

CITY OF UNALASKA  
UNALASKA, ALASKA

ORDINANCE 2025-11

AN ORDINANCE OF THE UNALASKA CITY COUNCIL AMENDING UNALASKA CODE OF ORDINANCES TITLE 1, GENERAL PROVISIONS AND TITLE 12, ANIMAL CONTROL

WHEREAS, Title 12 was first adopted to establish a policy concerning animals; and

WHEREAS, Titles 1 and 12 as currently written are not successful in promoting and managing an enforceable standard of care or other effective animal control; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of the City of Unalaska have the right to be free from animals dangerous to pets, property and themselves; and

WHEREAS, the number of animal control incidents in the City of Unalaska has increased, including recent incidents of dogs killing the dog of another while unrestrained, which resulted in injury to the owner.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF UNALASKA, as follows:

**Section 1: Classification.** This Ordinance is a Code ordinance.

**Section 2: Amendment of Section 12.04.010.** Section 12.04.010, DEFINITIONS, of the Unalaska Municipal Code is hereby amended to read as follows: [new language is underlined; and deleted language is ~~overstruck~~]

**§ 12.04.010 DEFINITIONS.**

....

~~(C) "At large" means any animal that is off the property of its owner and not under the direct control of a competent person.~~

(C) "Confined" means restricted or enclosed within a secure fence, enclosure, or building.

(D) "Director" means the Chief of Police or his or her designee.

(E) "Neutered male" is any male dog which has been operated upon so as to prevent it from being fertile.

(F) "Owner" or "Person" means any person, group of persons, partnership, firm, trust or corporation owning, having an interest in, or having control, custody or possession of any animal.

(G) "Restraint" means: ~~that a dog is controlled by a leash.~~

1. Physical control of an animal, as by a secure leash, chain, or cable; provided, if the physical control is by leash, chain or cable held by a person, the person must have the mental and physical ability to control the animal by such means;
2. Competent voice or signal control of a service animal by its owner; or
3. With the owner physically present, the competent voice control of an animal
  - a. on the animal owner's property; or
  - b. the private property of another, after receiving permission.

(H) "Service animal" has the same meaning used by the Americans with Disabilities Act, generally defined as "dogs that are individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities." Animals whose sole function is to provide comfort or emotional support do not qualify as service animals.

(I H) "Spayed female" is any female dog which has been operated upon to prevent the possibility of conception.

(J I) "Stray" means any dog whose owner is unknown or which no one seeks or claims.

~~(J) "Vicious dog" is any dog, which unprovoked, has ever bitten or attacked a human being or another animal.~~

**Section 3: Amendment of Section 12.04.020.** Section 12.04.020, LICENSING OF DOGS of the Unalaska Code of Ordinances is hereby amended to read as follows: [new language is underlined; and deleted language is ~~overstruck~~]

### **§ 12.04.020 LICENSING OF DOGS.**

(A) No person shall own, keep or harbor any dog over six months old within the city limits unless such dog is licensed as herein provided. Application for such license shall be made to the Police Department City Clerk, or such agents as the City Clerk shall designate, and shall state the name and address of the owner and the name, breed, color, age and sex of the dog. At the time of making the application for the license, ~~the license fee shall be paid and~~ a numbered receipt and a numbered metallic tag for the dog shall be issued to the owner. No license or tag shall be issued unless the dog for which the license is sought has received immunization for rabies within the past 12 months if phenolized vaccine is used, or the past 24 months if modified virus vaccine is used, or unless the owner is able to furnish other proof of immunization satisfactory to the agent from whom the license is

~~issued~~ purchased. The applicant must present evidence of immunization given by an appropriate authority in writing. Such proof may consist of, but shall not be limited to, a statement or receipt from a medical authority showing such immunization.

(B) A license fee may be set by ordinance or resolution. ~~The yearly license fee shall be set by ordinance for each male dog or female dog; or for each neutered or spayed dog. Owners showing proof of having their dog neutered or spayed within 12 months of paying their fee will be refunded a portion of the fee. Such proof may consist of, but shall not be limited to, a statement or receipt from a medical authority showing that the appropriate procedure has been performed.~~

(C) All licenses required by this chapter shall expire on December 31 of the year of issuance. The following year's license must be obtained prior to February 1.

(D) Any dog subject to license which is not licensed shall be considered a nuisance. Any such unlicensed dog may ~~shall~~ be impounded pursuant to § 12.04.040 of this chapter and if not redeemed pursuant to the provisions of § 12.04.040(B), or if found vicious pursuant to the provisions of § 12.04.060 ~~§ 12.04.050~~, may be destroyed.

(E) The Animal Control Officer may conduct an animal census within the city at such intervals, as deemed appropriate.

~~(E) Any person owning a seeing eye dog, a hearing aid dog, or other aid dog shall be exempt from the license fee payment requirement of this section. Upon application, annually, to the City Clerk upon presentation of evidence from an appropriate medical authority that the dog for which the license is sought has received immunization for rabies as provided for in § 12.04.020(A) of this chapter, every owner of an aid dog certified by a recognized aid dog institution shall receive, at no charge, a city dog license.~~

**Section 4: Amendment of Section 12.04.030.** Subsection 12.04.030(B), TAG AND COLLAR, of the Unalaska Code of Ordinances is hereby amended to read as follows: [new language is underlined; and deleted language is ~~overstruck~~]

(B) In the event that a metallic license tag issued for a dog is lost, the owner shall ~~may~~ obtain a replacement tag from the Police Department ~~upon payment of a fee to be set by ordinance.~~

**Section 5: Amendment of Section 12.04.050.** Subsection 12.04.050(A), REDEMPTION OF IMPOUNDED DOGS FROM ANIMAL SHELTER, of the Unalaska Code of Ordinances is hereby amended to read as follows: [new language is underlined; and deleted language is ~~overstruck~~]

#### **§ 12.04.050 REDEMPTION OF IMPOUNDED DOGS FROM ANIMAL SHELTER.**

(A) The following dogs shall not be subject to redemption:

- (1) Any dog that has been impounded more than three times in any one 12-month period; or, after being deemed vicious, is found to have violated any provision of this Title.
- (2) Any dog that, in the judgment of the Animal Control Officer, with the concurrence of the Chief of Police, ~~and a licensed veterinarian,~~ should be destroyed for public health or humane reasons.

**Section 6: Amendment of Section 12.04.060.** Section 12.04.060, VICIOUS DOGS, of the Unalaska Code of Ordinances is hereby amended to read as follows: [new language is underlined; and deleted language is ~~overstruck~~]

**§ 12.04.060 VICIOUS DOGS.**

(A) No person shall permit any ~~vicious~~ dog deemed vicious of which he or she is the owner, keeper, caretaker, or custodian to be unconfined anywhere within city limits unless securely muzzled and led by a substantial leash no more than three feet in length by a person physically able to control the dog.

(B) Any dog shall be deemed vicious which, when unprovoked, has bitten or attacked, or attempted to bite or attack any person or domesticated animal. A dog shall be deemed to be attempting to attack if it is restrained by a leash, fence, or other means, and it is clear from the dog's excited actions that only the presence of the leash, fence, or other means of restraint is preventing the dog from making an immediate attack.

(C) When an Animal Control Officer has probable cause to believe that a dog is vicious and may pose a threat of serious harm to human beings or other domesticated animals, the officer may immediately seize and impound the dog. The owner of the animal shall be liable to the city for the costs and expenses of keeping such an animal. The owner of a dog impounded under this section may object in writing to their dog being deemed vicious, which the Chief of Police may consider.

(D) The owner of a dog deemed vicious shall provide proof of rabies immunization to the Animal Control Officer or Police Department within three days of the dog being deemed vicious.

(E) The owner of a dog deemed vicious shall immediately notify animal control if the dog escapes confinement, has attacked another animal or a human being, or has died, been sold, given away, moved to another location, or is otherwise no longer in the possession of the owner. If a dog deemed vicious is sold, given away, moved to another location, or is otherwise no longer in the possession of the original owner, the original owner shall, prior to selling, giving away, or moving the dog to another location, provide the Police Department with the name, address, and telephone number of the new owner, and proof the new owner has been given written notification that the dog has been deemed vicious.

(F) The provisions of this section apply regardless of whether a dog deemed vicious has been sold, given away, moved to another location, or is otherwise no longer in the possession of its original owner.

(G) Nothing in this section shall prohibit the Police Department from using any trained dog that may attack on command; provided, that each such dog must be under the direct control of its handler or securely confined or under restraint.

(H) In addition to any other action or remedy authorized by this title or any other law, it is unlawful for the owner of a dog to allow the dog to behave in violation of this section.

**Section 7: Amendment of Section 12.04.070.** Section 12.04.070, DOGS RUNNING AT LARGE, of the Unalaska Code of Ordinances is hereby amended to read as follows: [new language is underlined; and deleted language is overstruck]

**§ 12.04.070 CONTROL OF ANIMALS: CONFINEMENT AND RESTRAINT DOGS RUNNING AT LARGE.**

(A) Dog owners shall keep their dogs either confined or under restraint at all times in any area so designated by the City. The current area in which dogs must be either confined or under restraint at all times is designated on a map on file at the city clerk's office, other physical locations at the city's discretion, and is also available online.

(B) Any non-service dog in or on any city property, including city buildings, must be controlled by a secure leash, chain, or cable by a person with the mental and physical ability to control the dog by such means.

(C) No person may tie, stake, or fasten an animal within any street, alley, sidewalk, or public place within the city or in such a manner that the animal has access to any portion of any street, alley, sidewalk, or public place therein.

(D) No animal shall be transported in or affixed to a vehicle in a manner posing a substantial threat to the safety of the animal or safe operation of the vehicle.

(E) It shall be unlawful for the owner of an animal to allow it to be on the private property of another within city limits without the consent of the private property owner.

(F) Any animal which violates this section may be impounded.

~~It shall be unlawful for the owner of a dog to allow it to be run loose or be at large upon the streets, alleys, or public places of the city. It shall also be unlawful for the owner of a dog to allow it to run loose or be at large upon the private property of another without the consent of the private property owner. All such dogs loose and at large may be impounded.~~

**Section 8: Amendment of Section 12.04.080.** Subsection 12.04.080(D), OBJECTIONABLE ANIMALS OR BIRDS, of the Unalaska Code of Ordinances is hereby amended to read as follows: [new language is underlined; and deleted language is ~~overstruck~~]

**§ 12.04.080 OBJECTIONABLE ANIMALS OR BIRDS.**

(A) Any person owning, keeping, possessing, or harboring any animal or bird shall not suffer or permit the same repeatedly to disturb a neighborhood or any number of persons by frequent or prolonged barking, howling or other noises.

(B) Any person owning, keeping, possessing, or harboring any animal or bird shall not suffer or permit the same to dig upon or injure public property, a public thoroughfare, or private property not lawfully occupied by such person.

(C) Any person owning, keeping, possessing, or harboring any animal shall promptly remove and dispose of all feces left by the animal on any public property, public thoroughfare, or private property not owned by such person or lawfully occupied by such person.

(D) The owner of any animal or bird shall not permit the same to frequently or habitually growl, snap at, jump upon or otherwise menace, injure or frighten persons or other animals within the city, unless those persons or other animals are willfully trespassing or committing a tort upon the owner's property, or were teasing, tormenting, abusing or assaulting the animal, or were committing or attempting to commit a crime.

(E) Any dog chasing, harassing or otherwise disturbing or injuring wild game may be immediately impounded by the Animal Control Officer and may be immediately impounded by a private citizen.

**Section 9: Amendment of Section 12.04.120.** Subsection 12.04.120, EXEMPTIONS, of the Unalaska Code of Ordinances is hereby amended to read as follows: [new language is underlined; and deleted language is ~~overstruck~~]

**§ 12.04.120 EXEMPTIONS.**

(A) The licensing requirements of this chapter do not apply to any dog belonging to nonresidents of the city which is kept within the city for 30 days or less. However, all such dogs shall at all times while in the city be kept confined within a building enclosure or vehicle or be leashed and under the direct ~~restraint and~~ control of the owner.

~~(B) No impoundment fees or other penalties mentioned in this chapter apply to an owner of an aid dog so long as the dog is being used as an aid dog and the dog has been certified by a recognized aid dog institution.~~

**Section 10: Amendment of Section 12.04.130.** Section 12.04.130, INTERFERENCE WITH OFFICERS; INVESTIGATIONS, of the Unalaska Code of Ordinances is hereby amended to read as follows: [new language is underlined; and deleted language is overstruck]

**§ 12.04.130 INTERFERENCE WITH OFFICERS; INVESTIGATIONS.**

(A) No person shall interfere with, hinder, ~~or~~ molest, or knowingly provide false information to any law enforcement officer or health officer in the performance of any duty required by this chapter. No person shall seek to release any animal in the custody of the Animal Control Officer except as provided in this chapter.

(B) For the purpose of discharging the duties imposed by this chapter and to enforce its provisions, the Animal Control Officer is empowered to enter upon any premises upon which an animal ~~dog~~ is kept or harbored and to demand the exhibition by the owner of such animal ~~dog~~ and, if a dog, the license for such dog. If the owner or keeper of the animal refuses to surrender the animal, the city may obtain a search warrant from the court and seize the animal upon execution of the warrant pursuant to UCO § 1.16.010.

**Section 11: Amendment of Section 12.04.150.** Subsection 12.04.150, ENTRY INTO BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS, of the Unalaska Code of Ordinances is hereby amended to read as follows: [new language is underlined; and deleted language is overstruck]

**§ 12.04.150 ENTRY INTO BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS.**

(A) No person owning, keeping, possessing, or harboring any animal or bird shall allow such animal or bird to enter upon public premises where food for human consumption is sold, processed, stored or consumed or to enter into any barbershop or other establishments for the practice of hairdressing or beauty culture.

(B) This section does not apply to owners accompanied by a service animal ~~seeing-eye dog, a hearing aid dog, or other aid dog so long as such dog has been certified by a recognized aid dog institution.~~

**Section 12: Amendment of Section 12.04.160.** Subsection 12.04.160, RESPONSIBILITIES OF OPERATIONS BUSINESSES, of the Unalaska Code of Ordinances is hereby amended to read as follows: [new language is underlined; and deleted language is overstruck]

**§ 12.04.160 RESPONSIBILITIES OF OPERATIONS BUSINESSES.**

(A) No owner or operator of a public premises where food for human consumption is sold, processed, stored or consumed, nor any owner of a barbershop or other establishment for the practice of hairdressing or beauty culture shall allow any domestic animal to enter upon such public premises or to remain thereon.

(B) Nothing in this section shall be construed so as to forbid the entry of a service animal seeing eye dog, a hearing aid dog, or other aid dog onto such public premises ~~so long as such dog has been certified by a recognized aid dog institution and is accompanied by its owner.~~

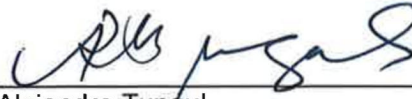
**Section 13: Amendment of Section 1.24.040.** Section 1.24.040, MINOR OFFENSE FINE SCHEDULE, of the Unalaska Code of Ordinances is hereby amended to read as follows: [new language is underlined; and deleted language is ~~overstruck~~]

Code Section	Offense Description	Fine Amount
12.04.020(A)	Unlicensed dog	<del>\$200</del> \$50
12.04.030(C)	Failure to display license tag	<del>\$50</del> \$25
12.04.060	<del>Unconfined vicious</del> <u>Vicious</u> dog	<del>\$300</del> \$150
<u>12.04.060(C)</u>	<u>Failure to provide immunization records after dog deemed vicious</u>	\$250
12.04.070	<u>Control of Animals: Confinement and Restraint</u> <del>At large dog</del>	<del>\$150</del> \$75
12.04.080(A)	Objectionable animal- prolonged barking	<del>\$150</del> \$75
12.04.080(B)	Objectionable animal—digging or injuring property of another	<del>\$150</del> \$75
12.04.080(C)	Failure to clean up after animal	\$300 <del>\$75</del>
12.04.080(D)	Objectionable animal- <u>menacing or attacking humans or other animals</u> <del>menace others</del>	No less than <u>\$150, (\$1,000 for conduct resulting in physical injury to a person or animal)</u> <del>\$75</del>
12.04.090(B)	Habitual bark/disturb others	\$150 <del>\$75</del>
12.04.110	Failure to immunize dog	<del>\$500</del> \$200
<u>12.04.130</u>	<u>Interference with officers: investigations.</u>	<u>\$300</u>

**Section 14. Effective Date.** This ordinance is effective thirty days after passage.



PASSED AND ADOPTED by a duly constituted quorum of the Unalaska City Council on September 9, 2025.



Alejandro Tungul  
Vice Mayor

ATTEST:



Marjie Veeder  
Acting City Clerk



# City of Unalaska's Dog Control Areas

This map is indicated in Unalaska Code of Ord.  
Title 12, Section 7: 12.04.070



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## MEMORANDUM TO COUNCIL

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To: Mayor and City Council Members  
From: Kim Hankins, Chief of Police  
Through: William Homka, City Manager  
Date: September 9, 2025  
Re: Ordinance 2025-11: Amending Unalaska Code of Ordinance Title 1, General Provisions and Title 12, Animal Control

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**SUMMARY:** On June 25, 2024, Council directed the City Manager to bring forward to Council a review of the City's animal control ordinances and possible changes to address concerns of public comment made on May 28, 2024.

In the past 18 months, there have been four unprovoked attacks by dogs on people, and on other dogs. All these attacks occurred while the animals were off the owner's property. Requiring dogs to be leashed, at least in certain areas within the city limits, would reduce the opportunity for unprovoked attacks, and staff recommends changes to the ordinance to require dogs to be leashed in areas of the city as designated on a map.

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION:** The Council has discussed dog bites and the fear of some of the residents of dogs at previous meetings. At one point there was a citizen generated petition for signatures of individuals supporting a change to the ordinance to require dogs must be on a leash ([copy attached](#)). Council received further communication from Suzi Golodoff dated September 3, 2025 ([copy attached](#)).

There was a Council work session at the regular Council meeting on June 24, 2025. At that meeting was a proposed ordinance change to require dogs to be leashed anywhere within the City limits.

On August 26, 2025 Council introduced proposed Ordinance 2025-11 and scheduled it for public hearing and second reading on September 9, 2025.

**BACKGROUND:** The current city code requires that dogs be under voice control of their handler or owner. This is ambiguous, because most dog owners believe they can just call their dog, and their dog will return to them immediately or stop their actions. Perhaps in a situation where there is no external stimulus to engage the dog this might be the case. However, dogs are routinely permitted out of the owners' yard or just let outside without an owner present.

We received approximately 86 calls in the last year for dogs running loose. In many of these cases, the dog eludes us and cannot be located. This does not include the calls of people who wait to get home before they call in a loose dog they encountered. Over the last 2 years we have responded to 191 loose dog reports. As previously stated, we have had 4 attacks in the past 18 months.

Untagged (registered) dogs are becoming the norm. This year we have only sold 14 dog tags. The reason tags are not obtained by dog owners is not known. Some animals are chipped, however that is not a city generated process, and the information is registered through a licensed

veterinarian or other service. More enforcement will be required in addition to a Public Service Announcement program to encourage registration. Having registered dogs is a quick way to identify the animal, the owner and to verify current rabies vaccinations.

The proposed ordinance also includes a clause allowing the animal control officer to conduct a census of the animals in Unalaska. This will help track dogs make sure they are vaccinated for rabies.

**DISCUSSION:** With the continued events of dog attacks, coupled with the complaints of people fearing loose dogs, the council could make a clear statement about the responsibilities of dog ownership in the city: "Dog owners shall keep their dogs either confined or under restraint at all times in any area so designed by the City." 12.04.070(A).

This would help make all people and pets safer. By ensuring that dogs are on a leash while off the owners' property in the "dog control" areas shown on the map, the city is looking out for the best interest of all citizens and their dogs.

In the dog attacks over the last 18 months, the owners of those dogs that were the aggressors were sorry that another animal or person had been injured. However, they did not believe their dog was capable of such an attack before it happened. One owner let his dogs run loose even after being declared vicious, but still thought it was safe to not keep them on a leash and muzzled. That action led to the death of another person's dog.

By enforcement of the licensing, the city can ensure the dogs has received their rabies vaccine.

It is required by our Code of Ordinances for dogs to be licensed: "No person shall own, keep or harbor any dog over six months old within the city limits unless such dog is licensed as herein provided." UCO 12.04.020(A). By enforcement of the licensing requirement, the city can also ensure dogs have received their rabies vaccine.

I recommend a grace period after which the ordinance is adopted to allow time for owners to have their dogs vaccinated when a veterinarian is on the island and obtain a license. This also gives the city time to participate in a public service announcement campaign and send information to dog owners, indicating when the new ordinance would take effect.

The following summary of the recommended changes to code:

**Section 1** – Simply states this is a code ordinance, meaning an amendment to the Unalaska Code of Ordinances.

**Section 2** – Amends 12.04.010, Definitions

- Removes definition of "at large" and adds definition of "confines"
- Redefines "restraint"
- Redefines "service animal"
- Removes definition of "vicious dog" which is covered in 12.04.060

**Section 3** – Amends 12.04.20, Licensing of Dogs.

- Application for such licenses shall be made to the Police Department

- Authorizes a census of animals

#### **Section 4 – Amends 12.04.030 Tag and Collar**

- Owners must obtain replacement tag if tag lost

#### **Section 5 – Redemption of Impounded Dogs**

- Add language to indicate impounded dogs are not subject to redemption after being deemed vicious and they subsequently violate Title 12. This provides an additional penalty for a vicious dog that would otherwise be redeemed as a typical second offender.
- Requires concurrence of the police chief with the animal control officer, rather than a veterinarian, to make the determination of destruction of the animal. This states plainly that if a dog viciously attacks someone, they cannot be redeemed as if it was some other ordinary infraction.

#### **Section 6 – Amends 12.04.060 Vicious Dogs**

- In addition to a muzzle, adds a requirement of a “substantial” leash, no more than 3 feet long, by a person physically able to control the dog.
- Adding the word “domesticated” – dogs will be considered vicious when, unprovoked, they bite or attack a person or domesticated animal. There is already a prohibition against dogs chasing wild game at 12.04.080(E).
- Adding text stating:
  - The ACO may seize and impound dogs if they have probable cause to believe the dog is vicious or poses a threat of serious harm to humans or other domestic animals.
  - That failure by the owner to provide proof of rabies vaccination may result in the destruction of the animal.
  - That before releasing a vicious dog, the ACO may inspect the owner’s premises to ensure requirements of the code.
  - Requiring notification to animal control when a vicious dog is at large or attacked another animal or a person; or if the animal has died, been sold or given away or is otherwise not in the possession of the owner; and requiring the owner to provide contact information for the new owner.
- Making it unlawful for a dog owner to allow their dog to behave in a manner defined in the vicious dog section.

#### **Section 7 – Amends 12.04.070 Dogs Running at Large**

- Amed title to “Control of Animals: Confinement and Restraint”

- Clarify that is unlawful for animals to be unconfined or unrestrained; and language is added to clarify that it is unlawful to tie an animal up in such a manner as to allow the animal access to streets, sidewalks and public places. This eliminates a potential loophole to our restraint definition that would otherwise permit animals to be tied up in public.
- Adds text stating that animals may not be transported in or tied to a vehicle in a manner that poses a threat to the safety of the animal or safe operation of the vehicle.

**Section 8 – Amends 12.04.080 Objectionable Animals or Birds**

- Expanding exceptions to the section stating animal owners may not permit their animals to frequently or habitually growl or menace people or other animals, unless those persons or other animals are trespassing, committing a tort on the owner's property, or are teasing, tormenting, abusing or assaulting the animal, or were committing a crime.

**Section 9 – Amends 12.04.120 Exemptions**

- Requiring dogs of nonresidents or visitors to be confined or leashed
- Deleting paragraph B, exempting "aid dogs" from fees and penalties

**Section 10 – Amends 12.04.130 Interference with Officers**

- Added that providing false information to an officer is a prohibited activity.
- Expanded language from "dog" to "animal".
- Added language regarding search warrants. UCO 1.16.010 Right of Entry is already in code, but the city attorney said it makes sense to reference this power if a citizen has a question later as to what may occur if they illegally harbor an animal.

**Section 11 – Amends 12.04.150 Entry into business**

- Changed the list of various aid dogs to "service animal".

**Section 12 – Amends 12.04.160 Responsibilities of Operations Businesses**

- Changed the list of various aid dogs to "service animal".

**Section 13 – Amends 1.24.060 Minor Offense Fine Schedule**

- Fee for unlicensed dog increased from \$50 to \$200
- Doubled the existing fines in an effort to encourage compliance (failure to display tag, vicious dog, failure to confine or restrain, prolonged barking, digging or injuring property, habitual barking/disturbing others)
- Fee for failure to clean up after animal increased from \$75 to \$300

- Amended the fine for objectionable animals menacing or attacking humans or other animals: no less than \$150; and \$1,000 for conduct resulting in a physical injury to a person or animal.
- Added a fine for failure to provide immunization records after a dog is deemed vicious, \$250
- Failure to immunize dog raised from \$200 to \$500
- Added a fine for interference with officers or investigation at \$300.

#### **ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Do nothing.
2. Increase enforcement of the current city code. However, this does not address the issue of dogs being under anything but “voice control”.
3. Change of the code (as purposed) to require every dog to be on a leash when off the property of the owner or other landowner, when that landowner gives permission while within the leash areas on the city map.
4. Set aside some specific area where a person could let their dogs off leash. With some measure of control such as a fence or natural barrier to prevent the dogs from leaving that area.

Staff and the City Attorney have spent a lot of time looking at options and areas. Planning has assisted in coming up with the map which covers the areas of residences and leaves large portions where someone might be able to let their dogs run if permission from the landowner is obtained.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:** If the city were to enact the ordinance as proposed, I suggest publications be created and distributed citywide to inform community members about leashes required in areas listed shown on the map. If enacted, there may be an increase of housing vicious animals in the city’s kennel, which will increase the cost of food for the animals.

**LEGAL:** The Police Chief and the City Manager have been in contact with the City Attorney and worked to craft the language of the new ordinance. The City Attorney has provided expertise in the language of the ordinance to ensure compliance with the law. The City Attorney will be available during council to answer questions or comments.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** If Council wishes to enact a Dog Control Area within the city limits, Staff recommends that the proposed amended Ordinance be adopted, and the created map be used to show the Dog Control area. Staff also recommends enforcement of the license requirement for dogs, and a public information campaign and outreach following the adoption of the ordinance, which will include coordination with the veterinarian for vaccinations. The animal control officer will begin a census of dogs in town, along with assistance of the police department, to enforce our animal control ordinance. It has been confirmed that the veterinarian will be on island September 16<sup>th</sup> through the 22<sup>nd</sup>. This will give dog owners the opportunity to catch up on vaccinations.

**PROPOSED MOTION:** I move to adopt Ordinance 2025-11.

**CITY MANAGER COMMENTS:** In response to the directive from the City Council, which displays a priority of Council, staff brings this memo and the proposed amendments to the animal control ordinance. Staff have invested considerable amount of time working with our city attorney to craft the amended ordinance. I also concur with staff recommendations. It is noted that implementation of this ordinance and staff recommendations will require considerable time and effort of our animal control officer and the police department.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. [Citizen letter and petition from 2024](#)
2. [Citizen emails September 3, 2025](#)



May 24, 2024

Cover Letter to Accompany Petition

Dear Mayor and City Council,

Thank you for this opportunity to present a community concern regarding loose dogs on public property, and a petition signed by Unalaska residents. I meant to come in person but may miss that chance, so please accept this as presented by the City Clerk.

A reading aloud of the petition will fully explain the issue, but I'd like to add a couple of things.

First, I only spent two weeks or so in April asking for signatures. I have no doubt many more would sign, but because almost every signature came with a traumatic experience to share, I backed off out of empathy for the community. There are still a few copies of the petition being circulated, so you may have more signatures coming in.

Second, I also heard from many people who've been to Unalaska as visitors, as working professionals or tourists, who shared terrifying experiences that shaped their memories and impressions of our town. One man, who no longer lives here, told me that Unalaska has a number of challenges already, housing, high shipping and transportation costs, the weather, and that the dog situation that makes his family feel unsafe, was a tipping point, a last straw if you will.

I'm not here to lay blame on anyone, but to open a badly needed conversation. I believe that our past, loose interpretation of the current leash law, allowing so called voice control, is no longer viable. I believe the community is ready and imploring the City to take a responsible stance on behalf of our safety. Until we get a dog park where loose dogs can be allowed off leash, please do something to protect us on the public lands we love and share, and should have a right to feel safe on.

Thank you so much for your time, and for listening.

Suzi Golodoff

Unalaska, Alaska

**Petition for Full Enforcement  
of Unalaska's Animal Control Ordinance  
Specifically Dogs Running at Large**

**Here is the quoted current section of our Ordinance:**

**§ 12.04.070 DOGS RUNNING AT LARGE.**

**It shall be unlawful for the owner of a dog to allow it to run loose or be at-large upon the streets, alleys, or public places of the city. It shall also be unlawful for the owner of a dog to allow it to run loose or be at-large upon the private property of another without the consent of the private property owner. All dogs loose and at-large may be impounded.**

**We are petitioning for immediate and strict enforcement of our Animal Control Ordinance, requiring that all dogs be leashed at all times, on all public lands.**

Unalaska residents are being bitten by dogs, chased by dogs, and scared away from public areas by the presence of loose dogs on a daily basis. Many people are now so frightened by experiences with loose dogs in Unalaska they no longer feel safe outdoors. People are pushed out of places they used to frequent. Predictably, as time has passed, dog owners have become entitled and loose dogs have become an 'acceptable thing'. Nearly every dog owner will claim the same thing: "My dog won't bite. My dog is friendly. My dog comes when I call it."

But the truth? Public Safety is well aware of continuous and serious incidents of people being bitten on public lands, and on Ounalashka Corporation land, which is private land open to public use by permit only. Responsible owners who are keeping their dogs leashed are being attacked. This week a leashed dog was ripped to shreds and killed by three loose malamutes, and the owner of the leashed dog was badly bitten. Whole families are being traumatized because dogfights are happening in our City parks and playgrounds. Our children and our elders are especially vulnerable. Tragically, children in Alaskan villages have been killed by loose dogs, and unleashed dogs can become dangerous very quickly.

Other towns address this by allowing off leash dogs only in designated and contained areas, thereby protecting other people's rights and safety on shared public lands.

Until the City ( and perhaps the Ounalashka Corporation ) designates a safe and contained 'off leash area', our citizens, tourists and visitors, continue to be at risk.

**Therefore, we are petitioning for immediate and strict enforcement of our Animal Control Ordinance, requiring that all dogs be leashed at all times, on all public lands.**

**Thank you.**

**Please see our signatures below:**

Printed Name:	Signed Name:	Date:
Harriet Berikoff	Harriet Berikoff	4-8-2024
Suzi Golodoff	Suzi Golodoff	4.8.2024
<del>Peg Blake</del>	<del>Peg Blake</del>	4-8-2024
Shelly Blakeley	Shelly Blakeley	4-8-2024
Juliette Vries		
A Barbara Rankin	a Barbara Rankin	04-08-2024
Nick E. Lekanoff	N. E. Lekanoff	04-08-2024
MARK CROWSON	Mark Crowson	4-8-24
Rufina Shishnikoff	RUFINA SHISHNIKOFF	4-8-24
Cyri P. Thompson		4-8-24
Thomas McLenigan	Thomas McLenigan	4/8/24
Tegan Joosse	Tegan Joosse	4/9/24
Vann Hake	Vann Hake	4/9/24
Mark Chisum	Mark Chisum	4/9/24
Brian Rankin	Brian Rankin	
Alfred J. Dalrymple		09 APR 24

2

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Printed Name:	Signed Name:	Date:
Charlene Shaishnikoff	Charlene	4-12-2024
<del>Diana Noldsworthy</del>	<del>Diana</del>	4-12-2024
Carlos D. Tayag	C Tayag	4/17/2024
Kailey J Parker	Kailey Parker	4/17/2024
Lauren Adams	Lauren Adams	4/17/2024
Enkhbat Purevsuren	Enkhbat Purevsuren	4/18/2024
Mike Ferguson	Mike Ferguson	4/29/2024

3

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**Please see our signatures below:**

**Printed Name:**

**Signed Name:**

**Date:**

Megan Dean  
Ana Moyer



4/09/2024

James Schoenberg  
Thieu Le  
Mayra Garcia

Ana Moyer  
James Schoenberg

4/11/2024

4/11/2024

4/11/2024

4/11/2024

Joni Scott  
Juana Accuedo  
Kathleen Pettinotti



4/11/24

04/11/24

4-11-24

4/11/24

4/11/24

Marge Schliebe  
Andrea Quebrador  
Claire Fernandez

E. M. Schliebe

Quebrador

4/11/24

Misa Khongsak  
Lucio Gonzalez

Khongsak  
L. G.

4/11/24

4/11/24

**From:** Suzi Golodoff <[sgolodoff@gmail.com](mailto:sgolodoff@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 3, 2025 12:03 PM  
**To:** Suzi <[sgolodoff@gmail.com](mailto:sgolodoff@gmail.com)>  
**Subject:** Loose Dogs and City Council

Dear friends and neighbors,

I hope this finds all of you well!

I'm emailing to give you a heads up that Unalaska City Council is proposing an Amendment to the Unalaska Animal Control Ordinance, or 'Leash Law'. The next meeting, which is already their 'second reading', is this coming **Tuesday, September 9th, 2025**. Please consider showing up if you want to voice concerns.

Please read my letter ( below ) to see how Council proposes to address our fears and concerns over loose dogs, and write a letter of your own, or sign on to this one. I've also attached the City's map of their new 'Dog Control' area, which would be the only area in which dogs will be required to be on leash. If this amendment gets passed, we will still be facing loose dogs in all our other beloved and beautiful places within our community's city limits.

Feel free to share this with others who wish to support good change for our community's well-being, and please be brave and come to the meeting so we can do this together. There is strength in numbers.

Thank you, and all the best to you.

Suzi  
Suzi Golodoff  
(907) 391-2345

Here is the letter I just sent to City Council:

September 3, 2025

Dear Mayor Vince Tutiakoff, Unalaska City Council, and Unalaska Chief of Police Kim Hankins,

Thank you for another opportunity to voice public concerns on our Animal Control Ordinance. Its been nearly a year and a half since the residents of our community formally raised concerns in a petition presented to Council. The request from nearly fifty people was that, for the safety of the public, all dogs should be leashed within City limits, but that we should follow the example of other towns by allowing dogs to run free in designated areas.

In the preamble language of this Amendment, I see that Council recognizes the community concerns and agrees stating, that the present ordinance "*as currently written is not successful*



*in promoting and managing an enforceable standard of care or other effective animal control” and that “the citizens of Unalaska have the right to be free from animals dangerous to pets, property and themselves” , and “ whereas the number of incidents has increased” you are therefore proposing this Amendment.*

In a Memorandum to Council from our Police Chief, it states that during your June work session “an ordinance change to require dogs to be leashed anywhere within City limits was proposed.” I wasn’t present at that June work session so I don’t know what happened to that.

But I am floored at this proposed amendment, and will address that in a moment.

I want to remind the Council and community that during a PCR sponsored Visioning and Planning Project, many residents expressed the need and desire for dog parks, or off leash areas, so that residents could use the majority of our public spaces without fear.

Finally, we should recognize and appreciate that our surrounding major land owners, the Ounalashka Corporation and the Alaska Maritime NWR, both clearly stipulate that users of their lands must keep their dogs leashed at all times. Just like the City, they have enforcement limitations, but our reliance on each other and our mutual cooperation is what makes a community work. As responsible land owners, granting us the privilege of being out on their land, they recognize the rights of people over the rights of dogs.

So, once again I am floored at this proposed amendment, given your stated recognition of this issue, and the serious concerns raised in good faith by our community of residents and families.

This amendment, illustrated by your map, would drastically shrink our public’s safe zone into a very small restricted area. The entire city limits would remain a loose dog area, while you would relegate our citizens and visitors to the cramped cluster of residential and industrial zones, the use of the land behind the airport, and Strawberry Hill, a Formerly Used Defense Site.

I’m absolutely appalled at this. In other words with all our beautiful wilderness areas, accessed by our road system, the only place Council suggests people safely recreate with our families, is within this newly created ‘people park’?

This is such a mind boggling response from Council that I read it over numerous times, sure that I must be misunderstanding. Rather than designating a dog park or off leash area for dogs, you are severely restricting the public into a ‘people park’? Honestly, this feels more like punishment than solution.

Actually, maybe we can turn this around. Looking at your map, Strawberry Hill and the area behind the airport, accessed by Tundra Drive, are both very reasonable areas for off leash dogs. They are already highly used by dog owners on a daily basis, and are geographically contained, naturally giving dogs free run, without fear of them straying beyond the natural

boundaries of Ballyhoo's slopes or Strawberry Hills' cliffs. There is a fence protecting the airstrip. Both these areas have easy access, are close to town, and could easily address our community's needs.

Let's step back for a moment and look at another time where we did the right thing in this community. Remember the days when you could smoke cigarettes on airplanes? Its true. And here in Unalaska people were lighting up in all our public buildings, including restaurants. It got so bad that families couldn't take their kids out to eat. Unalaska brought it to Council, and a lot of people declared "Oh man, this is Dutch Harbor, you'll never pass that!"

Well we did. We know that while people may want to smoke wherever they want, we can't reasonably allow that, because it jeopardizes the well being of the whole. We don't do that to each other. We offer designated smoking areas. Now we have come to this same situation with dogs.

Change isn't always comfortable. People feel entitled and get used to doing what they please, When we come to these stages in a community's growth, it is our responsibility to acknowledge them, even sometimes grudgingly, and take the right and necessary steps forward.

So we are asking Council to go over this again. We are asking that you do what other towns do. We are asking that you establish areas where dogs can run free and socialize and get the exercise they need, but for the well being of the whole, assure that dogs must be leashed in all our other shared spaces within City limits. Look again at Strawberry hill and the area behind the airport and reconsider the needs of the public as a whole, as opposed to only the needs of dog owners.

Lastly, I am relieved to see you have struck the 'voice control' caveat, except of course for our service animals. People continue to be bitten by dogs whose owners are absolutely convinced their dogs are voice controlled and I know that public safety is well aware of this.

So please, within Unalaska City limits, lets follow the good example of other towns, keep our dogs leashed, and let's get going with a dog park.

Thank you all sincerely for your understanding.

Suzi Golodoff  
Unalaska, Alaska

# City of Unalaska's Dog Control Areas

This map is indicated in Unalaska Code of Ord.  
Title 1.1, Section 7: 1.1.04.070

