintained in the city shall be vaccinated and registered as provided in this chapter on or before January 31 of each year. Registration tags shall be issued by the city finance officer upon proof of current vaccination for rabies prior to the time such registration is applied for and upon payment of a registration fee.

B. Fees: Fees for licensing and registration shall be as established from time to time by resolution of the city council.

C. Application: The owner shall state, at the time of application for registration and upon printed forms provided for such purpose, his name, address and the name, breed, color and sex of each cat owned or kept by him.

D. Certificate Of Vaccination: Prior to registration, cat owners shall first display a certificate of vaccination from a registered, licensed and practicing veterinarian, after which the city shall issue the registration tag upon payment of the registration fee set forth in subsection B of this section. The vaccination fee shall be paid to the veterinarian by the cat owner. Vaccination shall be required for all cats three (3) months old or older. Cats are not required to be registered prior to reaching the age where they are old enough to be vaccinated for rabies.

1. Indoor cats are required to be vaccinated for rabies, calicivirus and distemper.
2. Outdoor cats are required to be vaccinated for rabies, calicivirus, distemper, and feline leukemia (FeLV).

**6-4-3: TAG AND COLLAR.**

A. Issuance of Registration Certificate and Tag: Upon rabies vaccination and showing proof thereof, and upon payment of the registration fee as provided in this chapter, the city shall issue to the owner a registration certificate and a metallic tag for each cat so registered. The tag shall be replaced each year and shall have stamped thereon the year for which it was issued, a number corresponding with the number of the certificate, and the words "Cat Tag" and "Shelby, Montana".

B. Collar: Such tag shall be attached to the collar of the cat and such collar and tag shall be worn by said cat at all times when said cat is not in the residence of the owner.

**6-4-4: NUMBER OF CATS.**

It is unlawful for any person, persons, or family to keep, harbor or maintain in or on the same premises more than two (2) cats over six (6) months of age, without first obtaining a kennel license as provided in section 6-3-5 of this chapter.

**6-4-5: KENNEL LICENSE.**

A. License Required: A kennel license will be required by any person, persons, or family who wish to maintain more than two (2) cats over the age of six (6) months or for the purposes of boarding, training or breeding.

1. Inspection: The intended facilities must be inspected by the animal control officer upon initial application and annual renewal, such inspection to include the physical facilities as well as the effect on the neighborhood.

2. Recommendation: Following the inspection, the animal control officer will recommend to the licensing authority either approval or disapproval of the application.

3. Fee: There shall be no annual fee, but the number of cats must be specified in the initial application and any application for renewal.

4. Zoning: Kennels may be allowed in all zoned areas inside the city limits.

5. Consent: Anyone making application for a kennel license must obtain the written consent of at least seventy five percent (75%) of the adjoining neighbors within a two hundred foot (200') radius of the property line of the person requesting the license.

6. Renewals: Licenses must be renewed within thirty (30) days of the expiration date or the application will be treated as a new application. In any event, license shall expire on December 31 of each year, no matter when obtained during the year. In the event a kennel license is renewed and there is no increase in the number of cats stated in the application upon which the renewal is based, then consent is unnecessary for such renewal. In the event there is such an increase in the number of cats, a new application must be submitted and consent must be obtained for the license to be renewed.

7. Exclusions: No fee may be required of any veterinary hospital or the Prairie Oasis Animal Shelter.

8. Separate Facilities: Every facility regulated by this section shall be considered a separate enterprise and shall have an individual license.

B. License Revocation: All kennel licenses will expire December 31 of each year unless sooner revoked. The animal control officer will investigate all complaints concerning unlicensed or improperly operated kennels, including, but not limited to, any nuisance, any increase in the number of cats over that stated in the application and/or moving, altering and/or the general dilapidation of the facility and may recommend revocation of the license if it is deemed necessary. The licensee will be given at least five (5) days' written notice of such recommendation during which time he may appeal the animal control officer's recommendation. The licensing authority will then take action as required.

**6-4-6: LICENSE AGENT.**

The city council shall appoint the animal control officer as license agent and may appoint additional license agents as they may deem necessary or expedient.

**6-4-7: AGE REQUIREMENT.**

Any person licensing any facility or registering any cat or obtaining a cat tag pursuant to this chapter must be eighteen (18) years of age or older to do so, and such person may be denied a license or registration or cat tag based upon failure to produce proof of age.

**6-4-8: MICROCHIP.**

The City strongly urges owners to have a microchip installed in their cat(s) in order to locate the cat(s) and return them safely.

**6-4-9: PENALTY.**

The penalty for a violation of any provision of this title shall be a minimum fine of ten dollars ($10.00), with the penalty for each subsequent offense occurring within twelve (12) months from the most recent prior offense being, at the minimum, a fine double that of the most recent prior offense, with a maximum fine of five hundred dollars ($500.00).