

An Overview of City of San Antonio Code:

Regulating the Care and Control of Animals

Leashing and Control.

All dogs must be confined to their owner's property at all times except when on a leash. Animal Care Officers have the legal authority to enter unenclosed front yards of private property to impound unrestrained animals.

Rabies Vaccination.

All dogs, cats and domestic ferrets must be vaccinated against rabies by sixteen (16) weeks of age by a licensed veterinarian. Booster vaccinations are required by State, County and City law one year following the initial rabies vaccination and then at one or three year intervals depending on the vaccine used. Other vaccinations are highly recommended and you should establish a relationship with a veterinarian for your pet.

Licensing.

All dogs, cats and domestic ferrets must be licensed by sixteen (16) weeks of age and annually thereafter with the City of San Antonio, Animal Care Services Division. Licenses are \$5 for sterilized animals and \$50 for unsterilized or intact pets. Proof of current rabies vaccination must be demonstrated when the license is issued. Dogs should wear license tags on their collar at all times when outside.

Animal limits

A maximum number of eight (8) cats or five (5) dogs or an aggregate number of eight (8) may be permitted at a residence within the City limits.) The total number of domestic fowl and livestock allowed at a residence is five (5) which may include: up to three (3) domestic fowl; and up to two (2) animals from the following classes of livestock- equines, bovines, sheep, goats and llamas.

Animal Bites.

All animal bites and scratches which have broken the skin must be reported to the Animal Care Services Division within 24 hours by calling 737-1600 OR 287-2778 anytime day or night. Biting animals are required by State, County and City law to be quarantined for rabies observation for 10 days from the date of the bite, regardless of the vaccination status of the animal.

Outdoor Cats.

All outdoor cats must be spayed or neutered.

Prohibited Species.

It is unlawful to keep wild animals and many other species within the City of San Antonio. Such animals include monkeys and other non-human primates, wolf hybrids, coyotes, foxes, exotic cats, bears, skunks, raccoons, miniature Vietnamese pot-bellied pigs, poisonous reptiles, crocodiles and related species.

Abandoned Animals.

It is unlawful to abandon an animal within the City Limits. An abandoned animal is any animal abandoned while in the person's custody without making reasonable arrangements for assumption of custody by another person.

Sale of animals.

No live animals shall be sold, traded, bartered, leased, rented, given away, or displayed for a commercial purpose on any roadside, public right-of-way, commercial parking lot or at any flea market or festival.

Pets in Cars

It is illegal to leave any animal in a standing or parked vehicle. Any animal care officer or police officer is authorized to use reasonable force, including the breaking of a side window, to remove a pet from a car whenever it appears the animal's health or safety is endangered.

Animal Permits/Licenses.

The revised Chapter 5 Ordinance institutes a permitting and licensing process for variety of animal related concerns beyond general pet licensing. There are permits governing areas like animal related businesses as well as residential pet concerns like litter permits, excess animals, livestock and cat colonies. Permit applications and instructions can be found on the ACS website. All fees are payable to the City of San Antonio.

“Pooper Scooper” law

A pet owner or keeper *shall not* walk his/her dogs without a leash restraint, and shall not guide or take animals onto the yards or driveways of property not owned, leased or occupied by the animal owner for the purpose of allowing the animal to defecate, but shall keep his/her animal in the public right-of-way, and shall carry a container and scooper for the sanitary removal of his/her animal's fecal matter from the public right-of-way.