TITLE VII

Chapter 32

KEEPING OF DOMESTICATED PETS

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32.01 DOMESTICATED PET DEFINED

"Domesticated Pet" shall mean a dog, cat, or other similar animal, which has been tamed and is kept by and lives with humans as a pet for pleasure or companionship, however, it shall not include turkeys, cattle, llamas, alpacas, horses, mules, donkeys, sheep, goats, hoofed animals, and swine; nor shall it include wild animals, including mink, deer, coyotes, wolves, bobcats, foxes, skunks, raccoons, pigeons (except homing pigeons), geese, ducks, poisonous snakes, alligators, crocodiles, or other wild animals normally found in the wild.

32.02 DOMESTICATED PET OWNER DEFINED

"Owner" shall mean any person owning, harboring or keeping a domesticated pet and the occupancy of any premises on which, a domesticated pet remains, or to which it customarily returns for a period of ten (10) days, is presumed to be harboring or keeping the domesticated pet within the meaning of this section.

32.03 RUNNING AT LARGE

(1) No person shall allow a domesticated pet, a non-domesticated pet which they have properly and lawfully registered with the City of Blair pursuant to Blair Ordinance Section 32.04, or any other animal that they own, are in control or possession of, or are for (wildlife excluded) to be at large and off the owner's premises.

(2) "At Large" means to not be under the control of the owner, or owner's agent, by leash, tether, or other reasonable means of restraint. "Premises" means any real estate property owned or leased by a person or party.

(3) Violations of this sub-section are subject to the penalty provisions in Section 32.11 of this Code of Ordinances for the City of Blair and all other relief available at law to the City of Blair.

32.04 RESTRICTIONS ON KEEPING

It shall be unlawful for any person within the City of Blair to own, harbor or keep any domesticated pet which: Habitually pursues any vehicle upon any public street, alley or highway in the City; Assaults or attacks any person; Is at large within the limits of the City; Habitually barks or worries any domestic animal; Is known by such person to be infected with rabies or to have been bitten by an animal known to have been infected with rabies.

It is further unlawful for any person within the City of Blair to own, harbor or keep any animal which is not a domesticated pet as defined in this Chapter.

This section shall not apply on property in the City of Blair zoned A-1 Agriculture District, nor shall it apply to any animal which is not a domesticated pet as defined in this Chapter but which was kept by the owner in the City of Blair prior to July 1, 2021 and which is registered with the City Clerk no later than thirty (30) days after this ordinance is first published in the official City newspaper.

32.05 ANIMAL EXCRETA

(1) In sanitary matters, the owner of any animal shall promptly remove and dispose of any excreta deposited by such animal upon any public or private property.

(2) Violations of this sub-section are subject to the penalty provisions in Section 32.11.

32.06 LICENSE

It shall be unlawful for any person in the City of Blair to own, harbor or keep any dog more than six (6) months of age without complying with the provisions of §174.05 through §174.10, Wis. Stat., relating to the listing, licensing and tagging of the same.

32.07 DOG BITE – DUTIES OF OWNER

Every owner or person harboring or keeping a dog, who knows that such dog has bitten any person, shall keep such dog confined for not less than fourteen (14) days or for such period of time as the city police direct. The owner or keeper of any such dog shall surrender the dog to the city police officer upon demand for examination.

32.08 IMPOUNDING OR KILLING OF ANIMALS

In addition to any penalty hereinafter provided for violation of this section, any person may impound any animal, and any Police Officer of the City may kill any animal which habitually pursues any vehicle upon a street, alley or highway of this City, habitually barks or howls, kills wounds or worries any domesticated animal, or is infected with rabies. Upon a person impounding an animal, such person shall deliver the animal to the Police Department for determination of ownership of said animal and impounding with the Trempealeau County Humane Society. If ownership is determined, the owner shall be responsible for any and all impoundment charges.

32.09 KEEPING OF CHICKENS

(1) License Requirement

(A) Any person who owns keeps or harbors chickens in the City of Blair shall obtain an annual license prior to January 1 of each year, or within thirty (30) days of acquiring the chickens. The term year of the license commences on January 1 and ends December 31. Residents deciding to own, keep or harbor chickens for successive years must obtain a new license for each term year they own, keep or harbor such chickens.

(B) Applications shall be made to the City Clerk and the fee for this license shall be $25.00.

(C) The Clerk shall collect the fee and shall assess and collect a late fee from every owner of chickens, if the owner fails to obtain a license prior to April 1 of each year, or fails to obtain a license within thirty (30) days of acquiring the chickens. The late fee shall be $15.00.

(D) No person shall own, keep or harbor any chickens, or build, erect or maintain and use any chicken coop, house, yard or other building or structure to keep or harbor chickens anywhere within the City without obtaining a license as required by this section.

(2) Use Conditions

(A) Any owner, occupier, or user of property within the City of Blair who chooses to own, keep or harbor chickens and any chicken coop permitted under this section shall be limited to following conditions:

1.) One (1) property is limited to the keeping or harboring of up to five (5) chickens.

2.) A person may only own, keep or harbor chickens on property being used as a Single-Family Residential Dwelling.

3.) No person shall keep any rooster.

4.) No person shall slaughter any chickens.

5.) The chickens shall be provided with a covered enclosure and must be kept in the covered enclosure or a fenced enclosure within the backyard of the property at all times.

6.) No enclosure shall be located closer than twenty-five (25) feet to any residential structure on an adjacent lot.

(B) No person shall keep any chickens within the City of Blair in any unsanitary condition or within such proximity of dwelling houses or in any manner so as to be a nuisance.

(C) All chicken coops, yards and other buildings shall be kept in a clean, sanitary condition and free from all objectionable odors and shall be subject to the inspection and approval of the City of Blair.

(E) The City of Blair shall have jurisdiction to inspect the premises upon which chickens are kept and ascertain and determine whether the conditions are unsanitary or if for any reason a nuisance is caused thereby.

(F) If an investigation from the City reveals that the use of chickens is in violation of this section or any other section of this Code the City shall have authority to require the owner or user of the property to fix, abate, or alleviate the problem. If the problem is not satisfactorily abated or alleviated the City of Blair shall have authority to revoke the license.

32.10 HOMING PIGEONS

(1) The keeping of Homing Pigeons within the City of Blair is permitted.

(2) No license or fee is required.

(3) The owner is required to provide a suitable covered enclosure for the pigeons in the back or side yard of the premises.

32.11 PENALTIES

Persons violating Section 32.03, 32.04 and 32.05 shall be fined as follows:

(1) First offense, a municipal fine of twenty-five dollars ($25.00)

(2) Second offense, a municipal fine of fifty dollars ($50.00)

(3) Third offense or subsequent offense, a civil forfeiture of fifty dollars ($50.00) plus court costs

April 16, 2013 – repeal and recreate Section 32.09
July 8, 2013 – repeal and recreate Section 32.08
August 2, 2021 – repealed and recreated parts Chapter 32 – Section 32.01 & 32.04
December 5, 2022- repealed and recreated Section 32.03
January 21, 2026- revised Chapter 32 – Section 32.09(1)(B)