

CHAPTER 505  
Animals and Fowl

505.01	Dogs and other animals running at large.	505.08	Nuisance conditions prohibited.
505.011	Vicious, ferocious or biting animals.	505.09	Barking or howling dogs.
505.02	Impounding and disposition; records.	505.10	Animal bites; reports and quarantine.
505.03	Annual registration of dogs; tags required.	505.11	Hunting prohibited.
505.04	Abandoning animals.	505.12	Coloring rabbits or baby poultry; sale or display of poultry.
505.05	Injuring animals.	505.13	Dog nuisances.
505.06	Poisoning animals.	505.99	Penalty.
505.07	Cruelty to animals.		

CROSS REFERENCES

See sectional histories for similar State law

Owner or keeper liable for damages - see Ohio R.C. 951.10

Dog registration - see Ohio R.C. 955.01

Discharging firearms prohibited - see GEN. OFF. 549.12

505.01 DOGS AND OTHER ANIMALS RUNNING AT LARGE.

(a) No person being the owner or having charge of cattle, sheep, geese, ducks, turkeys, chickens or other fowl or animals shall permit them to run at large upon any public place, or upon any unenclosed lands, or upon the premises of another.

(b) No person being the owner of or having charge of any dog, whether wearing a registration tag or not, shall permit it to run at large upon any public place or upon the premises of another. No owner, keeper or harbinger of any female dog shall permit such dog to go beyond the premises of such owner or keeper at any time such dog is in heat, unless such dog is properly in leash. The owner or keeper of every dog shall at all times keep such dog either confined upon the premises of the owner or keeper or on a leash.

(ORC 955.22)

(c) The running at large of any such animal in or upon any of the places mentioned in this section is prima-facie evidence that it is running at large in violation of this section (ORC 951.02)

(d) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.  
(ORC 955.99 (A))

**505.011 VICIOUS, FEROCIOUS OR BITING ANIMALS.**

(a) No person, firm or corporation shall harbor or keep any vicious or ferocious animal which is at any time unconfined or running at large.

(b) No person, firm or corporation shall harbor or keep any animal which, without provocation, bites any person, breaking the skin, while unconfined or running at large.

(c) Whoever violates subsection (a) hereof is guilty of a minor misdemeanor for the first offense and a misdemeanor of the fourth degree for each subsequent offense. Whoever violates subsection (b) hereof is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree.

(Ord. 1390. Passed 6-1-76.)

**505.02 IMPOUNDING AND DISPOSITION; RECORDS.**

(a) A police officer or animal warden may impound every animal or dog found in violation of Section 505.01. If the impounded dog is not wearing a valid registration tag, the dog shall forthwith be turned over to an officer charged by law with the custody and disposal of such dogs. If the dog is wearing a valid registration tag or the identity of the owner or harbinger is otherwise established, notice shall immediately be given to such owner or harbinger that the dog has been impounded. Notice may be by telephone or by ordinary mail to the last known address of such owner or harbinger. The dog shall not be released except upon the payment of reasonable expenses for its taking and keeping. Any dog not redeemed within three days of the time it is seized or impounded may be sold or otherwise disposed of as provided by Ohio R.C. 955.16.

(b) A record of all dogs impounded, the disposition of the same, the owner's name and address, if known, and a statement of any costs or receipts involving such dog shall be kept.

**505.03 ANNUAL REGISTRATION OF DOGS; TAGS REQUIRED.**

(a) Except for guide dogs registered under Ohio R.C. 955.011 and dogs kept by an institution or organization for teaching and research purposes under Ohio R.C. 955.16, no person shall own, keep or harbor a dog more than three months of age without annually registering such dog with the County Auditor. Failure of any dog at any time to wear a valid registration tag shall be prima-facie evidence of lack of registration and subject such dog to impounding and disposition as provided by Ohio R.C. 955.16.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.

**505.04 ABANDONING ANIMALS.**

(a) No owner or keeper of a dog, cat or other domestic animal shall abandon such animal. (ORC 959.01)

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.  
(ORC 959.99(A))

**505.05 INJURING ANIMALS.**

(a) No person shall maliciously, or willfully, and without the consent of the owner, kill or injure a farm animal, dog, cat or other domestic animal that is the property of another. This section does not apply to a licensed veterinarian acting in an official capacity.

(ORC 959.02)

(b) Whoever violates this section, if the value of the animal killed or the injury done amounts to less than one hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00), is guilty of a misdemeanor of the second degree; if the value of the animal killed or the injury done amounts to one hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00) or more, such person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree.

(ORC 959.99(B))

**505.06 POISONING ANIMALS.**

(a) No person shall maliciously, or willfully and without the consent of the owner, administer poison, except a licensed veterinarian acting in such capacity, to a farm animal, dog, cat, poultry or other domestic animal that is the property of another; and no person shall, willfully and without the consent of the owner, place any poisoned food where it may be easily found and eaten by any of such animals, either upon his own lands or the lands of another.

(ORC 959.03)

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree.  
(ORC 959.99 (C))

**505.07 CRUELTY TO ANIMALS.**

(a) No person shall overwork, overdrive, overload or torture an animal, deprive one of necessary sustenance, unnecessarily or cruelly beat, needlessly mutilate or kill, or impound or confine an animal without supplying it during such confinement with a sufficient quantity of good wholesome food and water. No person shall carry or convey an animal in a cruel or inhuman manner, or keep animals in an enclosure without wholesome exercise and change of air, or feed animals food that is adulterated or unwholesome, or work or abandon to die an old, maimed, sick, infirm or diseased animal.

(ORC 959.13)

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the second degree.  
(ORC 959.99(D))

**505.08 NUISANCE CONDITIONS PROHIBITED.**

(a) No person shall keep or harbor any animal or fowl in the Municipality so as to create noxious, or offensive odors or unsanitary conditions which are a menace to the health, comfort or safety of the public.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.

**505.09 BARKING OR HOWLING DOGS.**

(a) No person shall keep or harbor any dog within the Municipality which, by frequent and habitual barking, howling or yelping, creates unreasonably loud and disturbing noises of such a character, intensity and duration as to disturb the peace, quiet and good order of the Municipality. Any person who shall allow any dog habitually to remain, be lodged or fed within any dwelling, building, yard or enclosure, which he occupies or owns, shall be considered as harboring such dog.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.

**505.11 HUNTING PROHIBITED.**

(a) The hunting of animals or fowl within the Municipality is prohibited. No person shall hunt, kill or attempt to kill any animal or fowl by the use of firearms or any other means.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.

**505.12 COLORING RABBITS OR BABY POULTRY; SALE OR DISPLAY OF POULTRY.**

(a) No person shall dye or otherwise color any rabbit or baby poultry, including, but not limited to, chicks and ducklings. No person shall sell, offer for sale, expose for sale, raffle or give away any rabbit or baby poultry which has been dyed or otherwise colored. No poultry younger than four weeks of age may be sold, given away or otherwise distributed to any person in lots of less than six. Stores, shops, vendors and others offering young poultry for sale or other distribution shall provide and operate brooders or other heating devices that may be necessary to maintain poultry in good health, and shall keep adequate food and water available to the poultry at all times.

(ORC 925.62)

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.

## 505.13 DOG NUISANCES.

(a) Digging, urinating or defecating by any dog on any public property or private property in the City is hereby declared to be a nuisance. It shall be unlawful for any owner, keeper or person having custody or charge of any dog to permit such dog to commit such nuisance on any public property or private property other than the lot and land where such owner, keeper or person having custody or charge of such dog resides.

- (1) Provided that the above restrictions shall not apply to private property onto which such owner, keeper or person having custody or charge of any dog shall have permission of the owner or resident to walk such dog, and also,
- (2) Provided that the above restriction shall not apply to public property, where the act of the animal as described above takes place at the curb where the street joins the sidewalk, and,
- (3) Provided that such dog owner, keeper or person having custody, charge or control of such dog shall immediately remove all feces deposited by such dog from all places except those places mentioned in subsection (a)(1) and (2) hereof.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.

## 505.99 PENALTY.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: See Section 501.99 for penalties applicable to any misdemeanor classification.)