

ORDINANCE NO. 99, FOURTH SERIES

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING REDWOOD FALLS CODE OF ORDINANCES § 10.46 PERTAINING TO ANIMAL LICENSING AND REGULATION

FINDINGS AND PURPOSE:

WHEREAS, pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 412.221 Subd. 21 and § 347.53, the City Council of Redwood Falls has broad authority through its police powers to regulate the keeping of animals, to restrain their running at large, to authorize their impounding and sale or summary destruction, to establish pounds, and to regulate potentially dangerous and dangerous dogs; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of Redwood Falls finds that limiting the number of dogs per household is substantially related to controlling the problems of dog noise and odor, and the health and general welfare of the community as affected by dogs; and

WHEREAS, on April 18, 2023, the City Council of the City of Redwood Falls, Minnesota Passed and Adopted Ordinance No. 84, Fourth Series, Titled “AN ORDINANCE AMENDING REDWOOD FALLS CODE OF ORDINANCES §10.46 PERTAINING TO ANIMAL LICENSING AND REGULATION;” and

WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 84, Fourth Series did not address the issues of the use of a City provided suspension form for owners of dogs no longer being kept in the City nor the eligibility requirements for members of the community to serve on potentially dangerous and dangerous dog review panels; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that in order to better track and regulate the keeping of dogs in the City, §10.46 is in need of amendment to require the use of a City provided suspension form and to punish criminally any false statements made by owners on said form; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of Redwood Falls finds that to effectively regulate potentially dangerous and dangerous dogs and address designation appeals, §10.46 is in need of amendment to allow for wider availability of citizens to serve on review panels; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of Redwood Falls finds that it is necessary to amend Redwood Falls City Code of Ordinances §10.46 to address these public health and safety concerns.

NOW THEREFORE, THE CITY OF REDWOOD FALLS DOES ORDAIN:

SECTION 1. That Redwood Falls City Code of Ordinances §10.46, Subd. 5, shall be amended to read as follows:

Subd. 5. Suspension of Conditional Lifetime License

A. Conditional lifetime licenses may be suspended by the city or any entity designated by the city, without refund of fees paid if proof of current rabies vaccination is not provided to the city or any entity designated by the city prior to expiration of the vaccination. It is unlawful to possess a dog within city limits with a suspended conditional lifetime license.

B. When a conditional lifetime license has been suspended, a new conditional lifetime license application shall be completed by the owner pursuant to Subd. 3.C. Upon completion of the application and remittance of a fee as established by the city fee schedule, the conditional lifetime license shall be reinstated.

C. When the owner of any dog with a conditional lifetime license no longer resides within the corporate limits of the city or no longer keeps or maintains a dog within the corporate limits of the city, within 30 days of the occurrence of either event, the owner must request suspension of the conditional lifetime license. The request for suspension shall be made on a dog license suspension form provided by the city upon owner's request, and shall require, at a minimum: the owner's name and current address, the dog's name, breed, and license number, and the reason for the license suspension request. The form shall be submitted to the city administrator. Providing false information or making a false statement on a dog license suspension form submitted to the city administrator is unlawful.

SECTION 2. That Redwood Falls City Code of Ordinances §10.46, Subd. 16, Paragraph D shall be amended to read as follows:

Subd. 16. Dangerous Dogs.

D. *Hearing Procedure.* This Review Panel will consist of two Council members as they become available, and an elector who resides within the city **State of Minnesota**. The Panel will schedule a hearing and may call witnesses and review documents as needed to make a determination on the issue. Owners shall have the right to present evidence on their behalf and to cross-examine any witnesses. A simple majority of the members of the Panel is necessary for a finding that the dog is either dangerous or potentially dangerous. The burden of proof is on the Police Department. A finding supporting a designation of dangerous or potentially dangerous dog must be proven by a preponderance of the evidence. The decision of the Panel shall be in writing and shall indicate the reasons for the findings. A copy of the findings shall be provided to the Police Department and the dog owner.

SECTION 3. Effective Date. This Ordinance becomes effective from and after its passage.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Redwood Falls, Minnesota this 7th day of October, 2025.

ATTEST:



Keith Muetzel
City Administrator



Tom Quackenbush
Mayor

(City Seal)

Subscribed and sworn to before me this
7th day of October 2025.



Notary Public

Introduction: 09/16/2025
Posting: 09/18/2025
Adopted: 10/07/2025
Approval Published: 10/16/2025

