

This site is out of date and no longer maintained. Please refer to official sources for the up to date legal code.



DC

D E C O D E D

Search the code by keyword, phrase, or title

Search the Laws

Search



BROWSE ABOUT US DOWNLOADS

← PREVIOUS
8-1807 Adoption.

NEXT →
8-1808.01 Dog parks.

18 Animal Control. (Refs & Annos)

| General.

§ 8-1808 Prohibited conduct.

§ 8-1808

Prohibited conduct.

- (a) No owner of an animal shall allow the animal to go at large. __
- (b) No person shall knowingly and falsely deny ownership of any animal. __
- (c) No person shall remove the license of a dog without the permission of its owner. __
- (d) No person shall change the natural color of a baby chicken, duckling, other fowl or rabbit. __
- (e) No dog shall be permitted on any school ground when school is in session or on any public recreation area, other than a dog park, unless the dog is leashed. __

TRUST, BUT VERIFY

If you're reading this for anything important, you should double-check its accuracy on the official DC Code website.

[KEYBOARD GUIDE](#)

(f) No person shall sell or offer for sale a baby chicken, duckling, other fowl, or rabbit that has had its natural color changed. __

(g) No person shall sell or offer for sale a rabbit under the age of 16 weeks or a chick or duck under the age of 8 weeks except for agricultural or scientific purposes. __

(h)

—

(1) Except as provided in this subsection, no person shall import into the District, possess, display, offer for sale, trade, barter, exchange, or adoption, or give as a household pet any living member of the animal kingdom including those born or raised in captivity, except the following: domestic dogs (excluding hybrids with wolves, coyotes, or jackals), domestic cats (excluding hybrids with ocelots or margays), domesticated rodents and rabbits, captive-bred species of common cage birds, nonpoisonous snakes, fish, and turtles, traditionally kept in the home for pleasure rather than for commercial purposes, and racing pigeons (when kept in compliance with permit requirements). __

Grabzt

(2) A person may offer the species enumerated in paragraph (1) of this subsection to a public zoo, park, or museum for exhibition purposes. —

(3) This section shall not apply to federally licensed animal exhibitors; however, the Mayor retains the authority to restrict the movement of any prohibited animal into the District and the conditions under which those movements are made. —

(4) The Mayor may allow a licensed wildlife rehabilitator, a licensed veterinarian, or a licensed animal shelter to maintain an animal prohibited in this subsection for treatment or pending appropriate disposition. —

(5) Paragraph (1) of this subsection shall not apply to persons who own or possess domestic dog hybrids of wolves, coyotes, or jackals prior to March 17, 1993. —

(i) No person may sponsor, promote, train an animal to participate in, contribute to the involvement of an animal in, or attend as a spectator any activity or event in which any animal engages in unnatural behavior, is wrestled or fought, mentally or physically harassed, or displayed in such a way that the animal is struck, abused, or mentally or physically stressed or traumatized, or is induced, goaded or encouraged to perform or react through the use of chemical, mechanical, electrical, or manual

devices in a manner that will cause, or is likely to cause, physical or other injury or suffering. This prohibition applies to any event or activity at a public or private facility or property and is applicable regardless of the purpose of the event or activity and regardless of whether a fee is charged to spectators. [__](#)

(j) No person who has control or [custody](#) of a dog shall, direct, encourage, cause, allow or otherwise aid or assist that dog to threaten, charge, bite, or attack a person or other animal, except that a person may keep a properly trained dog on private property to defend it and its occupants from intruders, and may [order](#) a dog to defend a person under attack. This section shall not apply to dogs who work for the Metropolitan Police Department or any other [law enforcement agency](#).

(k) No person may display, exhibit, or otherwise move animals in the District of Columbia as part of a circus, carnival, or other special performance or event, without first obtaining a permit, issued by the Mayor, that governs the care and management of the animals. [__](#)

History

Download



Comments

We were unable to load Disqus. If you are a moderator please see our [troubleshooting guide](#).

Copyright 2013 the
[OpenGov Foundation](#)
Powered by [The State](#)
[Decoded](#)
Design by [Meticulous](#)

All user-contributed content is, of course, owned by its authors. The DC code is owned by the citizens of DC and, consequently, it is not governed by copyright—so do whatever you want with it! The information on this website does not constitute legal advice—nobody here is acting as your attorney, and nothing that you read here is a substitute for a competent attorney. OpenGov makes no guarantee that this information is accurate or up-to-date, although we try our best. Seriously, OpenGov is not your attorney. Heck, we're

GRABZIT