

## **APPENDIX D – Chapter 5 – Animal Control Background Information**

### **ANIMAL CONTROL**

Domestic, domesticated wild, and wild animals which are improperly restrained, housed and cared for are a potential menace and danger to the public health and well-being. Animals that are uncontrolled can inflict injury, spread disease or cause property damage. Each year in the United States dog bites cause approximately 20 deaths and an estimated 585,000 injuries resulting in need for medical attention or restricted activity. A survey of 3,238 Pennsylvania school children published in 1985 in *Public Health Reports* determined that by grade twelve, 46% of students had been bitten by a dog and 17% had received medical attention for dog bites. Small children are frequently bitten in the face. A second study published in 1989 in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* identified 157 dog bite related fatalities in the United States between 1979 and 1988. Seventy per cent of these deaths occurred in children less than 10 years of age. Animals which are unvaccinated, unrestrained or improperly cared for may also be the source of zoonoses such as: Rabies, Salmonella, Toxoplasmosis, Simian Herpes B, Tuberculosis, Psittacoses and other diseases. Rabies is a disease which results in death once symptoms appear; rabies is endemic (always present) in the Lyon County area; and, the lives of humans and their animals are at stake when a bite incident occurs. Toxoplasmosis is a parasitic disease which can be spread by cat feces and soil contaminated with cat feces. Acute infections in pregnant women can be transmitted to the fetus and cause severe illness such as: mental retardation, blindness, and epilepsy. Records of the Lyon County Health Department indicate that there were 88 and 96 reports of animal bites in 1998 and 1999, respectively. Roughly 75% of the reported bites involved dogs. Records from the City of Emporia Animal Control indicate that there were 1,188 animals impounded in 1999. 840 of these animals were euthanized and 48 were adopted. The interest in exotic animals has increased in recent years. Pet stores routinely offer exotic birds, arachnids, reptiles and amphibians for sale. Mountain lions, ocelots, primates, bear and other wild animals may be purchased from breeders or at a number of exotic animal auctions held in Kansas each year. The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks requires that any person breeding game (K.S.A. 32-951) or possessing a mountain lion, grizzly bear, black bear, or wolf (K.A.R. 115-20-4) must apply for a permit for such animal. Individuals possessing other dangerous wild animals are not required to obtain a permit.

*Inherently vicious or dangerous animals shall include:*

- 1) any member of the *Primate* (including but not limited to monkeys, apes, lemurs) order not including humans (*Homo sapien*),
- 2) any member of the *Canidae* (dog) family not customarily domesticated by man, or any hybrids thereof, including wolf hybrids which are a cross between a wolf and a domestic dog, but not including domestic dogs (*Canis familiaris*),
- 3) any member of the *Felidae* (cat) family not customarily domesticated by man, or any hybrids thereof, but not including domestic cats (*Felis catus*),
- 4) any member of the *Ursidae* (bear) family, or any hybrids thereof,
- 5) any member of the class *reptilia* (*reptile*) which is venomous, including, but not necessarily limited to, all members of the following families: *Helodermidae*(*Gila Monster*); *Viperidae* (*Pit Vipers*); *Crotalidae* (*Rattlesnakes*); *Atractaspidae* (*Mole Vipers*) ; *Hydrophilidae* (*Sea Snakes*); and *Elapidae* (*Coral Snakes and Cobras*), or
- 6) any “rear fanged” snakes of the family *Colubridae* that are known to be dangerous to humans, including but not necessarily limited to, all members of the following families: *Dispholidus typus* (*Boomslangs*);

*Thebtonis kirtlandii* (African Twig or Vine Snake); and *Rhabdophis spp* (Keelbacks),,

- 7) specific members of the family *Boidae* (boas and pythons) which reach a length of 10 (ten) feet including but not limited to the following species: *Python reticulates* (Reticulated Python); *Eunectes murines* (Green Anaconda). *Python sebae* (African Rock Python); and *Python molurus* (Indian Python and Burmese Python),
- 8) any member of the order *Crocodylia* (crocodiles, alligators, and caiman).

K.S.A. 47-646 states that it is lawful for any person at any time to kill any dog which may be found injuring or attempting to injure any livestock as defined in K.S.A. 47-1061, and amendments thereto.