

3-06.02 [Regulatory Provisions]

3-06.02-10 [Responsibility and Authority]

The powers and duties of the Vernonia Police Department in connection with this chapter shall be as follows:

- A. To have police power in the enforcement of all provisions of this chapter relating to the control of dogs and the citation of persons for violation of this chapter.
- B. To transfer impounded dogs to Columbia County authorities as soon after impoundment as possible.
- C. To investigate reports of “prohibited activities’ as defined under [3-06.02-20](#).

3-06.02-20 [Prohibited Activities]

- A. It shall be unlawful for any person:
 1. To interfere with, hinder, molest or verbally abuse a Vernonia Police Officer while in the exercise of his or her duties;
 2. To be the owner of a dog which he or she fails to prevent from running at large;
 3. To be the owner of a dangerous or vicious dog;
 4. To be the owner of a dog which he or she fails to prevent from being a public nuisance by:
 - a. Molesting passersby;
 - b. Biting a person or animal(s);
 - c. Habitually chasing vehicles or persons;
 - d. Habitually attacking other animals;
 - e. Traveling upon school grounds, public parks, public game refuges and public watershed areas;
 - f. Damaging or destroying property of persons other than the owner of the dog;
 - g. Scattering garbage;
 - h. Habitually running at large;
 - i. Disturbing the peace, comfort, health or repose of any person of reasonable sensitivity by making loud, long, unnecessary and continuous noises; or
 - j. Not being on a leash or being on a leash which exceeds 8 feet in length;
 5. To be the owner of a dog affected with a contagious disease who runs at large or is exposed in any public place whereby the health of man or beast may be affected, except that such dog may be removed from the premises of the owner or other person by a veterinarian, Vernonia Police officer or by any person supervised by the Department of Health of Columbia County;
 6. To be the owner of any dog for which he or she has failed to procure a dog license;
 7. To be the owner of any dog for which he or she has failed to display a dog license upon such dog when it is off the owner’s property when required by Columbia County Animal control;

8. To knowingly or negligently commit acts of cruelty to animals. General acts of cruelty include but are not limited to:
 - a. To subject any animal under a person's ownership, custody or control to cruel mistreatment;
 - b. To subject any animal under a person's ownership, custody or control to cruel neglect; or
 - c. To kill without legal privilege any animal under the ownership, custody or control of another person.
9. To permit a dog to trespass upon the property of another.
10. To permit a dog in season (estrus) to be accessible to a male dog not in his ownership except for intentional breeding purposes.
11. To leave an animal unattended for more than twenty-four (24) consecutive hours without adequate care.

3-06.02-30 [Licensing of Dogs]

Any person owning or keeping any dog which has a set of permanent canine teeth or is six (6) months old, whichever comes first, shall obtain a license through Columbia County. Dogs found within the City of Vernonia without a license or with an expired license shall be apprehended and transferred to Columbia County Dog Control personnel.

3-06.02-40 [Impoundment and Disposition of Impounded Dogs]

- A. The City of Vernonia shall not maintain an impoundment facility. Instead, all dogs taken into custody for violation of this chapter by Columbia County Animal Control personnel as soon as practicable.
- B. Whenever any dog is found performing any of the activities enumerated in [3-06.02-20](#), or has bitten any person or animal, it shall be subject to impoundment.
- C. Unless a dog is redeemed by his owner within the number of days specified by Columbia County Dog Control personnel, the dog may be destroyed or sold. If such dog has been impounded because of biting a person, Columbia County Dog Control personnel may require vaccination or proof thereof prior to release.
- D. Once possession of the subject animal has been transferred to Columbia County Dog Control personnel all future correspondence relating to the animal should be with that department. The policies and procedure of that department will govern release, sale or adoption, or destruction of the animal.

3-06.02-60 [State Law]

In addition to provisions of this chapter, the following statutes shall apply in the City of Vernonia and shall be enforced by the City of Vernonia Police Department in the same manner as though set forth fully herein, and by this reference are incorporated within this chapter:

- A. ORS. 433.340 to 433.390, relating to rabies control;
- B. ORS Chapter 609 –Dogs: Exotic Animals: Dealers:

3-06.02-70 [Lost Dogs]

Any person who finds and harbors a dog, without knowing the dog's owner's identity, shall notify the Vernonia Police Department and furnish a description of the dog. The finder may surrender the animal to the Vernonia Police Department or retain possession of it subject to surrender on demand by the Vernonia Police Department.

3-06.02-80 [Animal Waste Removal]

Any person in physical possession and control of any animal in a public place shall remove excrement or other solid waste deposited by the animal in a public area not designed to receive such waste, including but not limited to, streets, sidewalks, parking strips and public parks.

3-06.02-90 [Penalties]

- A. Violation of a provision of this chapter, is punishable by a fine of not more than one hundred dollars (\$100.00).
- B. Each day any person is in violation of this chapter shall be deemed a separate offense.
- C. In addition to any penalty imposed as provided by [3-06.02-90.A](#) a court may order the impoundment and destruction of any dog found to be dangerous.
- D. A person who has been convicted of a violation of this chapter and who is found by a court to have been formally convicted of any violation of this chapter within two (2) years preceding the date of the alleged violation may be punished by a fine of not more than two hundred dollars (\$200.00).