

**CITY OF RIVER BLUFF, KENTUCKY
ORDINANCE NO. 1, SERIES 2025**

**AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE RAISING AND POSSESSION OF ANIMALS
WITHIN THE CITY OF RIVER BLUFF.**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF RIVER BLUFF, KENTUCKY:

SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS

- A. The term “City” means “City of River Bluff”.
- B. The term “poultry” means chickens, ducks, turkeys, geese, pigeons, doves, or any species of fowl of the avian or aquatic family.
- C. The term “livestock” means cattle, sheep, swine, goats, horses, mules, donkeys, llamas, buffaloes, or any other animals of the bovine, ovine, porcine, caprine, or equine species, bees, deer and elk.

SECTION 2. LIVESTOCK PROHIBITED

The raising or possessing of livestock within the City is prohibited.

SECTION 3. ANIMAL CONTROL

- A. All animals shall be kept under restraint by their owners at all times. All owners shall exercise proper care and control of their animals so as to prevent the following:
 - 1. Molesting or harassing other persons;
 - 2. Chasing vehicles, including bicycles;
 - 3. Attacking other animals;
 - 4. Trespassing upon or damaging private property;
 - 5. Loud and continued barking or other noise which causes serious annoyance or disturbance to the neighborhood; and
 - 6. Unnecessarily foul or obnoxious odors which offend the people in the neighborhood.
- B. It shall be unlawful for any dog owner or harbinger to keep or to have within the city a dog that habitually or repeatedly chases, snaps at, bites, or attacks pedestrians, bicyclists, or vehicles; or gets into garbage cans or bags; or damages flowers, gardens, or shrubs; or conducts himself in any way as to be a public nuisance.

- C. All dogs shall be restrained by a leash when off of the dog owner’s property.
 - 1. It shall be unlawful for the owner or keeper of any dog, either licensed or unlicensed, regardless of the age of the dog, to allow the dog to be at large and unattended or to run in any street, , lawn, garden, , or on any other public or private property.
 - 2. It shall be unlawful for any dog owner to allow a dog owned by him, licensed or unlicensed, to run at large between the hours of sunset and sunrise of any day
- D. Any person walking a dog on a City street shall pick up any feces discharged by said dog, immediately after said discharge.

SECTION 4. PROHIBITION OF TEHERING IN FRONT YARDS

- A. It shall be unlawful for any person to tether, chain or otherwise secure a dog in a front yard, whether attended or unattended.
- B. Dogs may be temporarily tethered while under direct supervision for grooming, medical care or held on a leash by their owner or caretaker.

SECTION 5. INVISIBLE FENCING

- A. Dogs may be contained in a front yard using a properly installed and maintained invisible fence system, including in-ground (wired) invisible fences, wireless invisible fences, and GPS-based invisible fences.
- B. The dog must wear a properly functioning electronic collar designed for use with the invisible fence system.
- C. The system must be in good working order, and the dog must be trained to recognize and respond to the invisible fence boundaries.

SECTION 6. GENERAL HOUSING STANDARDS

- A. All domesticated animals, except for poultry, shall be housed within the living quarters of the primary residence of their owner or custodian. Animals must have access to safe, sanitary, and humane living conditions that comply with applicable health and safety standards.
- B. Poultry may be housed outdoors in appropriately designed enclosures, such as coops or runs as outlined in Section 7.
- C. Failure to comply with the housing requirements outlined in this section shall result in penalties as outlined in Section 8.

SECTION 7. RESTRICTIONS ON HARBORING POULTRY

- A. No person shall own in the city any poultry for commercial purposes. Such animals may only be possessed within the City subject to the restrictions set out below in this Section 4.
- B. No person shall permit any such poultry to run or be at large within the city.
- C. Possessing crowing poultry within the City is prohibited. Non-crowing poultry, such as hens, may be kept within the city limits for non-commercial purposes, subject to the following provisions:
 - 1. The non-crowing poultry shall be kept in a single housing structure (no more than one structure is permitted) that is:
 - a. Covered and predator-proof;
 - b. Thoroughly ventilated and odor-free;
 - c. Designed to prevent any of the poultry from leaving the owner's property;
 - d. Of sufficient size to admit free movement of each poultry animal, providing at least three 12 square feet of space per poultry animal;
 - e. Designed to be easily accessed, cleaned and maintained by the owners;
 - f. In good repair and all gates or doors to the fence or structure shall fit properly and shall be locked or secured by a latch; and
 - g. No more than 10 feet in height at its highest point and no more than 100 square feet in area.
 - 2. The housing structure shall have an area outside the structure for a "run area", enclosed by a fence that is at least 3 feet in height.
 - 3. No non-crowing poultry shall be located closer than four feet to the owner's residence, and no non-crowing poultry shall be located closer than twenty feet from the property line. This distance shall be measured from the closest point in the run area and structure to the property line.
 - 4. Neither the housing structure nor the run area for poultry shall be in the front yard of any residence.
 - 5. Stored feed must be kept in a rodent- and predator-proof container.
 - 6. No more than four non-crowing poultry shall be kept on any property within the city.

- D. Any person having a chicken coop shall notify the City in writing of that fact, and shall include the size of the coop and the number of chickens it will hold.

SECTION 8. PENALTIES

- A. In the event the City Commission, by any of its members, or the mayor, becomes aware of a violation of this ordinance, notice shall immediately be sent to the offending property owner by regular mail, requesting that such violation be immediately remediated, and that the property owner cease and desist from violating this ordinance.
- B. In the event that the letter described in paragraph A of this Section is sent to the resident, and the resident fails to correct the problem within seven (7) days of the date of the letter, a fine will be imposed for each offense. The fine shall be \$10 to \$100 for the first offense, \$30 to \$300 for the second offense, and \$90 to \$900 for the third, and thereafter, offense. The commission will determine the amount of the fine within these ranges at the next regularly scheduled meeting following the date of the letter.
- C. In the event the fine is imposed as described in paragraph B of this Section, and said fine remains unpaid after thirty (30) days, said fine shall accrue interest at the rate of ten per cent (10%) per annum.

SECTION 9. PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS RESULTING IN SERIOUS INJURY OR FATALITY OF AN ANIMAL

- A. In the event of a violation of this ordinance that results in the serious injury or fatality of an animal, the matter shall be referred to the County Animal Control Office and relevant law enforcement authorities for investigation and enforcement.
- B. All penalties, including fines, criminal charges, or other legal actions, shall be determined in accordance with county and state laws. The City of River Bluff will not intervene in the investigation or resolution of such cases.
- C. Residents are advised to report incidents directly to the City Clerk, County Animal Control Office and local law enforcement.

SECTION 10. REPEAL OF ORDINANCE NO. 1, SERIES 2020

Ordinance No. 1, Series 2020 is hereby repealed.

First Reading: January 28, 2025

Second Reading: February 25, 2025

Adopted this 25th day of February 2025.