

Article V. Wild Or Vicious Animals

Sec. 6-171. Definitions.

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this article, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this subsection, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Pit bull means any Pit Bull Terrier, which shall be defined as any American Pit Bull Terrier or Staffordshire Bull Terrier or American Staffordshire Terrier breed of dog, or any mixed breed of dog which contains as an element of its breeding the breed of American Pit Bull Terrier or Staffordshire Bull Terrier or American Staffordshire Terrier as to be identifiable as partially of the breed of American Pit Bull Terrier or Staffordshire Bull Terrier or American Staffordshire Bull Terrier.

Vicious animal means any animal which has, more than once in one year, attacked or bitten one or more persons or which has behaved in such a manner that the owner or custodian of such animal knows or should have reasonably known that the animal has tendencies to attack or bite persons.

Wild animal means any live monkey or ape, raccoon, skunk, fox, snake or other reptile, leopard, panther, tiger, lion, lynx or any other animal or any bird of prey which can normally be found in the wild state.

(Code 1982, § 9.08(2)(d)(1))

Cross reference— Definitions generally, § 1-2.

Sec. 6-172. Display or exhibition prohibited; exceptions; keeping wild animal as pet prohibited.

No person shall keep or permit to be kept on his premises any wild or vicious animal for display or for exhibition purposes, whether gratuitously or for a fee. This section shall not be construed to apply to zoological parks, performing animal exhibitions, or circuses. No person shall keep or permit to be kept any wild animal as a pet.

(Code 1982, § 9.08(2)(d)(2))

Sec. 6-173. Temporary permit for care of infant native animal.

The licensing authority may issue a temporary permit for the keeping, care and protection of any infant animal native to this area, which has been deemed to be homeless.

(Code 1982, § 9.08(2)(d)(3))

Sec. 6-174. Harboring vicious animal prohibited; seizure or destruction of animal off the premises of its owner.

It shall be unlawful for any person to harbor or keep a vicious animal within the town. Any animal which is found off the premises of its owner may be seized by any police officer or humane officer and, upon establishment to the satisfaction of any court of competent jurisdiction

of the vicious character of such animal, it may be killed by a police officer or humane officer; provided, however, that this section shall not apply to animals under the control of a law enforcement or military agency, nor to animals which are kept for the protection of property, provided that such animals are restrained by a leash or chain, cage, fence, or other adequate means, from contact with the general public or with persons who enter the premises with the actual or implied permission of the owner or occupant.

(Code 1982, § 9.08(2)(d)(4))

Sec. 6-175. Pit bull, wolf-dog hybrid or coyote-dog hybrid.

No person shall keep or permit to be kept on his premises any pit bull, wolf-dog hybrid or coyote-dog hybrid, which was not currently registered and licensed by the town as of July 8, 1996.

(Code 1982, § de 1982, § 25.10)