

ORDINANCE 407-A

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES FOR TRAPPING AND CHEMICAL IMMOBILIZATION OF ANIMALS WITHIN THE CITY OF STILWELL

WHEREAS, Rules governing the duties, authority and responsibilities of Animal Control Officers are vital to the proper execution of animal control in the City of Stilwell

WHEREAS, it is the opinion of this Council that adequate guidelines are essential for the efficient and effective fulfillment of the purpose of the Stilwell Animal Control Department,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF STILWELL, OKLAHOMA:

ORDINANCE 407 shall forthwith be amended as per the following:

ARTICLE 1. Additions

SECTION 8: Trapping of Animals

- E. Trapping of animals inside the City limits by private citizens or other businesses is illegal without the permission of the City. The exception to this is the owner of a residence or business who is capturing nuisance animals for the protection of their property. Owners of residence or business will still be governed by the rules listed below.
- F. Permission for trapping in the City limits may be granted by filling out the “Animal Trapping Request” form. This form will have to be signed by Animal Control and be available for presentation when requested by Animal Control, Law Enforcement, Code Enforcement, or any other City Official.
- G. Rules for trapping in the City limits:
 - a. Any animal caught by the trap will become the property of the person trapping and will be the sole responsibility of that person to dispose of the animal in a humane manner, with the exception of a licensed domesticated animal, which must be returned to the owner or turned over to Animal Control.
 - b. No traps will be allowed that will cause harm to any animal, such as snares, bear traps and the like.
 - c. The City will not be responsible for the security of the traps.
 - d. Traps will not be placed in a location or manner so as to interfere with the daily operations of the City, residents or other businesses.
 - e. Traps must be checked daily to ensure no animal is present. During times of inclement weather, snow, extreme heat, etc. the trap must be checked at least twice a day.
- H. Any person(s) defacing, destroying or tampering with any trap, be it City or personal property, will be dealt with in accordance with current municipal fines and restitution or State Statutes.
- I. Any traps found in the City limits set for animal capture without permission or not placed by the owner of the residence or business may be removed and confiscated. The owner of the trap can retrieve the trap from Animal Control, however the owner may be cited in accordance with current municipal codes. Proof of ownership will be required to retrieve the trap.

SECTION 9: Chemical Immobilization

- A. Employees must be trained and certified to use the chemical immobilization equipment.
- B. Chemical immobilization of an animal has value under certain circumstances, but should only be used after the Animal Control Officers have received proper training, and then only as a last resort when all other methods of capture have failed.
- C. Chemical immobilization should be used only when the animal or the community is at risk if the animal remains at large. Just the mere fact that the dog is at large is insufficient.
- D. Chemical immobilization, through the use of tranquilizing equipment and the drugs received for immobilization, present risks to the animal, the Animal Control Officer or bystanders. A variety of factors, such as the weather and the physical condition of the animal, can vary the success rate and should be taken into consideration.
- E. When the decision to use chemicals to capture an animal is made the following guidelines should be followed.:
 - a. Prior to the use of the chemical the animal has to be in a place where it can be monitored until the chemical has taken effect.
 - b. Once the animal is under the control of the chemical the Animal Control Officer must capture and secure the animal.
 - c. The animal will then be taken to the veterinarian as soon as possible to be medically evaluated. Once evaluated by the veterinarian a medical release must be obtained by the Animal Control Officer. In the event a veterinarian is unavailable, the Animal Control Officer must monitor the animal until the animal is no longer under the control of the chemical
 - d. The animal will then be placed in the Animal Shelter and cared for. Monitoring of the animal will be necessary for an extended period of time, at least until the animal is no longer under the control of the chemical.
 - e. Complete documentation pertaining to the actions taken will be kept, including, but not limited to, medical observations before, during, and after chemical immobilization.

ARTICLE 2: The following SECTION Numbers are changed.

SECTION 9: Releasing of Non-Domesticated Animals	is now SECTION 10
SECTION 10: Enforcement	is now SECTION 11
SECTION 11: Repeal and Severability	is now SECTION 12

ARTICLE 3: All sections of Ordinance 407 remain in full force and effect.

PASSED by the City Council this 8th day of September, 2020.

APPROVED by the Mayor this 8th day of September, 2020.

ATTEST:

Jean Ann Wright, Mayor

Larry A, Nettles, City Clerk-Treasurer