

Chapter 18 ANIMALS ¹¹

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Cross reference— Public nuisances, § 42-31 et seq.; license and impoundment fees for dogs and cats, § 46-37; health and sanitation, ch. 54; killing or injuring birds, § 70-152. [\(Back\)](#)

State Law reference— Animal Control Act, 510 ILCS 5/1 et seq.; powers of municipalities, 510 ILCS 5/24; Humane Care for Animals Act, 510 ILCS 70/1 et seq. [\(Back\)](#)

ARTICLE II. DOGS AND CATS; CONTROL OF ANIMALS

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Sec. 18-31. License for dogs and cats.

- (a) *Generally.* Every owner of a dog or cat within the Village shall pay an annual license fee as set forth in [Section 46-37](#), and shall receive from the Village a tag bearing the legend "Skokie Animal License," as well as the license number and the year issued, marked thereon. When making application for a license for a spayed or neutered dog or cat, the owner thereof shall present evidence that the dog or cat is so spayed or neutered. Any owner of a licensed dog or cat whose license tag has been lost may obtain a replacement tag by payment of the fee set forth in [Section 46-37](#).
- (b) *Tag.* Every owner of a dog or cat within the Village shall keep such license tag securely attached to a collar or harness fastened around the neck or body of such dog or cat at all times when the dog or cat is off the premises of the licensed owner. It shall be unlawful for any person, other than the owner, the owner's agent or a member of the Department of Public Health to remove a license tag from a dog or cat.
- (c) *Term.* It shall be unlawful for any person to own a dog or cat within the Village unless such person shall procure a license therefor. All licenses issued under this section shall expire on August 31.
- (d) *Rabies inoculation.* Rabies inoculations are mandated for all dogs and cats. No Village license shall be issued for any dog or cat without proof of current rabies inoculation.

(Code 1979, § 13.02)

State law reference— Inoculation against rabies, 510 ILCS 5/8.

Sec. 18-32. Exemption from license requirement for animals of nonresidents.

The provisions of this chapter relating to the licensing of animals shall not apply to animals of nonresidents remaining temporarily in or passing through the Village, provided such animals have a license from some other jurisdiction.

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(Code 1979, § 13.14)

Sec. 18-33. Impoundment of unlicensed dogs and cats.

All unlicensed dogs or cats within the limits of the Village in violation of this chapter shall be impounded.

(Code 1979, § 13.04)

Sec. 18-34. Impoundment of nuisance animals.

Any dog or cat found running at large in the Village shall be deemed and considered to be a public nuisance. The owner of a dog or cat shall exercise proper care and control of the animal to prevent it from becoming a public nuisance, and every instance of a dog or cat becoming a public nuisance shall constitute a violation of this chapter by the owner of the dog or cat. It shall be the duty of the Animal Control Officer of the Village to impound any such dog or cat deemed to be a public nuisance. The Animal Control Officer, or the Animal Control Officer's duly appointed deputy, shall, immediately upon the impounding of any dog or cat, make a complete registry, entering the breed, color and sex of such dog or cat, and whether licensed, if known; and, if licensed, the Animal Control Officer shall enter the name and address of the owner and the number of the license tag, if known, and if bearing an inoculation tag, the number of such tag shall be recorded. When any licensed dog or cat shall be impounded, the Animal Control Officer, or the Animal Control Officer's deputy, shall forthwith give notice in

person, by mail or by telephone to the owner of such licensed dog or cat, informing such owner of the impounding of the dog or cat.

(Code 1979, § 13.05)

Cross reference— Public nuisances, § 42-31 et seq.

State law reference— Dogs running at large, 510 ILCS 5/9.

Sec. 18-35. Disposition of licensed impounded animals.

Any dog or cat, with current licensing, which shall have been impounded, may be redeemed by the owner of such dog or cat upon the payment of the fee provided in [Section 46-37](#) for the taking up or impounding of such dog or cat and the payment of the cost of keeping such dog or cat while impounded. If, at the expiration of 7 days from the date of impounding, such dog shall not have been redeemed by the owner thereof, the Animal Control Officer may dispose of such animal. The cost of keeping impounded animals shall be determined from time to time by the Village Manager.

(Code 1979, § 13.06)

Sec. 18-36. Disposition of unlicensed impounded animals.

Any unlicensed dog or cat which shall have been impounded may be redeemed by the owner or the agent of the owner upon payment of the fee set forth in [Section 46-37](#) for taking up or impounding such animals, the annual license fee, and the cost of keeping such animal while impounded. If any such animal is not redeemed within 5 days after being impounded, the Animal Control Officer may dispose of such

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animal. The cost of keeping impounded animals shall be determined from time to time by the Village Manager.

(Code 1979, § 13.07)

Sec. 18-37. Animals in public areas.

- (a) *Leash required.* It shall be unlawful to permit a dog, except when on a leash controlled by the owner or the owner's agent, to use or be upon any public street, sidewalk, parkway or public area within the Village.
- (b) *Places of business and public buildings.* It shall be unlawful for any person to bring or cause to be brought any animal into any shop, store, or retail place of business wherein the public is invited to do business or any public building. However, it shall not be considered a violation of this subsection if any animal is under such person's control and is brought for the purposes of conducting business or inquiry wherein the physical presence of the animal is required.
- (c) *Schools and parks.* It shall be unlawful to permit any dog, even though on a leash, to go or be upon any school premises, public playground, public swimming pool or public park within the Village or upon a path or sidewalk extending through or within any school premises, public playground, or public park within the Village unless otherwise permitted by the governmental authority owning or controlling the property.
- (d) *Length of leash.* No leash shall be longer than 8 feet in length.
- (e) *Exemptions.* The provisions of this section shall not apply to animals assisting persons with disabilities or to animals in the Canine Unit of the Village Police Department.
- (f) *Removal of feces.* It shall be deemed to be a public nuisance for any person to cause or permit any dog owned, controlled, or kept by such person to defecate upon any public street, sidewalk, or other public place, or upon any other premises not owned or controlled by the person owning, controlling, or keeping the dog. However, any person owning, controlling, or keeping a dog who promptly and completely removes such defecation shall not be considered in violation of this section.

(Code 1979, § 13.08)

Cross reference— Streets, sidewalks and other public places, ch. 90.

Sec. 18-38. Animals trespassing on property of another.

No person shall, without the consent of the owner of the property concerned, permit any animal in such person's custody and control to enter upon the premises of another within the Village. No dog or cat shall be allowed to injure, destroy or carry away any vegetable, plant, fruit, shrub, tree, flower or other things which may be on such premises or which may be planted or seeded there.

(Code 1979, § 13.09)

Sec. 18-39. Maximum number of dogs.

No person shall allow or permit more than 2 dogs and more than 4 cats, whether licensed or not, to be or remain in or about any single-family residence, building or lot, or more than 1 dog and more than 2 cats in any single-family apartment or condominium, within the Village under such person's control, at any 1 time, except in veterinary hospitals, pet shops and pounds.

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(Code 1979, § 13.15; Ord. No. 06-11-C-3474, § 1, 11-20-2006)

Sec. 18-40. Problem pet owners.

- (a) *Problem Pet Owners.* For purposes of this chapter, a Problem Pet Owner is a person who has been determined by the Administrative Law Officer or the Circuit Court of Cook County to have committed:
 - (1) Three separate and unrelated violations of [Section 18-61](#); or
 - (2) Two separate and unrelated violations of [Section 18-62](#); or
 - (3) Two separate and unrelated violations of [Section 18-61](#) and a separate and unrelated violation of [Section 18-62](#)
- (b) *Designation of Problem Pet Owner.* A person shall be designated as a Problem Pet Owner when the Administrative Law Officer or the Circuit Court of Cook County, at the request of the Health Department, has considered evidence pertaining to past violations of this chapter by the person, and entered an order designating the person as a Problem Pet Owner.
- (c) *Notice of Hearing.* A person whom the Health Department requests be designated as a Problem Pet Owner shall be provided with written notice of a hearing before the Administrative Law Officer or the Circuit Court of Cook County.
- (d) *Pre-Hearing Confinement of Animals.* Upon service of notice pursuant to [Section 18-40\(c\)](#), all of the animals for which a license is required, owned by a person whom the Health Department seeks to be declared to be a Problem Pet Owner may be impounded if the Village Manager or his designee determines that impoundment is in the interests of public safety or the health and welfare of the animals. Upon such a determination by the Village Manager or designee, an Animal Control Officer or police officer may require that all of the animals be held in an animal shelter or a secure veterinary hospital until a hearing is held. If all of the animals are not impounded prior to the hearing, the owner shall comply with any and all requirements imposed by the Village Manager or designee for the confinement and care of the animals pending the hearing. Any failure to comply with any such requirement is a violation of this section, and each day of non-compliance will constitute a separate violation. The owner shall be responsible for all costs associated with impoundment.
- (e) *Bar on Licensing or Owning Animals.* If, after conducting a hearing, the Administrative Law Officer or the court determines that a person should be declared a Problem Pet Owner, all animal licenses held by that person will be immediately revoked, and it shall be unlawful for that person to license or own any animal in the Village for a period of 24 months from the date of the entry of that determination. Further, upon the designation by the Administrative Law Officer or the Circuit Court of Cook County, that a person is a Problem Pet Owner, that person must immediately surrender all animals, for which a license is required, in his or her possession to the Animal Control Officer. Such person shall have no right to recover such animal nor be compensated for the loss.

(Ord. No. 12-8-C-3931, § 1, 8-20-2012)

Secs. 18-41—18-60. Reserved.

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[Sec. 18-61. Dangerous Animals.](#)

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Sec. 18-61. Dangerous Animals.

- (a) An owner or owner's agent who fails to exercise proper care and control of the owner's animal, which results in the animal behaving in a Dangerous Manner, shall be construed as a violation of this section by the owner. An owner's agent may also be in violation as well. Any such animal is hereby declared a public nuisance as provided in [Section 18-34](#), for impoundment purposes. For the purposes of this section, an animal behaves in a Dangerous Manner when, without provocation, it:
- (1) chases or approaches a person or a domestic animal upon any public or private property in a menacing fashion or with an apparent attitude of attack; or
 - (2) behaves in a manner that a reasonable person would believe poses a serious and unjustified imminent threat of bodily injury to any person or domestic animal.
- (b) An animal shall not be considered to behave in a Dangerous Manner when the behavior occurred due to any of the following circumstances:
- (1) The threatened person was committing or attempting to commit a crime or an act of physical harm against the owner or owner's agent or member of its household;
 - (2) The threatened person was committing or attempting to commit a crime against the property of the owner or custodian of the animal, including without limitation, burglary, vandalism or criminal trespass;
 - (3) The threatened person was tormenting, abusing, assaulting, or physically threatening the animal or its offspring;
 - (4) The threatened domestic animal was attacking or threatening to attack the animal or its offspring;
 - (5) The threatened domestic animal or threatened person was on the property of the animal's owner, without consent of the property owner;
 - (6) The animal was responding to the infliction of pain or injury;
 - (7) The animal was protecting itself or its offspring;
 - (8) The animal is a service dog or a police dog and was performing its duties;
 - (9) The threatened domestic animal was running at large.
- (c) Designation.

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- (1) Any animal who has been found to exhibit behavior as outlined in [Section 18-61\(a\)](#) shall be designated as a Dangerous Animal.
- (2) No owner shall sell, transfer, or otherwise place a Dangerous Animal in the permanent possession of any other person, including without limitation any animal shelter, without first notifying that person that the animal has been designated a Dangerous Animal and notifying the jurisdiction to which the animal will be transferred of the animal's designation as a Dangerous Animal pursuant to this chapter.
- (d) Animals Designated as Dangerous Animals in Other Jurisdictions. Any person desiring to bring an animal to live in the Village that has been previously declared within another jurisdiction to have behaved in a Dangerous Manner or a similar manner, or has been designated within another jurisdiction as a Dangerous Animal or any similar designation, must notify the Health Department prior to moving the animal into the Village of such declaration or designation. Upon moving the animal into the Village, the animal will be considered as a Dangerous Animal pursuant to this chapter, and the owner must comply at all times with each and every requirement and restriction established in this chapter pertaining to Dangerous Animals.

(Code 1979, § 13.10; Ord. No. 09-6-C-3680, § 2, 6-1-2009; Ord. No. 12-8-C-3931, § 1, 8-20-2012)

Sec. 18-62. Vicious Animals.

- (a) An owner or owner's agent who fails to exercise proper care and control of the owner's animal, which results in the animal behaving in a Vicious Manner, shall be construed as a violation of this section by the owner. An owner's agent may be in violation as well
- (b) For purposes of this section, an animal behaves in a Vicious Manner when, without provocation, it bites or attacks a person or domestic animal. Any such animal is hereby declared a public nuisance as provided in [Section 18-34](#), for impoundment purposes.
- (c) An animal shall not be considered to behave in a Vicious Manner if the behavior occurred due to any of the following circumstances:
 - (1) The attacked or injured person was committing or attempting to commit a crime or act of physical harm against the owner or owner's agent or member of its household;
 - (2) The attacked or injured person was committing or attempting to commit a crime against the property of the owner or owner's agent, including without limitation, burglary, vandalism, or criminal trespass;
 - (3) The attacked or injured person was tormenting, abusing, assaulting, or physically threatening the animal or its offspring;
 - (4) The attacked or injured domestic animal was attacking or threatening to attack the animal or its offspring;
 - (5) The attacked or injured domestic animal or attacked or injured person was on the property of the animal's owner, without consent of the property owner;
 - (6) The animal was responding to inflicted pain or injury;
 - (7) The animal was protecting itself or its offspring;
 - (8) The animal is a service dog or police dog and was performing its duties;
 - (9) The attacked or injured domestic animal was running at large.
- (d) Any animal that inflicts great bodily harm on a person or domestic animal may be immediately impounded by an Animal Control Officer or Police Officer pending an investigation into the

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circumstances. The owner shall be responsible for all costs associated with impoundment, unless found after investigation or hearing, not to be in violation of the Skokie Village Code.

- (e) Designation.
 - (1) Any animal who has been found to exhibit behavior as outlined in [Section 18-62\(a\)](#) shall be designated as a Vicious Animal;
 - (2) No owner shall sell, transfer, or otherwise place a Vicious Animal in the permanent possession of any other person, including without limitation any animal shelter, without first notifying that person that the animal has been designated a Vicious Animal and notifying the jurisdiction to which the animal will be transferred of the animal's designation as a Vicious Animal pursuant to this chapter.
- (f) No owner or keeper of any animal found to be vicious by an Administrative Law Officer or a Judge in the Circuit Court of Cook County shall sell or give away the animal without a written order from an Administrative Law Officer or a Judge in the Circuit Court of Cook County. Whenever an owner of a Vicious Animal relocates, he or she shall notify both the Administrator of the County Animal Control where he or she has relocated and Skokie Animal Control.
- (g) Animals Designated as Vicious Animals in Other Jurisdictions. Any person desiring to bring an animal to live in the Village that has been previously declared within another jurisdiction to have behaved in a Vicious Manner or a similar manner, or has been designated within another jurisdiction as a Vicious Animal or any similar designation, must notify the Health Department prior to moving the animal into the Village of such declaration or designation. Upon moving the animal into the Village, the animal will be considered as a Vicious Animal pursuant to this chapter, and the owner must comply at all times with each and every requirement and restriction established in this chapter pertaining to Vicious Animals.

(Code 1979, § 13.11; Ord. No. 09-6-C-3680, § 2, 6-1-2009; Ord. No. 12-8-C-3931, § 1, 8-20-2012)

Sec. 18-63. Rabies control; animal bites.

When a person or domestic animal is bitten by an animal within the corporate limits of the Village of Skokie, the injured person, the owner of the domestic animal or any witness to the bite has a duty to report the incident to the Village of Skokie Health Department.

- (a) *Impoundment of animals suspected of having rabies.* Every veterinarian or other person discovering or suspecting any animal to be suffering with rabies shall forthwith report such fact to the Department of Public Health or designee, giving the name and address of the owner of such animal and the license number thereof, if known. If such animal, after examination by the Department of Public Health, is suspected to be suffering with such disease, the animal shall be immediately impounded according to regulations adopted by the County Department of Animal Control at the expense of the owner. If such animal should die during the interval of observation, the intact brain shall forthwith be delivered to the laboratory of the State Department of Public Health.
- (b) *Impoundment of animal bitten by another animal.* Any animal which shall have been bitten by another animal having or suspected of having rabies shall be immediately impounded according to impoundment regulations adopted by the County Department of Animal Control.
- (c) *Confinement of animal biting or scratching person.* It shall be unlawful for the owner or person in control of any animal, when notified that such animal has bitten, scratched or has otherwise injured any person so as to cause an abrasion of the skin, to sell or give away such animal or to permit or allow such animal to be taken beyond the limits of the County. It shall be the duty of such owner, upon receiving notice of the character, to immediately place such animal in a duly licensed veterinary hospital located in the County, where such animal shall be confined according to regulations adopted

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by the County Department of Animal Control for observation, or deliver such animal to any Village Animal Control Officer for such placement. In case such animal is delivered to a veterinary hospital, notice of the name and location of such hospital shall be immediately furnished to the Department of Public Health by the owner or person in control of such animal, and upon receipt of such animal the veterinary hospital shall submit to the Department of Public Health and the County Rabies Control Division a certificate stating that such animal either shows no symptoms of rabies or does show symptoms of rabies. If, at the expiration of rabies observation in such veterinary hospital, the veterinary hospital shall submit to the Department of Public Health or the County Rabies Control Division a second certificate stating that the animal does not have rabies, the animal may then be released by the Department of Public Health. If, however, the Department of Public Health is presented evidence from a licensed veterinarian that such animal has been inoculated against rabies within the time prescribed by law prior to the biting and the person bitten was an immediate family member, such animal shall be confined in the house of its owner or in a manner that will prohibit such animal from biting a person for a period of 10 days, unless in the judgment of a licensed veterinarian, circumstances are such that the animal should be confined elsewhere. At the end of the 10-day period a licensed veterinarian shall examine the animal and certify if appropriate that the animal is free of rabies.

- (d) *Surrender of animal.* The owner, person in control or custodian of any animal suffering from or suspected to be suffering from rabies, as provided in this section, shall surrender possession of such animal to the Department of Public Health on demand.

(Code 1979, § 13.12; Ord. No. 12-8-C-3931, § 1, 8-20-2012)

Sec. 18-64. Authority to destroy animals that cannot be safely impounded.

If any dangerous, fierce or vicious animal cannot safely be taken up and impounded, such animal may be slain by any sworn police officer or Animal Control Officer of the Village. However, in all cases where any animal so slain has bitten any person or caused an abrasion of the skin of any such person, it shall be the duty of the officer slaying such animal to immediately deliver the carcass and the brain of such animal to the State Department of Public Health.

(Code 1979, § 13.13)

Sec. 18-65. General quarantine.

Whenever the number of dangerous animals or animals suffering from rabies running at large in the Village shall be such as to endanger the public health, public safety or general welfare, the Village shall apply to the State Department of Agriculture for a quarantine. A proclamation of the Village Manager containing such declaration shall be published at least once in a newspaper of general circulation in the Village. After the first publication of such proclamation by the Village Manager, it shall be unlawful for the owner or custodian of any animal to permit such animal to be at large contrary to the terms of such proclamation.

(Code 1979, § 13.16)

Sec. 18-66. Additional penalties for owners of dangerous or vicious dogs.

- (a) In addition to the penalties established in [Section 1-6](#), the following penalties pertain to a violation of [Section 18-61\(a\)](#):

- (1) For the first violation of [18-61\(a\)](#) where an individual animal has been designated a Dangerous Animal pursuant to [Section 18-61](#), the owner shall be required to:

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- (i) Pay a minimum fine of \$200.00;
 - (ii) Attend a canine obedience class with the animal, if applicable;
 - (iii) Have the animal surgically altered and microchipped within 10 days at the owner's expense, if not previously done;
 - (iv) Keep the animal confined in a secure enclosure or restrained on a leash no longer than 6 feet in length controlled by the owner, or the owner's agent, at all times.
- (2) For a second violation of [18-61\(a\)](#), involving an animal which had previously been designated a Dangerous Animal pursuant to [Section 18-61](#), arising out of a subsequent and separate incident, the following penalties shall be ordered:
- (i) Pay a minimum fine of \$300.00;
 - (ii) Have the animal restrained on a leash no longer than 6 feet in length by the owner or owner's agent, and muzzled whenever the animal is off the owner's property;
 - (iii) Have the animal evaluated within 90 days by a certified applied animal behaviorist, and complete training or other treatment as deemed appropriate by the expert. The owner of the Dangerous Animal shall be responsible for all costs associated with evaluations and training ordered under this subsection;
 - (iv) Obtain, maintain, and provide the Village with satisfactory evidence of liability insurance coverage, within 14 days, in the amount of at least \$100,000 which coverage includes without limitation coverage for animal bites. In lieu of liability insurance, the owner of a Dangerous Animal may obtain a surety bond in the value of at least \$100,000.
- (3) For a third violation of [18-61\(a\)](#), involving an animal which has previously been designated as a Dangerous Animal pursuant to [Section 18-61](#), arising out of two separate incidents, the following penalties shall be ordered:
- (i) The owner of the animal shall be fined a minimum of \$500.00 but not more than \$750.00;
 - (ii) The owner shall be designated a Problem Pet Owner, pursuant to [Section 18-40](#)
- (b) In addition to the penalties established in [Section 1-6](#), the following penalties pertain to a violation of [Section 18-62\(a\)](#):
- (1) For the first violation of [18-62\(a\)](#) where an individual animal has been designated a Vicious Animal, pursuant to [Section 18-62](#), the owner shall be required to:
 - (i) Pay a minimum fine of \$500.00;
 - (ii) Pay any and all veterinary or medical bills of the injured person or domestic animal, arising out of the incident;
 - (iii) Have the animal surgically altered and microchipped within 10 days at the owner's expense, if not previously done;
 - (iv) Confine the animal within a building or secure enclosure;
 - (v) Attend a canine obedience class with the animal, if applicable;
 - (vi) Have the Vicious Animal evaluated within 90 days by a certified applied animal behaviorist, and complete training or other treatment as deemed appropriate by the expert. The owner of the Vicious Animal shall be responsible for all costs associated with evaluations and training ordered under this subsection;
 - (vii) Obtain, maintain, and provide the Village with satisfactory evidence of liability insurance coverage, within 14 days, in the amount of at least \$150,000.00, which coverage includes,

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without limitation, coverage for animal bites. In lieu of liability insurance, the owner of a Vicious Animal may obtain a surety bond in the value of at least \$150,000.00.

- (2) A Vicious Animal shall only be allowed outdoors outside of a secure enclosure if:
- (i) The animal is securely muzzled and restrained on a leash controlled by the owner or the owner's agent not to exceed 6 feet in length;
 - (ii) The release is necessary for veterinary care of the animal, pursuant to the sale or other change of ownership of the animal, or other direction as ordered by an Administrative Law Officer or the Circuit Court of Cook County.
- (3) For a second violation of [18-62\(a\)](#), involving an animal which had previously been designated a Vicious Animal pursuant to [Section 18-62](#), arising out of a subsequent and separate incident the following penalties shall be ordered:
- (i) The owner of the animal shall be required to pay a fine in the amount of \$750.00;
 - (ii) Pay any and all veterinary or medical bills of the injured person or domestic animal, arising out of the incident;
 - (iii) The owner shall be considered a Problem Pet Owner;
 - (iv) The Administrative Law Officer or a Judge in the Circuit Court of Cook County may order that the animal be humanely euthanized.
- (4) If an animal is found to be a Vicious Animal pursuant to [Section 18-62](#), and the incident resulted in great bodily harm to or the death of a person, then an Administrative Law Officer or a Judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County shall order that the offending animal be humanely euthanized.

(Ord. No. 09-6-C-3680, § 2, 6-1-2009; Ord. No. 12-8-C-3931, § 1, 8-20-2012)

Sec. 18-67. Proceedings.

Any violation of this chapter may be brought before an Administrative Law Officer in the Village of Skokie's Administrative Proceedings or a Judge in the Circuit Court of Cook County. A complaint may be initiated by a witness to the incident, the injured person or owner of an injured animal, or the Village of Skokie.

(Ord. No. 12-8-C-3931, § 1, 8-20-2012)

FOOTNOTE(S):

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Cross reference— Health and sanitation, ch. 54. ([Back](#))

State Law reference— Vicious and dangerous dogs, 510 ILCS 5/15; dogs exhibiting rabies, 510 ILCS 5/12; dog or other animal bites, 510 ILCS 5/13; prevention of spread of rabies, 510 ILCS 5/14. ([Back](#))