

ORDINANCE NO. 781

AN ORDINANCE PERTAINING TO THE KEEPING OF PIT BULL DOGS AND OTHER ANIMALS OF A VICIOUS NATURE WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF SHERWOOD; AS AMENDED, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SHERWOOD, ARKANSAS, THAT:

SECTION 1: It shall be unlawful to keep, harbor, own or in any way possess within the corporate limits of the City of Sherwood, Arkansas:

(1) Any warm-blooded, carnivorous or omnivorous, wild or exotic animal (including but not limited to non-human primates, raccoons, skunks, foxes and wild and exotic cats; but excluding fowl, ferrets and small rodents of varieties used for laboratory purposes).

(2) Any animal having poisonous bits.

(3) Any pit bull dog; provided, that pit bull dogs registered with the City on the date of publication of this ordinance may be kept within the City provided they shall be securely confined indoors or in a securely enclosed and locked pen or kennel. However, those pit bull dogs which have been cited for violations of this ordinance or any other ordinance pertaining to the keeping of dogs in the City shall be confined in accordance with Section 2, Paragraph 2. "Pit bull dog" is defined to mean:

- (a) The bull terrier breed of dog;
- (b) Staffordshire bull terrier breed of dog;
- (c) The American pit bull terrier breed of dog;
- (d) The American Staffordshire terrier breed of dog;
- (e) Dogs of mixed breed or of other breeds than above listed which breed or mixed breed is known as pit bulls, pit bull dogs, or pit bull terriers;
- (f) Any dog which has the appearance and characteristics of being predominantly of the breeds of bull terrier, Staffordshire bull terrier, American pit bull terrier, American Staffordshire terrier; any other breed commonly known as pit bulls, pit bull dogs or pit bull terriers; or a combination of any of these breeds.

(4) Any animal that exhibits fierce or vicious behavior or that has attacked a person or animal with such severity as to cause physical injury or property damage. However, the fact that that animal has attempted to bite a person when that person has provoked or teased it shall not constitute the animal's being a vicious animal.

SECTION 2: The keeping of pit bull dogs by residents having the said pit bull dogs prior to the date of this ordinance shall be subject to the following standards:

(1) Leash. No person shall permit a registered pit bull dog to go outside its kennel or pen unless such dog is securely

leashed with a leash no longer than four (4) feet in length. No person shall permit a pit bull dog to be kept on a chain, rope or other type of leash outside its kennel or pen unless a person is in physical control of the leash. Such dogs may not be leashed to inanimate objects such as trees, posts, building, etc.

(2) Confinement. All registered pit bull dogs shall be securely confined indoors or in a securely enclosed and locked pen or kennel, except when leashed as above provided. Such pen, kennel, or structure must have secure sides and a secure top attached to the sides. All structures used to confine registered pit bull dogs must be locked with a key or combination lock when such animals are within the structure. Such structure must have a secure bottom or floor attached to the sides of the pen or the sides of the pen must be embedded in the ground. All structures erected to house pit bull dogs must comply with all zoning and building regulations of the City. All such structures must be adequately lighted and ventilated and kept in a clean and sanitary condition.

(3) Confinement Indoors. No pit bull dog may be kept on a porch, patio or in any part of a house or structure that would allow the dog to exit such building on its own volition. In addition, no such animal may be kept in a house or structure when the windows are open or when screen windows or screens doors are

the only obstacle preventing the dog from exiting the structure.

(4) Signs. All owners, keepers or harborers of registered pit bull dogs within the City shall within ten (10) days of the effective date of this ordinance display in a prominent place on their premises a sign easily readable by the public using the words "Beware of Dog". In addition, a similar sign is required to be posted on the kennel or pen or such animal.

(5) Identification Photographs. All owners, keepers or harborers of registered pit bull dogs must within ten (10) days of the effective date of this ordinance provide to the City Clerk two (2) separate and different poses) color photographs of the registered animal clearly showing the color and approximate size of the animal.

(6) Reporting Requirements. All owners, keepers or harborers of registered pit bull dogs must within ten (10) days of the incident, report the following information in writing to the Sherwood City Clerk as required hereinafter:

- (a) The removal from the City or death of a registered pit bull dog;
- (b) The birth of offspring of a registered pit bull dog;
- (c) The new address of a registered pit bull dog owner should the owner move within the corporate city limits.

(7) Sale or Transfer of Ownership Prohibited.

Sale - No person shall sell, barter or in any other way dispose of a pit bull dog registered with the City to any person within the City unless the recipient person resides permanently in the same household and on the same premises as the registered owner of such dog; provided that the registered owner of a pit bull dog may sell or otherwise dispose of a registered dog or the offspring of such dog to persons who do not reside within the City.

(8) Animals Born of Registered Dogs. All offspring born of pit bull dogs registered with the City must be removed from the City within six (6) weeks of the birth of such animal.

(9) Irrebuttable Presumptions. There shall be an irrebuttable resumption that any dog registered with the City as a pit bull dog or any of those breeds prohibited by the City code is in fact a dog subject to the requirements of this section.

(10) Failure to Comply. It shall be unlawful for the owner, keeper or harbinger of a pit bull dog registered with the City of Sherwood to fail to comply with the requirements and conditions set forth in this ordinance. Any dog found to be the subject of a violation of this ordinance shall be subject to immediate seizure and impoundment. In addition, failure to comply will result in the revocation of the license of such animal resulting in the immediate removal of the animal from the City.

(11) Violations and Penalties. Any person violating or permitting the violation of any provision of this ordinance shall upon conviction in the Municipal Court be fined a sum not less than Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00) and not more than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00). In addition to the fine imposed the Court may sentence the defendant to imprisonment in the county jail for a period not to exceed thirty (30) days. In addition, the court shall order the registration of the subject pit bull revoked and the dog removed from the City. Should the defendant refuse to remove the dog from the City the municipal court judge shall find the defendant owner in contempt and order the immediate confiscation and impoundment of the animal. Each day that violation of this ordinance continues shall be deemed a separate offense. In addition to the foregoing penalties, any person who violates this ordinance shall pay all expenses, including shelter, food, handling, veterinary care and testimony necessitated by the enforcement of this ordinance.

(12) Severability. If any section, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a decision of any court of competent jurisdiction such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance.

SECTION 3: All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict

herewith are hereby repealed.

ADOPTED: April 27, 1987.

JACK P. EVANS, MAYOR

ATTEST:

AMY SANDERS, CITY CLERK

SPONSOR: BILL HARMON, ALDERMAN