

GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY ANIMAL CONTROL ORDINANCE
ORDINANCE #27

ARTICLE I: DEFINITIONS

Section 101. Animal control officer shall mean any agent of the Health Department Director designated to enforce this ordinance and the state "1919 Dog Law," MCL 287.261 et seq.

Section 102. Director shall mean the director of the Grand Traverse County Health Department.

Section 103. Dog kennel shall mean any establishment which keeps or boards dogs for profit, whether for breeding, sale, or sporting purposes.

Section 104. Owner, when applied to the proprietorship of an animal for the purpose of this ordinance, shall mean any person who has a right of property in an animal, any person who permits an animal on or about his/her premises, or any person who exercises dominion or control over an animal with or without the authority of any person who claims a superior property right in the animal.

ARTICLE II: ANIMAL CONTROL AGENCY, POWERS AND DUTIES

Section 201. The Grand Traverse County Health Department is assigned as the County's animal control agency, and its director shall be responsible for the enforcement of this ordinance and the state "Dog Law of 1919," MCL 287.261 et seq.

This responsibility extends to any animal within the county other than an animal subject to a city or township animal control ordinance adopted pursuant to MCL 287.290.

Section 202. The animal control agency shall capture, accept, and confine unlicensed dogs, stray dogs, unwanted, abandoned, and abused dogs.

Section 203. The agency shall give written notice to the owner of a dog displaying a valid license within 48 hours of the dog's confinement. The notice shall be sent to the owner's address as provided in the license application.

Section 204. Healthy dogs not displaying a valid license which remain unclaimed after four days of confinement, and dogs displaying a valid license which remain unclaimed after seven days following notice of confinement, shall be destroyed or given to agencies approved by the County Board of Commissioners.

Sick or injured dogs may be destroyed at the director's discretion.

Section 205. Voluntarily surrendered dogs may be destroyed at the owner's request.

Section 206. Fees for capture, confinement, and euthanasia shall be established by the director, reviewed annually, and charged in accordance with costs incurred by the agency.

Section 207. No dog shall be released to any claimant until the fees for capture and confinement are paid.

ARTICLE III: LICENSING, VACCINATION

Section 301. All dogs must be licensed except: (a) a dog under four months of age; (b) a dog licensed by another state or county where the dog owner maintains his/her permanent