

*HEALTH AND SANITATION 10.10*

**10.10 THE KEEPING OF DOMESTIC ANIMALS.** (Cr. #01-38)

**(1) DEFINITIONS.**

- (a) "Domestic animals" include dogs, cats, hamsters, rabbits, guinea pigs, gerbils, mice, rats, ferrets, chinchillas, iguanas, turtles, snakes and birds.
- (b) "Dog" shall mean any canine, regardless of age or sex.
- (c) "Cat" shall mean any feline, regardless of age or sex.
- (d) "a wild, dangerous, or undomesticated animal" shall be that which is not of a species customarily used as an ordinary household pet, but one which would ordinarily be confined to a zoo, or one which would ordinarily be found in the wilderness of this or any other country, or one which otherwise causes a reasonable person to be fearful of bodily harm or property damage. This shall include, but not be limited to, all poisonous animals, including snakes and constrictor snakes, six (6) feet in length or more.

**(2) LEGISLATIVE INTENT.** The Common Council of the City of Watertown hereby finds that the keeping of an unlimited number of domestic animals in the City for a period of time will adversely affect sanitary conditions, health and safety of its occupants and the general public. Therefore, the keeping of an unlimited number of domestic animals is declared to be a public nuisance.

**(3) NONCONFORMING USE.** Any person who becomes nonconforming with respect to the requirements set forth in Section 10.10 (4), may continue to keep those dogs which that person had licensed in the City of Watertown prior to the effective date of this Ordinance. This nonconforming use exemption shall be valid while the person resides on the property listed on the license, and so long as the dogs licensed on the effective date have not been replaced with additional dogs that would cause the owner to remain in nonconformity with this Ordinance.

**(4) LIMITATIONS.**

- (a) It shall be unlawful for any person or persons to keep more than 10 rabbits, guinea pigs, hamsters, rats, mice, gerbils, ferrets, chinchillas, iguanas, birds, turtles or snakes, with the exceptions to snakes noted above, or any combination of these animals totaling more than 10, within the City. A litter or a portion of a litter of these animals may be kept for a period time not to exceed one month from weaning.
- (b) It shall be unlawful for any person or persons to keep more than 4 dogs or more than 5 cats within the City, with the exception that a litter of pups or litter of kittens or a portion of litter may be kept for a period of time not exceeding 4 months from birth.
- (c) It shall be unlawful for any person or persons to keep more than 10 animals as defined at 10.10 (1), or more than 10 animals including any animal not defined in 10.10 (1), but allowed pursuant to 10.10 (4), at the same residence.
- (d) It shall be unlawful for any person, other than an owner of a licensed pet shop, zoo, or circus to harbor, keep, maintain, or have in his or her possession a wild, dangerous or undomesticated animal within the Watertown City limits.
- (e) Pigs, goats, chickens, ducks, doves, geese, turkeys, and pheasants shall not be kept in the City except for school-related educational purposes, or as part of a licensed pet shop, zoo, petting zoo, or circus.