

**CHAPTER 2025-24**

No. 296 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 4, "ANIMALS AND FOWL"

Approved July 2, 2025

*Be it ordained by the City of Providence:*

**Section 1.** Subsection (f) of section 4-12 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Providence, entitled "Confinement of animals in motor vehicles prohibited", is hereby amended as follows:

(f) Penalties. Any person convicted of violating any provision of this section shall be punished by the payment of a fine consisting of two hundred dollars (\$200.00) for a first offense, three hundred dollars (\$300.00) for a second offense, and four hundred dollars (\$400.00) and seizure of the animal for a third (and any succeeding) violation, said fines to be recovered for the use of the city. If such violation be continued, each day's violation constitutes a separate offense.

**Section 2.** Section 4-36 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Providence, entitled "Impoundment fees", is hereby amended as follows:

Any animal impounded hereunder may be reclaimed, as herein provided, upon payment by the owner to the dog officer of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) and the additional sum of five dollars (\$5.00) per day for each day such dog is retained. Said owner, prior to reclaiming of the animal, must sign an affidavit that he or she is the owner of the animal which he or she is attempting to reclaim. Said owner must also provide proof that the animal is licensed in conformity with R.I.G.L. (1956) § 4-13-4, as amended, to the dog officer. Such fees shall be collected by the dog officer and deposited with the city collector, with a monthly report concerning the number of dogs retained, an accounting of the fees collected, and a copy of the paid receipt given to each owner upon the reclaiming of the animal.

**Section 3.** Section 4-19 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Providence, entitled "Licensure and proof of vaccinations":

Every dog shall be licensed. At the time of application for a license, the owner or keeper of any dog shall produce evidence that the animal has received vaccination against rabies and distemper-hepatitis-parvovirus-parainfluenza. The license fee shall be ten dollars (\$10.00).

**Section 4.** Section 4-52 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Providence, entitled "Penalty for violation of article", is hereby amended as follows:

Unless the penalty is otherwise specified, any person convicted of violating any provision of this article shall be punished by the payment of a fine consisting of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) for a first offense, thirty-five dollars (\$35.00) for a second offense, and fifty-five dollars (\$55.00) for a third (and any succeeding) violation, said fines to be recovered for the use of the city. If such violation be continued, each day's violation may constitute a separate offense.

**Section 5.** Subsection (a) of section 4-47 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Providence, entitled "Conditions declared nuisance; abatement required", is hereby amended as follows:

(a) The keeping or harboring of any dog, whether licensed or not, which by unreasonable and habitual howling, barking, or any other noise, disturbs a surrounding or adjacent neighbor or neighbors, is hereby declared to be a public nuisance. The said neighbor complaining about the dog nuisance must be willing to sign a complaint and testify in court as to the offending animal. The person or owner of the dog must be warned at least once by the dog officer or a representative of the police department or animal shelter. The dog officer shall investigate the complaint to such an extent so as to hear the animal in question barking and to show that the animal is a public nuisance and/or a bother to the peaceful inhabitants of the city, or the neighborhood. The dog officer, if he finds a nuisance exists shall serve written notice upon the owner or custodian of said animal to show that the animal is a public nuisance.

If after said offense has been noted and said offense, howling, barking, or any other noise which disturbs a neighbor is not abated, the owner shall be brought to municipal court and fined twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) for the first offense and fifty dollars (\$50.00) for the second offense and if a third offense exists, fined seventy-five dollars (\$75.00) and said dog shall be impounded.

**Section 6.** Section 4-1 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Providence, entitled "Establishment of public pound", is hereby amended as follows:

There shall be a public pound of the city.

**Section 7.** This Ordinance shall take effect upon passage.

IN CITY COUNCIL  
JUN 05 2025  
FIRST READING  
READ AND PASSED.

*Jina L. Mastrosanni*  
CLERK

IN CITY COUNCIL  
JUN 26 2025  
FINAL READING  
READ AND PASSED.

*Rachel M. Miller*  
RACHEL M. MILLER, PRESIDENT  
*Jina L. Mastrosanni*  
CLERK

I HEREBY APPROVE.

*Brett P. Smith*  
Mayor

Date: 7/2/25

Fine or Fee: (Ordinance)	Department	Name	Description	Current Fine/Fee	FY23 Occurrences	FY23 Revenue	Proposed Increase	Projected Additional Revenue
Fee	Animal Control	Dog License	Obtaining a dog license - every dog at 6 months needs to be licensed.	\$6	408	\$2,448	\$10	\$1,632
Fine	Animal Control	Impoundment of Stray	Fine for owner whose animal has been impounded as a stray.	\$15	227	\$3,405	\$25	\$2,270
Fine	Animal Control	Unleashed Pet	First Offense - When a dog is not- properly leashed with a cord or chain attached to its collar or harness and held in the hand by the owner or competent person restraining a dog on a city sidewalk, city street or public right-of-way.	\$15	12	\$180	\$25	\$120
Fine	Animal Control		Second Offense - When a dog is not- properly leashed with a cord or chain attached to its collar or harness and held in the hand by the owner or competent person restraining a dog on a city sidewalk, city street or public right-of-way.	\$25	2	\$50	\$35	\$20
Fine	Animal Control		Third Offense - When a dog is not- properly leashed with a cord or chain attached to its collar or harness and held in the hand by the owner or competent person restraining a dog on a city sidewalk, city street or public right-of-way.	\$50	1	\$50	\$55	\$5
Fine	Animal Control	Unlicensed Pet	First Offense - Every dog at 6 months needs to be licensed.	\$15	4	\$60	\$25	\$40
Fine	Animal Control		Second Offense - Every dog at 6 months needs to be licensed.	\$25	n/a	n/a	\$35	n/a
Fine	Animal Control		Third Offense - Every dog at 6 months needs to be licensed.	\$50	n/a	n/a	\$55	n/a
Fine	Animal Control	Confinement of Animal in Motor Vehicle	First Offense - It is prohibited to confine any animal in a motor vehicle that places the animal in a life or health threatening situation. E.g. exposure to extreme heat or cold.	\$100	1	\$100	\$200	\$100
Fine	Animal Control		Second Offense - It is prohibited to confine any animal in a motor vehicle that places the animal in a life or health threatening situation. E.g. exposure to extreme heat or cold.	\$200	n/a	n/a	\$300	n/a
Fine	Animal Control		Third Offense - It is prohibited to confine any animal in a motor vehicle that places the animal in a life or health threatening situation. E.g. exposure to extreme heat or cold.	\$300	n/a	n/a	\$400	n/a
Fine	Animal Control	Barking Dog	Third Offense - Unreasonable and habitual howling, barking, or any other noise, disturbing a neighbor is considered a public nuisance.	\$50	2	\$100	\$75	\$50

Fine	Animal Control	Unvaccinated Pet	First Offense - All dogs over the age of 4 months are required to have a rabies and distemper vaccination.	\$15	3	\$45	\$25	\$30
Fine	Animal Control		Second Offense - All dogs over the age of 4 months are required to have a rabies and distemper vaccination.	\$25	n/a	n/a	\$35	n/a
Fine	Animal Control		Third Offense - All dogs over the age of 4 months are required to have a rabies and distemper vaccination.	\$50	n/a	n/a	\$55	n/a