

# City of Cincinnati

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## An Ordinance No. 114

-2026

**MODIFYING** the provisions of Chapter 606, “Rabies Vaccinations for Dogs,” of the Cincinnati Municipal Code (“CMC”) by **ORDAINING** new Sections 606-1-B, “Bite,” 606-1-C, “Cat,” 606-1-F, “Ferret,” 606-1-P, “Police dog,” 606-1-Q1, “Quarantine,” 606-1-Q2, “Quarantine period,” 606-13, “Duties After Dog, Cat, or Ferret Bites Person,” 606-15, “Abatement by the Board of Health,” and 606-17, “Costs of Quarantine, Examination, and Destruction of Rabid Animals”; and **AMENDING** Sections 606-1-D, “Dog,” 606-1-V, “Veterinarian,” 606-3, “Vaccination of Dogs,” 606-7, “Duty of Veterinarian,” 606-9, “Tag to be Attached to Dog, Cat, or Ferret and Rabies Vaccination Certificate Retained by Owner,” 606-11, “Exceptions,” and 606-99, “Penalties”; **MODIFYING** the provisions of Chapter 601, “General Provisions,” of the CMC by **ORDAINING** new Section 601-35, “Injunctive Relief and Abatement Costs”; and **MODIFYING** the provisions of Title XV, “Code Compliance and Hearings,” of the CMC by **AMENDING** Sections 1501-7, “Class C Civil Offenses,” and 1501-9, “Class D Civil Offenses.”

WHEREAS, Chapter 606 of the Cincinnati Municipal Code currently mandates that all dogs within Cincinnati must be vaccinated against rabies; and

WHEREAS, rabies is a deadly viral disease in humans if medical care is not received before symptoms appear; and

WHEREAS, rabies spreads to humans and pets primarily through bites and scratches from an infected animal; and

WHEREAS, an infected animal can transmit the virus even if it does not show immediate signs of illness; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report that rabies control measures have significantly reduced rabies as a public health threat in the United States; and

WHEREAS, a ten-day quarantine period allows for observation of potential rabies symptoms, preventing the unnecessary euthanasia of healthy pets to test for the rabies virus; and

WHEREAS, Ohio Revised Code (“R.C.”) Section 955.261 authorizes the Cincinnati Board of Health to impose quarantines for dogs that bite humans; and

WHEREAS, R.C. Section 955.221 further authorizes Council to regulate dog control; and

WHEREAS, R.C. Sections 3709.20 and 3709.22 further authorize the Board of Health to take necessary steps to protect public health and prevent disease, including the implementation of orders and regulations; and

WHEREAS, Council desires to provide the Cincinnati Board of Health with flexible enforcement options to protect public health and ensure that any costs or expenses incurred in achieving compliance are recouped by the public; and

WHEREAS, Council finds that further protecting public health, safety, and general welfare requires the quarantine of any dog, cat, or ferret that bites a person and potentially exposes a person to rabies, ensuring the virus is not transmitted to humans; and

WHEREAS, Council finds that it is in the best interest of the public health, safety, and general welfare to provide a civil enforcement remedy to the Cincinnati Health Department to expeditiously respond to dog, cat, and ferret bites; now, therefore,

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Cincinnati, State of Ohio:

Section 1. That new Sections 606-1-B, "Bite," 606-1-C, "Cat," 606-1-F, "Ferret," 606-1-P, "Police dog," 606-1-Q1, "Quarantine," 606-1-Q2, "Quarantine period," 606-13, "Duties After Dog, Cat, or Ferret Bites Person," 606-15, "Abatement by the Board of Health," and 606-17, "Costs of Quarantine, Examination, and Destruction of Rabid Animals," of Chapter 606, "Rabies Vaccinations for Dogs," of the Cincinnati Municipal Code ("CMC") are ordained as follows:

**Sec. 606-1-B. Bite.**

"Bite" or "Bites" means any bite, injury, wound, cut, scrape, abrasion, or puncture that breaks the skin caused by an animal.

**Sec. 606-1-C1. Cat.**

"Cat" means any domestic feline animal of the species *Felis catus*.

**Sec. 606-1-F. Ferret.**

"Ferret" means any member of the subspecies *Mustela putorius furo*.

**Sec. 606-1-P1. Police dog.**

"Police dog" has the same definition as in CMC Section 701-1-P1.

**Sec. 606-1-Q1. Quarantine.**

"Quarantine" shall mean that the owner, keeper, or harbinger of any dog, cat, or ferret shall keep it confined in an enclosure that precludes direct contact with people or other animals at a suitable location in the City approved in writing by the Board of Health, including on the premises of the owner, keeper, or harbinger; in a pound; shelter; or state-licensed kennel.

**Sec. 606-1-Q2. Quarantine period.**

“Quarantine period” shall mean the duration of time ordered by the Board of Health to ensure that the animal is not afflicted with rabies and until the animal has a rabies vaccination. Notwithstanding, no quarantine period for a dog, cat, or ferret that bites a person shall be less than ten days.

**Sec. 606-13. Duties After Dog, Cat, or Ferret Bites Person.**

- (a) No owner, keeper, or harbinger of a dog, cat, or ferret shall knowingly fail to report any bite of a person by the animal within 24 hours to the Board of Health.
- (b) No owner, keeper, or harbinger of a dog, cat, or ferret who has bitten a person shall fail to immediately quarantine the animal for the quarantine period ordered by the Board of Health.
  - 1. The owner, keeper, or harbinger of a dog, cat, or ferret in quarantine shall immediately notify the Board of Health of the location of the quarantine.
  - 2. No owner, keeper, or harbinger of a dog, cat, or ferret in quarantine shall transfer the animal except to the county dog warden or any other animal control authority. The owner, keeper, or harbinger shall notify the Board of Health prior to the transfer.
  - 3. No person shall knowingly remove a dog, cat, or ferret from the jurisdiction where the bite occurred during the quarantine.
- (c) The owner, keeper, or harbinger shall immediately notify the Board of Health of any signs of illness of a dog, cat, or ferret during a quarantine.
- (d) An owner, keeper, or harbinger of a dog, cat, or ferret in quarantine shall report the death of the animal to the Board of Health. No person shall fail to comply with an order to deliver the animal’s remains to the Board of Health.
- (e) No person shall knowingly cause the death of a dog, cat, or ferret during the animal’s quarantine except by order by the Board of Health or to prevent injury or death.
- (f) No owner, keeper, or harbinger of a dog, cat, or ferret in quarantine shall fail to comply with an order by the Board of Health to submit the animal to an examination or testing for rabies or to report the results of the examination.
- (g) This Section does not apply to a police dog that is under the care of a veterinarian or has bitten a person while the police dog is being used for law enforcement, corrections, prison or jail security, or investigative purposes. If a police dog exhibits signs of illness or abnormal behavior after biting a person, the keeper or harbinger of a police dog shall notify the Board of Health and comply with any order by the Board of Health for an examination or testing for rabies of the police dog by a veterinarian.

**Section 606-15. Abatement by Board of Health.**

The Board of Health may seize any animal subject to the provisions of this Chapter, Ohio Revised Code Chapter 955, Ohio Administrative Code Chapter 3701-3, or any related or successor statutes, ordinances, or regulations to ensure compliance, abate any public nuisance or threatened public nuisance, or to correct or avoid any threat to public health, safety, or welfare.

**Section 606-17. Costs of Quarantine, Examination, and Destruction of Rabid Animals.**

The owner, keeper, or harbinger of an animal shall bear all costs associated with compliance with the requirements of this Chapter, Ohio Revised Code Chapter 955, Ohio Administrative Code Chapter 3701-3, or any related or successor statutes, ordinances, or regulations. The Board of Health may collect from the owner, keeper, or harbinger of an animal subject to this Chapter any cost or expense incurred with abatement or compliance including but not limited to investigation, vaccination, transportation, boarding, quarantine, examination, testing, euthanizing or destruction of an animal, administrative or support staff fees, attorney's fees, or court costs.

The Board of Health may invoice the costs to the responsible party and request the City Solicitor commence a civil action to collect any unpaid debts.

Section 2. That Sections 606-1-D, "Dog," 606-1-V, "Veterinarian," 606-3, "Vaccination of Dogs," 606-7, "Duty of Veterinarian," 606-9, "Tag to be Attached to Dog Rabies Vaccination Certificate Retained by Owner," 606-11, "Exceptions," and 606-99, "Penalties," of the CMC are amended as follows:

**Chapter 606 – RABIES VACCINATIONS FOR DOGS AND QUARANTINES**

**Sec. 606-1-D. Dog.**

"Dog" shall include any domesticated animal of the *canis familiaris* species ~~dogs~~ of either sex ~~more than~~ at least three months of age.

**Sec. 606-1-V. Veterinarian.**

"Veterinarian" shall mean any person licensed to practice the profession of veterinary medicine in the state in which the veterinarian practices veterinarian medicine ~~in the State of Ohio~~.

**Sec. 606-3. Vaccination of Dogs, Cats, and Ferrets.**

It shall be the duty of every person who owns or harbors a dog, cat, or ferret ~~or dogs~~ in the ~~City~~ of Cincinnati to have such dog, cat, or ferret ~~or dogs~~ inoculated by a veterinarian with a rabies vaccine so that the dog, cat, or ferret is continually protected against rabies by having the dog, cat, or ferret revaccinated as necessary; provided, however, that dogs, cat, or ferret shall not be required to be vaccinated before reaching the age of three months.

No person shall fail to have such dog or dogs inoculated.

**Sec. 606-7. Duty of Veterinarian.**

It shall be the duty of each veterinarian, when inoculating a dog, cat, or ferret with anti-rabic vaccine, to complete the rabies vaccination certificate as recommended by the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians, Inc., or its equivalent containing the same information as such, and without delay, distribute a copy of the certificate to the dog, cat, or ferret owner or harborer. A copy shall be retained by the veterinarian.

At the time of the inoculation of any dog, cat, or ferret, the veterinarian shall also deliver to the owner or harborer of said dog, cat, or ferret a durable rabies vaccination tag, as evidence of such inoculation with anti-rabic vaccine.

**Sec. 606-9. Proof of Vaccination Status. ~~Tag to be Attached to Dog and Rabies Vaccination Certificate Retained by Owner.~~**

~~Every owner or harborer of a dog, cat, or ferret, shall retain or provide proof of vaccination status to the Board of Health. In the absence of proof submitted to the Board of Health, the animal shall be presumed to be unvaccinated. upon obtaining the tag from a veterinarian, shall immediately attach the tag to the collar or harness of said dog to be worn by said dog at all times. The certificate obtained from the veterinarian shall be retained by the owner or harborer of such for inspection by the officials of the health and police department at all times.~~

**Sec. 606-11. Exceptions.**

The requirement imposed by Section 606-3 shall not apply to dogs, cats, or ferrets kept by regularly chartered medical colleges or other educational or scientific institutions to be used for scientific purposes or to dogs, cats, or ferrets kept in licensed breeding kennels and confined to the premises at all times and to dogs, cats, or ferrets brought to the eCity for exhibition purposes at any dog, cat, or ferret show, provided a permit for the holding of such show is obtained from the bBoard of hHealth.

**Sec. 606-99. Penalties.**

- (a) Whoever violates any provision of this eChapter shall be fined not more than \$109 commits a Class C Civil Offense as defined by Section 1501-7 of the Cincinnati Municipal Code.
- (b) Whoever violates any provision of this Chapter for a second time in one year or less commits a Class D Civil Offense as defined by Section 1501-9 of the Cincinnati Municipal Code.

Section 3. That new Section 601-35, "Injunctive Relief and Abatement Costs," of the CMC is ordained as follows:

**Section 601-35. Injunctive Relief and Abatement Costs.**

- (a) In addition to any other remedy available under the law, any person who has violated, threatens to violate, or committed chronic violations of any law, statute, ordinance, regulation, rule, code, or order that the Board of Health or its designee is charged to enforce shall be enjoined. The court may fashion whatever relief is appropriate to ensure compliance or to maintain or restore public health, safety, and welfare including, but not limited to, civil penalties, contempt, or appointment of a receiver. The City Solicitor may commence a civil action to obtain relief upon request by the Board of Health or its designee.
- (b) Any person who fails to comply with any law, statute, ordinance, regulation, rule, code, or order that the Board of Health or its designee is charged to enforce shall pay any cost or expense incurred by the Board of Health or its designee to achieve compliance or abatement of the hazard. If the person fails to pay a cost or expense after notice, the debt may be collected using any remedy available at law including, but not limited to commencing a civil action to obtain a judgment; or placing a lien on benefited real property in accordance with the process set forth in Ohio Revised Code Sections 715.26, 715.261, and 731.54 or any successor sections.

Section 4. That Section 1501-7, “Class C Civil Offenses,” and 1501-9, “Class D Civil Offenses” of the CMC are amended as follows:

**Sec. 1501-7. - Class C Civil Offenses.**

A person who violates a standard of conduct set forth in a provision of the Cincinnati Municipal Code listed below is liable for the civil fine specified in § 1501-99 for a Class C Civil Offense. If the provision is listed under paragraph (a) below, the otherwise applicable civil fine is reduced by 50% if the person charged shows in accordance with § 1501-15 that the violation has been corrected. If a person has previously been found to have violated the same provision of the Cincinnati Municipal Code within one year that person may be charged as a second offender and on being found to have committed a second or subsequent offense is liable for the civil fine for the subsequent offense provided below, the amount of which fine is specified in § 1501-99 and is not subject to reduction for correction of the violation.

- (a) Class C Civil Offenses With Civil Fines Subject to 50% Reduction for Correction of Violation:

			Civil Fine for Subsequent Offense
(1)	§ 514-15	Violation and Revocation	Class D
(2)	§ 602-1	Permitting Unclean Habitations	Class D

			Civil Fine for Subsequent Offense
(3)	§ 602-7	Vacation of Unsanitary Premises	Class D
(4)	§ 604-5	All Improved Premises to be Rat-Proofed	Class D
(5)	<del>§ 606-3</del> Chapter 606	<u>Rabies Vaccination and Quarantines of Dogs</u>	Class D
(6)	Chapter 743	Urban Forestry	Class D
(7)	§ 747-3	Limited Franchise Permit Required	Class D
(8)	§ 802-5(G)	Regulation of Recycled Content Paper Bags and Reusable Bags	Class D
(9)	§ 802-7	Reporting on Distribution of Bags and Collection of Charges	Class D
(10)	§ 869-7	Wrecking License Required	Class D
(11)	§ 1201-1	Cincinnati Fire Prevention Code	Class C
(12)	§ 1201-57	Permits	Class C
(13)	Chapter 1203	Motor Equipment in Places of Assembly	Class C
(14)	Chapter 1207	Drills	Class C
(15)	§ 1209-3	Hazardous Existing Electrical Wiring and Equipment	Class C
(16)	Chapter 1211	Fire Extinguishers	Class C
(17)	§ 1219-11	Flameproof Decorations	Class C
(18)	§ 1219-25	Chimneys and Fireplaces	Class C
(19)	§ 1219-31	Air Conditioning	Class C
(20)	§ 1219-35	Residential Storage	Class C
(21)	§ 1219-43	Fire Escapes	Class C

			Civil Fine for Subsequent Offense
(22)	§ 1219-57	Restrictions on Parking Motor Vehicles	Class C
(23)	§ 1219-61	Shaftways	Class C
(24)	§ 1219-63	Inspection, Safety Provisions	Class C
(25)	§ 1219-65	Location of Exits	Class C
(26)	§ 1219-67	Interior Stairway Doors	Class C
(27)	Chapter 1227	Storage, General Requirements	Class C
(28)	§ 1229-3	Water Flow Requirements	Class C
(29)	§ 1229-9	Private Fire Hydrants	Class C
(30)	§§ 723-5, 723-19	Structures in the Public Right-of-Way	Class D
(31)	§§ 723-44, 723-50	Mobile Food Vending	Class C
(32)	§ 723-24	Bike Share Stations	Class C

(b) Class C Civil Offense With Civil Fines Not Subject to 50% Reduction to Correction for Violation:

			Civil Fine for Subsequent Offense
(1)	Chapter 404	Electricity	Class D
(2)	Chapter 405	Telegraph and Telephone	Class D
(3)	Chapter 414	Valet Parking	Class D
(4)	§ 506-63	Driving on Sidewalk Area	Class D
(5)	§ 506-64	Driving on New Pavement	Class D

			Civil Fine for Subsequent Offense
(6)	§ 718-23	Unlawful Private Use of Streets	Class D
(7)	§ 721-71	Permits for Sidewalk Construction	Class D
(8)	§ 721-81	Sidewalk Construction Without Permit Unlawful	Class D
(9)	§ 729-73	Discharging Noisome Substances	Class D
(10)	§ 729-83	Refrigerators, Abandoning	Class C
(11)	§ 729-89(d)	Improper Disposal of Construction Debris or Hazardous Waste	Class D
(12)	§ 1215-3	Safe Practices	Class C
(13)	§ 1219-17	Misuse of Fire Protection Equipment	Class C
(14)	§ 1231-9	Tampering with Fire Hydrants	Class C
(15)	§ 1231-13	Unlicensed Use of Fire Hydrants Prohibited	Class C
(16)	§ 701-2(B)(2)	Leash Required; Responsibility for Injury ( <i>Menacing Fashion</i> )	Class C
(17)	§ 701-2(B)(3)	Leash Required; Responsibility for Injury ( <i>Injury</i> )	Class C
(18)	§ 856-25(b)	Failure to Obtain a Short Term Rental Registration	Class D
(19)	§ 856-25(e)	Failure of Short Term Rental Housing Platform to Comply with Obligations	Class D

**Sec. 1501-9. Class D Civil Offenses.**

A person who violates a standard of conduct set forth in a provision of the Cincinnati Municipal Code listed below is liable for the civil fine specified in § 1501-99 for a Class D Civil Offense. If the provision is listed under paragraph (a) below, the otherwise applicable civil fine is reduced by 50% if the person charged shows in accordance with § 1501-15 that the violation has been corrected. If a person has previously been found to have violated the same provision of the Cincinnati Municipal Code within one year that person may be charged as a second offender and on

being found to have committed a second or subsequent offense is liable for the civil fine for the subsequent offense provided below, which fine is specified in § 1501-99 and is not subject to reduction for correction of the violation.

(a) Class D Civil Offenses With Civil Fines Subject to 50% Reduction for Correction of Violation:

			Civil Fine for Subsequent Offense
(1)	§ 720-13	Private Facilities	Class E
(2)	§ 720-45	Notice of Violations	Class E
(3)	§ 720-69	Notice to Correct Drainage	Class E
(4)	Chapter 855	Rooming Houses	Class D
(5)	Chapter 895	Outdoor Advertising Signs	Class D
(6)	Chapter 1101	Administration, Cincinnati Building Code	Class E
(7)	Chapter 1106	General and Specialty Contractors	Class E
(8)	Chapter 1107	Elevator and Conveyer Equipment	Class E
(9)	Chapter 1117	Housing Code	Class E
(10)	Chapter 1119	Building Hazard Abatement Code	Class E
(11)	Chapter 1127	General Inspection Programs Code	Class E
(12)	Title XIV	Zoning Code	Class E
(13)	§ 1201-21	Maintenance	Class D
(14)	§ 1201-33	Evacuation	Class D
(15)	§ 1201-35	Spills and Leaks	Class D
(16)	Chapter 1235	Detectors, Early Fire Warning Systems	Class D
(17)	§ 1123-11(a)	Vacant Foreclosed Property Registration - Failure to register a vacant, foreclosed property.	Class E
(18)	§ 874-07(a)	Failure to Register Residential Rental Property	Class D

(19)	Chapter 1109	Flood Damage Reduction	Class E
(20)	§ 871-14	Landlord's Obligation to Provide Tenant Relocation Assistance	Class D

(b) Class D Civil Offenses With Civil Fines Not Subject to 50% Reduction for Correction of Violation:

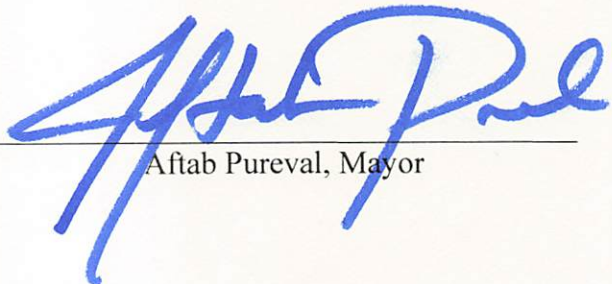
			Civil Fine for Subsequent Offense
(1)	§ 718-25	Secret Street Uses	Class E
(2)	§ 721-59	Taking Material from Streets	Class E
(3)	§ 729-71(c)(2)	Personal Property Left Abandoned on Streets and Sidewalks - 4 or more items	Class D
(4)	§ 761-14	Eviction or Retaliation by Landlord	Class E
(5)	Chapter 891	Home Improvement	Class E
(6)	§ 1201-47	Failure to Comply with Orders	Class D
(7)	§ 1219-21	Causing Fire Through Negligence	Class D
(8)	Chapter 1251	Fire Starting Apparatus	Class D
(9)	§ 759-4	Use of a Motor Vehicle to Facilitate a Drug Related Crime	Class D
(10)	Chapter 722	Management and Control of the Use of the City Right-of-Way	Class E
(11)	Chapter 730	Commercial Waste Franchises	
(12)	§ 856-25(c)	Violation of Limitations on Operators or Operation of Short Term Rentals	Class D
(13)	§ 1125-17(1)	Failure to Register a Vacant Building	Class E
(14)	§ 1601-57	Enforcement of Emergency Orders	Class D
(15)	§ 1601-59	Enforcement of Health Orders	Class D
(16)	§ 723-79	Failure to Obtain Streetcar Power-Down or Shutdown Work Permit	Class D

(17)	Chapter 811	e-Scooter Rental Franchises	Class D
(18)	§ 915-7	Mandatory Reporting of Loss or Theft of Firearm or Dangerous Ordinance	Class D
(19)	<u>Chapter 606</u>	<u>Rabies Vaccinations and Quarantines</u>	<u>Class D</u>

Section 5. That the proper City officials are authorized to do all things necessary and proper to comply with the provisions of Sections 1 to 4.

Section 6. That this ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

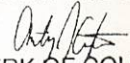
Passed: April 22, 2026

  
 Aftab Pureval, Mayor

Attest:   
 Clerk

Deletions are indicated by strikethrough; additions are indicated by underline.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT ORDINANCE NO 114 ~~2024~~  
 WAS PUBLISHED IN THE CITY BULLETIN  
 IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CHARTER ON 4/5 ~~2024~~

  
 CLERK OF COUNCIL