

Bear River City | Updated Animal Control Ordinance | Resident FAQ

1. Who is the Animal Control Officer?

McKenzie Anderson

Contact Information: 435.230.2415, brc@bearrivercityutah.gov

2. Who is the City's Policy Lead Over Animal Control?

Kyler Mecham

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3. Why do we have an updated animal ordinance?

The new ordinance encourages responsible animal ownership without limiting the number of animals a resident can keep, replacing the previous point system, which was unrealistic to enforce. The new ordinance focuses on preventing nuisances and protecting community safety.

4. What was the previous point system and animal limitations **which is now discontinued?**

- “Household pets not to exceed 2 pets of each species of the age of 4 months per dwelling”
- “The maintenance and keeping of animals and fowl on a lot or parcel of land in a RR Zone, where such use is permitted, shall be limited to a total of 40 animal points per 0.5 acre as determined from the chart below:

(A) Horses, cattle and llamas: Greater than 1000-pound animals – 20 Points each, Less than 1000-pound animals – 50 points per point.

(B) Sheep and goats: 10 points each (lambs and kids, with their mothers, to 12 weeks of age will not count)

(C) Pigs: 20 points each with only two pigs per household allowed regardless of acres (one litter, with their mother, up to 6 weeks of age will not count). Wallows are not permitted.

(D) Turkeys and geese: 4 points each (chicks up to 8 weeks of age will not count)

(E) Chickens, ducks, pigeons, rabbits, chinchillas, and other small animals: 2 points each (chicks, or litters with their mother, up to 8 weeks of age will not count)

(F) Special Educational Youth Animal Project Permit. This section allows for the alternation of the number of animals allowed on a property when designated for a Special Educational Youth Project...”

5. What should I do if a dog approaches me while I'm biking, running, or walking?

- If bitten or physically attacked: Call the Box Elder County Sheriff immediately.
- If approached but not bitten (unwanted behavior): Report the incident to Bear River City Animal Control.

6. What should I do if my dog approaches a biker, walker, or runner?

Even if your dog seems friendly, it must not approach people uninvited. Make sure your dog is properly restrained or fenced to prevent such behavior.

7. What qualifies as an animal nuisance and how will those be handled?

Nuisances include excessive noise (such as barking), excessive foul odors, substandard animal care, and animals posing a threat to public safety (such as harassing pedestrians). Animal safety and care standards must be maintained. If a nuisance is reported, an inspection by the Animal Control Officer will occur, followed by a determination by the City's new Animal Control Oversight Committee (comprised of the Mayor and two City Council Members). If there is no consensus by the Committee, or an appeal is requested by the property owner in question, a third-party professional (e.g., veterinarian or agricultural expert) may be consulted to determine whether a nuisance exists. Normal rural activities, smells, sounds and environments will be considered and valued.

8. What should I do if I see an at-large animal?

- Immediate threat: Call the Box Elder County Sheriff.
- Non-emergency: Contact the Bear River City Animal Control Officer.

9. Do I need to register and vaccinate my dogs?

Yes, all dogs must be registered with proof of rabies vaccination by April 1 or within 30 days of moving to the city, as per Code. The town's Dog Registration and Vaccination Clinic is held annually at the park in March.

10. What are the penalties for nuisance violations?

- First Offense: Warning or *fine up to \$250.
 - Second Offense: *Fine up to \$500.
 - Third Offense and Beyond: Shall be considered a Class C Misdemeanor and further legal action may be pursued by Bear River City.
- (*Fines must be paid within 30 days.)

11. Who may file a complaint and when may it be filed?

Any citizen may file a complaint for cruelty, nuisance, or at large animals as defined in the new animal control ordinance at any time.

12. How is a complaint filed?

Except where an immediate safety threat exists and a call to the Box Elder County Sheriff is warranted, the process begins with a communication via text or call to the Animal Control

Officer to report the alleged violation. The Animal Control Officer will fill out a Complaint Form for documentation. Share or indicate the following information:

- Your name (anonymous complaints to the Animal Control Officer are not accepted)
- Your address
- Contact number or email address
- Approval to enter your property to view the subjection violation? Yes or No
- State confidentiality preference if you wish that your identity not be disclosed to the individual(s) involved in the report.

Be concise and complete including any photos, maps, or other documentation to substantiate the violation.

13. What happens once I've submitted my complaint?

The investigation process will begin once an animal control complaint has been received and processed. In order for the Animal Control Officer to begin compliance actions, the violation must be documented from the road or from a neighboring property who has granted permission to view the site. Actual resolution of the issue can take time depending on the complexity of the issue and legal ramifications.