

ORDINANCE NO. 15,024

AN ORDINANCE to amend the Municipal Code of the City of Des Moines, Iowa, 2000, adopted by Ordinance No. 13,827, passed June 5, 2000, as heretofore amended, by amending Sections 18-55 and 74-100, relating to allowing dogs to be off-leash in designated areas in parks or on other City property.

Be It Ordained by the City Council of the City of Des Moines, Iowa:

Section 1. That the Municipal Code of the City of Des Moines, Iowa, 2000, adopted by Ordinance No. 13,827, passed June 5, 2000, as heretofore amended, is hereby amended by amending Sections 18-55 and 74-100, relating to allowing dogs to be off-leash in designated areas in parks or on other City property, as follows:

**Sec. 18-55. Running at large.**

- (a) A dog, properly licensed as required by law, shall not be deemed at large if:
- (1) The dog is on the premises of the owner or a person given charge of the dog by the owner and is either:
    - a. Restrained on those premises by an adequate protective fence or by leash, cord, chain or other similar restraint that does not allow a dog to go beyond the owner's real property line; or
    - b. At all times within the actual physical presence of and immediately obedient to the commands of the owner or person given charge of the dog by the owner. At no time shall the dog be more than six feet from such person.
  - (2) The dog is off the premises of the owner and is:
    - a. On a leash, cord, or chain or other similar restraint not more than six feet in length and under the control of a person competent to restrain and control the dog; or
    - b. Properly restrained within a motor vehicle.

- (3) The dog is properly housed in a veterinary hospital or registered kennel.
- (4) The owner and the dog are participating in a regularly scheduled competitive or exhibition event sanctioned or sponsored by a nationally recognized organization, local chapter thereof, or other generally recognized local organization.
- (5) The dog and the owner are actively engaged in a generally recognized dog obedience training program or training for a generally recognized kennel club event, provided:
  - a. The dog is in the actual physical presence of the owner or trainer at all times;
  - b. The owner or trainer is at no time more than 50 feet from the dog;
  - c. The dog is immediately obedient to the commands of the owner or trainer; and
  - d. The owner or trainer has, at all times, on his or her person a leash of sufficient strength to restrain the dog.
- (6) The dog and owner, or a person given charge of the dog by the owner, are in a designated off leash area of a city park or other city property, or in other non-city park property, provided:
  - a. The owner or person in charge of the dog and dog are at all times abiding by all the rules and regulations of such designated off leash area; and
  - b. The dog is in the actual physical presence of the owner or person given charge of the dog.
  - c. The dog has a current:
    1. dog park permit which is visible on the owner or person given charge of the dog; and
    2. City of Des Moines or other valid government issued dog license from the dog owner's place of residence; and
    3. rabies vaccination.

The license and rabies vaccination tags must be visible on the dog or the owner or person given charge of the dog has such license and proof of rabies vaccination in their possession.

- d. In addition to the requirements in subsection 6(a) - (c) of this section, vicious dogs must be on a leash in compliance with section 18-56(d) of this chapter and the owner or person given charge of a vicious dog must have a certificate of insurance in their possession which meets the requirements of section 18-44 of this chapter.
- (7) The annual license fee for a dog park permit shall be in the amounts set in the Schedule of Fees adopted by the city council by resolution.
- (b) A dog shall be deemed to be at large if it is not properly licensed or if it is not housed, restrained or controlled in one of the methods set forth in subsection (a) of this section.
  - (c) Notwithstanding any other section of this article, any dog shall be deemed at large at any time when attacking persons, domestic animals, destroying property, or on a public school ground except when under restraint as set out in subsection (a)(2) or when in a designated off leash area in compliance with subsection (a)(6) of this section. Furthermore, any female dog in heat shall be deemed at large at any time except:
    - (1) When housed in a building which is completely enclosed;
    - (2) When housed in a veterinary hospital or registered kennel; or
    - (3) When on the premises of the owner, provided the area on which such dog is located is:
      - a. Completely enclosed in a locked, enclosed fence, pen or other structure having a height of at least six feet; such fence, pen or structure must have secure sides which are imbedded into the ground, if the bottom of the structure is not integrally connected to the structure; or
      - b. If the fence, pen or structure is less than six feet in height, it must have a secure top in addition to securely imbedded sides as described in subsection (c)(3)a of this section.

Nothing in this subsection, however, shall be construed as prohibiting any owner of a female dog in heat from walking such dog with a leash, cord, chain or other similar restraint not more than

six feet in length or from transporting such dog within a motor vehicle.

- (d) No owner of any dog shall permit such dog to be at large at any time.

**Sec. 74-100. Dogs.**

No dog shall be allowed to run at large in any public park. Any dog shall be deemed to be found running at large, unless the owner carries such dog or leads such dog by a chain, strap or rope not exceeding six feet in length or keeps any such dog confined in an automobile in compliance with section 18-55 of this Code. However, a service dog, except for a vicious dog, as defined in section 18-41 of this Code, and accompanying such person shall not be deemed to be running at large, even though restraints as described in this section are not used. Such person shall keep the service dog under control and shall be liable for any damage done to the premises or facilities by the dog. No dog in a designated off leash area in any public park shall be deemed at large if such dog and owner or person given charge of the dog are in compliance with section 18-55(a)(6) of this code. Vicious dogs must be on a leash while in such designated off leash area in compliance with section 18-56 of this Code.

Section 2. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and publication as provided by law.

FORM APPROVED:

Ann DiDonato, Assistant City Attorney

Ordinance No. \_\_\_\_\_ cont'd

T. M. Franklin Cownie, Mayor

Attest:

I, Diane Rauh, City Clerk of the City of Des Moines, Iowa, hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true copy of an ordinance (Roll Call No. 11-1027), passed by the City Council of said City at a meeting held June 13, 2011 signed by the Mayor on June 13, 2011 and published as provided by law in the Business Record on July 1, 2011. Authorized by Publication Order No. 7485.

Diane Rauh, City Clerk