

ST. STEPHEN CITY CODE  
CHAPTER 9: NUISANCES AND OFFENSES

ORDINANCE 96 ANIMALS.....	96-1
Section 96.01: DEFINITIONS.....	96-1
Section 96.02: LIMIT ON NUMBER OF DOGS AND CATS.....	96-1
Section 96.03: RESTRICTIONS ON CERTAIN DOGS .....	96-1
Section 96.04: DOGS OR ANIMAL BITING: QUARANTINE .....	96-2
Section 96.05: DISPOSITION OF DISEASED ANIMALS OR DOGS.....	96-2
Section 96.06: OTHER ANIMALS.....	96-2
Section 96.07: VICIOUS ANIMALS .....	96-2
Section 96.08: RESTRICTIONS IN FOOD AND DRINK ESTABLISHMENTS.....	96-3
Section 96.09: KENNELS .....	96-3
Section 96.10: IDENTIFICATION OF DOGS AND CATS.....	96-3
Section 96.11: IMPOUNDING.....	96-3
Section 96.12: CHICKENS/FOWL IN RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS.....	96-3
Section 96.13: PET WASTE.....	96-4
Section 96.14: VIOLATION AND PENALTIES .....	96-4

ST. STEPHEN CITY CODE  
CHAPTER 9: NUISANCES AND OFFENSES

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ORDINANCE 96     ANIMALS

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Section 96.01: DEFINITIONS.

Subd. 1: The word or words defined herein shall have the meaning described thereto in the Subdivisions which follow.

Subd. 2: Owner. Any person, firm or corporation owning, harboring or keeping a dog or cat.

Subd. 3: Person. Means and includes an individual, firm or corporation.

Subd. 4: At Large. Off the premises of the owner and not under the control of the owner, or other competent person, either by leash not exceeding six (6) feet in length, or otherwise restrained.

Subd. 5: Kennel. Any location where more than two (2) dogs are kept.

Subd. 6: Pound Master. The person in charge of the City designated Pound.

Subd. 7: Pound. The duly licensed facility designated by the City of St. Stephen to be the place of confinement for any animal authorized to be impounded the rein under the provisions of this ordinance.

Subd. 8: Household. Defined as a single family residence, apartment, trailer house, motel or other multiple dwelling unit.

Subd. 9: Official in Charge. Any person appointed by the Council to enforce the provisions of this ordinance or any police officer of the City of St. Stephen.

Section 96.02: LIMIT ON NUMBER OF DOGS AND CATS. It shall be unlawful for any person, or owners, to harbor or keep in any household more than a total of two (2) dogs and cats taken together, over the age of four (4) months within the corporate limits of the City of St. Stephen.

Section 96.03: RESTRICTIONS ON CERTAIN DOGS.

Subd. 1: It shall be unlawful to keep or harbor a dog which habitually barks or cries; or, to permit any dog to damage any lawn, garden, trees or other property.

ST. STEPHEN CITY CODE  
CHAPTER 9: NUISANCES AND OFFENSES

Subd. 2: It shall be unlawful for any owner or keeper of a dog, or the parents or guardian of any person under 18 years of age who owns a dog, to allow said dog to run at large at any time within the corporate limits of the City of St. Stephen.

Subd. 3: It shall be unlawful for any owner to maintain any place within the corporate limits of the City of St. Stephen for any dogs or dogs which, by their habitual barking, howling, whining or other disagreeable noises, disturbs the people residing in the vicinity where kept or confined.

Section 96.04: DOGS OR ANIMAL BITING: QUARANTINE. Whenever any dog or animal has bitten any person, the owner or custodian of any such dog or animal, shall immediately cause the dog or animal to be quarantined by a veterinarian licensed to practice in the State of Minnesota, for a period of 10 days after such person has been bitten by said dog or animal. The dog or animal shall be examined immediately after it has bitten anyone and kept under observation for 10 days. If at the end of 10 days the veterinarian diagnoses the dog or animal to be free of signs of rabies, the dog or animal shall be released from quarantine. If the dog or animal dies in the meantime, its head shall be sent to the State Department of Health for examination for rabies. The owner of said dog or animal shall be responsible for the entire cost of said quarantine and examinations.

Section 96.05: DISPOSITION OF DISEASED ANIMALS OR DOGS. If a dog or animal quarantined under Section 96.04 hereof is found to be sick or diseased, the operator of the quarantine facility shall immediately report in writing to the County Health Officer the condition of the dog or animal. The Health Department may then take possession of the dog or animal for the purpose of determining if it is suffering from rabies. A diseased dog or animal may either be destroyed or euthanized, if the County Health Officer determines such action necessary for the protection of public health and safety as recommended by said licensed veterinarian.

Section 96.06: OTHER ANIMALS. It shall be unlawful for any owner to keep, harbor or confine within the corporate limits of the City of St. Stephen, any wild animals, or any animal creating a nuisance or health hazard; or any horse, cow, sheep, pigs, goats or any other large domesticated animals except in agricultural areas where farming is established and practiced, when said animals are creating a nuisance or health hazard.

Section 96.07: VICIOUS ANIMALS. It shall be unlawful for any owner to keep, harbor or confine any animal within the corporate limits of the City of St. Stephen, known to be vicious, which animal known to its owner has on at least one prior occasion without provocation attacked, bitten or scratched any person unless said person was unlawfully on the premises of the owner of said animal.

ST. STEPHEN CITY CODE  
CHAPTER 9: NUISANCES AND OFFENSES

Section 96.08: RESTRICTIONS IN FOOD AND DRINK ESTABLISHMENTS. It shall be unlawful for the owner or operator of any establishment wherein the selling, handling, processing or preparation of food is done or served to permit any animal in such establishment. This section shall not apply to a registered service animal.

Section 96.09: KENNELS. No person shall maintain a kennel within the corporate limits of the City of St. Stephen, unless by special permit granted by the Council.

Section 96.10: IDENTIFICATION OF DOGS AND CATS. The owner of a dog or cat shall cause a tag, bearing the owner's name, to be affixed by a permanent fastener to the collar of each animal, in such manner that the tag may be easily seen and the tag shall be worn constantly by said animal.

Section 96.11: IMPOUNDING.

Subd. 1: Impoundment. It shall be lawful for any Official appointed by the Council to enforce the provisions of this ordinance or any peace officer of the City of St. Stephen, to take up and impound any dog found in the City of St. Stephen without the currently effective tag provided for in Section 96.10; or any dog or animal found running at large at any time to be in violation of any of the provisions of this ordinance; and, in enforcing this ordinance such officer may enter upon any private premises where they have reason to believe a dog is harbored in violation of any of the provisions of this ordinance.

Subd. 2: Redemption. Dogs or animals may be redeemed from the pound by the owner any time during office hours, within 120 hours after a seizure and impounding, upon a sworn statement of ownership, and presentation of a receipt showing payment to the City Clerk or the impounding fee in an amount as may be established by resolution of the City Council and payment of the keep thereof to said poundmaster. The poundmaster shall thereupon release to the owner the dog claimed by him, unless the dog is being held for rabies observation pursuant to Section 96.04 of this ordinance.

Subd. 3: Disposition of Unredeemed Dogs. Any dog or animal not redeemed as provided for in Section 96.04.2 within the time specified therein may be sold for not less than the amount due in impounding fees and cost of keeping same, to any responsible person desiring to purchase the dog. All sums so received shall be paid to the City Clerk. Any dog which is not redeemed by the owner or sold shall be painlessly killed or otherwise disposed of, as directed by the Health Officer of the City of St. Stephen or his duly authorized representative. No dog or animal shall be sold for research purposes or to persons having an ulterior motive for purchasing same.

Section 96.12: CHICKENS/FOWL IN RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS.

Subd. 1: Chickens are only allowed in RR-1 Districts, with the following stipulations:

- a) No roosters allows.

ST. STEPHEN CITY CODE  
CHAPTER 9: NUISANCES AND OFFENSES

- b) No more than 10 chickens/fowl total.
- c) No free-range chickens/fowl.
- d) All fowl must be contained in an enclosure.
- f) No permit will be required.

Section 96.13: PET WASTE. Any person being the owner of or having charge of any animal not confined to that person's property shall immediately remove any feces deposited on public or private property. Any such person shall have in their possession a means to collect and dispose of all fecal matter in a waste receptacle.

Section 96.14: VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES.

Subd. 1: Any owner of any dog or animal which is being permitted to be in violation of any of the provisions of this ordinance shall be guilty of a petty misdemeanor.

Subd. 2: If the official in charge shall have cause to believe that any owner of a dog is being kept or harbored within the City in violation of any of the provisions of this ordinance, he may at his option, cause a written notice to be forwarded to such owner and if after 10 days from the date of mailing such notice, the owner fails to comply with the violations cited therein, such owner shall be guilty of a petty misdemeanor.