

Santa Rosa, California City Code

Title 7 ANIMALS

Chapter 7-04 GENERAL PROVISIONS

7-04.010 Definitions.

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For purposes of this chapter, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, certain words and phrases shall have the meanings given them in this section.

(A) "Animal" means all nonhuman members of the animal kingdom including domestic, exotic and livestock species.

(B) "Animal Control Officer" means the Poundmaster and any individual authorized by the Poundmaster to act on his or her behalf in the enforcement of the provisions of Title 7 of the Santa Rosa City Code.

(C) "Assistance dog" means a specifically trained canine assigned to a disabled person for the specific purpose of assisting the disabled person. Assistance dogs include, but are not limited to, guide dogs for the blind, hearing dogs, canine companions and pet-assisted therapy dogs.

(D) "City Health Officer" means that individual designated by the City Council to enforce and observe quarantine regulations and other provisions relating to public health within the City of Santa Rosa.

(E) "Collar or other device" means a device that is required by this chapter to be worn to designate the status of the animal as a dangerous or vicious animal. The Poundmaster shall establish within 20 days of the effective date of the ordinance codified in this section such rules and regulations for the design and wearing of a collar or other device which should be visible at 50 feet during normal daylight hours. The collar or other device shall be made available by the Poundmaster and provided for the animal at the owner's expense.

(F) "Domestic animal" means any animal customarily kept by humans for companionship, including, but not limited to: dogs, cats, birds, rabbits, hamsters, mice, turtles and the like.

(G) "Enclosure" means a fence or structure suitable to prevent the entry of young-minor children, and which is suitable to confine a vicious animal in conjunction with other measures which may be taken by the owner or keeper of the animal. The enclosure shall be designed in order to prevent the animal from escaping. "Enclosure" of a potentially dangerous animal means containment of the animal within the owner or keeper's dwelling or within a fence or structure on the property designed to prevent the animal from escaping. The animal shall be housed pursuant to Section 597t of the California [Penal Code](#).

(H) "Exotic animal" means any species of animal not considered domestic or livestock. For the purpose of this definition "exotic animal" includes, but is not limited to: nonpoisonous snakes and lizards

and pot-bellied pigs.

(I) "Kennel" means any place or premises devoted to the keeping, harboring, breeding, buying, or selling of four or more dogs, or six or more mammalian animals of the same species, age four months or over.

(J) "Livestock" means any animal customarily kept by humans for the purpose of providing food, clothing or work, including, but not limited to: equine, bovine, ovine, caprine, porcine and fowl, but excluding bees.

(K) "Muzzle" means any device that an animal is required to wear by this chapter to prevent the animal from biting a person or other animal. At the discretion of the Poundmaster, rules and regulations shall be established within 20 days of the effective date of the ordinance codified in this section for the design and use of such devices. These regulations are intended to provide flexibility of design appropriate to the specific animal to be muzzled.

(L) "Owner" means any person who owns, keeps or harbors an animal, for 15 or more consecutive days, except a veterinarian or an operator of a kennel or pet shop engaged in the regular practice of his business as such. "To own" an animal is to keep, harbor or shelter an animal for 15 consecutive days or more.

(M) "Pet shop" means any premises devoted to the commercial trade of selling live animals for use as pets.

(N) "Pit Bull" means any Staffordshire Bull Terrier, American Pit Bull Terrier, or American Staffordshire Terrier breed of dog, or any mixed breed of dog which contains, as an element of its breeding, the breed of Staffordshire Bull Terrier, American Pit Bull Terrier, or American Staffordshire Terrier as to be identifiable as partially of the breed of Staffordshire Bull Terrier or American Staffordshire Terrier.

(O) "Potentially dangerous animal" means any of the following:

(1) Any animal which, when unprovoked, bites a person that is less than a severe injury.

(2) Any animal which, when it is off the property of its owner or keeper, and is unprovoked, has ~~killed~~, seriously bitten, inflicted injury, or otherwise caused injury by attacking a domestic animal.

(3) Any animal which, when unprovoked, on two separate occasions within the prior 36-month period, engages in any behavior that requires a defensive action by any person to prevent bodily injury when the person and the animal are off the property of the owner or keeper of the animal.

(P) "Poundmaster" means that person appointed in accordance with Section [7-16.010](#).

(Q) "Service dog" means any dog under the control of a peace officer in the performance of, or training for, public service.

(R) "Severe injury" means any physical injury to a human being that results in muscle tears or disfiguring lacerations or requires multiple sutures or corrective or cosmetic surgery.

(S) "Vicious animal" means any of the following:

(1) Any animal seized under Section 599aa of the California [Penal Code](#) and upon the sustaining of a conviction of the owner or keeper under subdivision (a) of Section 597.5 of the California [Penal Code](#).

(2) Any animal which, when unprovoked, in an aggressive manner, inflicts severe injury on or kills a human being.

(3) Any animal previously determined to be and currently listed as a potentially dangerous animal which, after its owner or keeper has been notified of this determination, continues the behavior described in the definition of potentially dangerous animal set out above, or is maintained in violation of Section [7-12.100](#) and/or Section [7-30.040](#).

(4) Any animal which, when it is off the property of its owner or keeper, and is unprovoked, has killed a domestic animal is, at the City Attorney's discretion, either a "Potentially dangerous animal" or "Vicious animal."