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## *It's the Law*



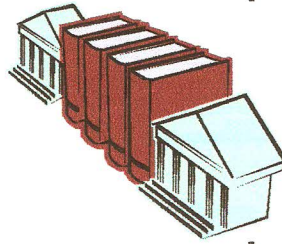
### *Indianapolis/Marion County animal ordinances The Basics*

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2600 S. Harding St., Indianapolis, IN 46221 317.327.1397

Laws for the protection of animals are among the oldest laws in history. Indianapolis/Marion County has also set up specific laws related to the care and treatment of companion animals. Listed below is a summary of the most pertinent of these laws.

For an unabridged copy of the Indianapolis/Marion County animal ordinances, contact the City-County Council offices at 317.327.4242, visit our website at [www.indygov.org/accd](http://www.indygov.org/accd) or stop by your local library. Indianapolis Animal Care & Control has been defined as the enforcement agency for these laws.



#### **Animals at Large Prohibited**

It shall be unlawful for the owner or keeper of an animal to allow that animal to be at large within the city. At large means not confined without means of escape in a pen, corral, yard, cage, house, vehicle or other secure enclosure, unless otherwise under control of a competent human being.

#### **Permanent Identification of Dogs and Cats Required**

A person who owns a dog or cat 3 months of age or older in the city shall ensure that it bears a permanent means of identification at all times, such that the owner of a lost or stolen dog or cat can be ascertained quickly and easily. The means of identification required shall include either: a microchip implanted in the dog or cat which bears a registered identification number; or, a permanent tag attached to a durable collar worn at all times by the dog or cat, and bearing the owner's current name, address and telephone number.



**Dog and Cat Curbing Requirements**

No person knowingly shall allow a dog or cat which is kept by that person to defecate or urinate on a public street, byway, municipally owned or public land or building, or upon private property, in the city without the prior permission of the owner of such property; however, if an animal defecates on property described in this subsection, the animal's owner or keeper promptly shall remove any feces to a waste container, or otherwise dispose of such material in a manner inoffensive to reasonable public sensibilities.

**Antirabies Vaccinations Required For Dogs and Cats**

Each dog and cat over the age of 3 months which is kept in the city shall have been vaccinated against rabies by a veterinarian within the proceeding 365 days. Record of antirabies vaccinations; tag required. For the purpose of identification, each owner of a dog or cat which is kept in the city shall cause the antirabies vaccination identification tag to be affixed to the animal's collar, and to be worn by the animal at all times.

**Animals Causing Nuisance Prohibited**

It shall be unlawful for a person to own or keep any animal which by frequent or habitual howling, yelping, barking, screeching, other vocalization or otherwise shall cause serious annoyance or disturbance to persons in the vicinity.

**General Requirements for Animal Care and Treatment**

Every owner of an animal kept in the city shall see that such animal:

- Is kept in a clean, sanitary and healthy manner and is not confined so as to be forced to stand, sit or lie in its own excrement; the person(s) responsible for





animal(s) shall regularly and as often as necessary to prevent odor or health and sanitation problems, maintain all animal areas or areas of animal contact;

- Has food that is appropriate for the species in adequate amounts to maintain good health, fresh potable drinking water where appropriate, shelter and ventilation, including quarters that are protected from excessive heat and cold and are of sufficient size to permit the animal to exercise and move about freely;
- Shall not be tethered by use of a choke collar or on any collar too small for the size and age of the animal, nor any rope, chain or chord directly attached to the animal's neck, nor by a leash less than 12 feet in length, or of such unreasonable weight as to prevent the animal from moving about freely;
- Is protected against abuse, cruelty, neglect, torment, overload, overwork, or any other mistreatment;
- Shall provide the reasonably necessary medical care, in addition to the required rabies vaccination which shall include recommended vaccinations as required by accepted veterinary standards, and if diseased or injured, or exhibiting symptoms of disease, receives proper care and, is segregated from other animals so as to prevent transmittal of the disease; and,
- It shall be unlawful for a person to beat, starve or otherwise mistreat any animal in the city.

**Still need more information?**

Call Indianapolis Animal Care & Control at 317.327.1397 or visit our website at [www.indygov.org/accd](http://www.indygov.org/accd) for a complete list of the municipal ordinances of Indianapolis and Marion County.

