ORDINANCE #57

An Ordinance repealing Ordinance No. 4, Ordinance No. 18, and Ordinance No. 20 and enacting an Ordinance to control, regulate, maintain dog pound and dog contol agent, impound dogs, license dogs, provide fees and penalities and disposition thereof and setting an effective date.

Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Bethel, Alaska:

SECTION 1: REPEALER:

Ordinances No. 4, No. 18, and No. 20 of the Ordinances of the City of Bethel, Alaska are hereby repealed. Ordinance 49, dated May 22, 1972, is repealed and re-enacted as follows.

SECTION 2: DEFINITIONS:

(A) "DOG" shall mean all canines four months of age or older.

(B) "DOG CONTROL AGENT", Salaried City Employee of Public Safety Department under the direction of the Director of Public Safety who shall be responsible for the licensing of dogs, rabies control, investigation of dog bites, complaints, and maintaining the Dog Control Program and the City Dog Pound.

(C) "DOG POUND", City maintained impoundment pens for dogs and other animals located by the City Jail.

SECTION 3: SECURING DOGS:

All dogs for months of age or older allowed outside the confines of their owners or keepers homes or property and not under the direct physical control or command of their owner or keeper shall be securely restrained by means of a chain, harness, leash, or pen.

SECTION 4: WHERE RESTRAINED:

All dogs restrained by chain or leash shall be restrained at a safe distance from publice streets, public walkways, public paths, and playground areas.

SECTION 5: UNIDENTIFIED DOGS:

Any loose dogs in the City of Bethel without a City of Bethel Dog license tag, may be impounded by any person, or destroyed by any peace officer.

SECTION 6: IDENTIFIED LOOSE DOGS:

Any loose dogs in the City of Bethel with the City of Bethel license tag displayed on the collar, wandering at large endangering humans, destroying property, disturbing trash containers, foraging for food,

or disturbing the peace and quiet of the neighborhood, may be destroyed or impounded and held in impoundment subject to fees paid by the owner or keeper for such impoundment and care as provided at the City Dog Pound.

SECTION 7: VICIOUS OR MAD DOGS:

Any person may lawfully kill any vicious or mad dog running at large. Any unprovoked dog, which has ever bitten or attacked a human, is vicious for the purpose of this section.

SECTION 8: DOGS ANNOYING OR BITTING ANIMALS OR FOUL:

Any dog which habitually annoys any domestic or wild animal or evidences a disposition which makes it likely that it will, without provocation, bite any animal or fowl, running at large, may be killed by any person. If the owner is known or may be ascertained upon reasonable inquiry, the owner must be given a reasonable opportunity to restrain the dog before it is legal to kill it.

SECTION 9: CITY DOG POUND:

The City of Bethel shall maintain a City Dog Pound under the direction of the Director of Public Safety with the Dog Control Agent as his designeee to maintain such Dog Pound in a orderely manner and sanitary manner and provide adequate protection for such dogs confined there.

SECTION 10: DOG LICENSE:

(A) A City Dog License shall be required for all dogs four months of age or older within the City of Bethel. The license shall be issued for a two (2) year period. A City Dog License Tag shall be given by the Dog Control Agent at the cost of $1.00 per dog.

(B) A City Dog License Kennel Permit shall be made available to those dog owners and keepers who have in excess of 5 working dogs or teams. The fee shall be eight dollars ($8) for a 2 year period. Each dog shall receive a City Dog License Tag. The kennel license shall be displayed in the owners or keepers home and may be suspended for failure or neglect to maintain an orderly and sanitary kennel.

(C) All Dog Licenses shall be issued only after the owner has presented satisfactory evidence, to the Dog Control Agent, that the dog to be licensed has received a rabies shot within thirty (30) days prior to the licensing.

SECTION 11: LENGTH OF IMPOUNDMENT:

(A) Any loose wandering unidentified dog without a City Dog License Tag which is impounded may be held for an (eight) 8 day period to allow the owner or keeper to claim such dog subject to impoundment fees levied.

(B) Any loose wandering identified dog with a City Dog License Tag which is impounded shall be held for an eight (8) day period after notification to such owner or keeper that the dog is impounded subject to impoundment fees levied.

(C) Any dog suspected to have rabies or that has bitten a human and has not had a rabies shot must be restrained at a safe place or impounded in the City Dog Pound subject to impoundment fees levied, and shall be held, restrained and observed for a minimum ten (10) day period.

SECTION 12: IMPOUNDMENT FEES:

(A) Dogs found loose and wandering with a City Dog license tag may be taken to the owner or impounded at the City Dog Pound and the owner or keeper notified by phone, person, or letter that their dog is being held in the pound. A fee of $2.00 (two dollars) shall be levied per day after notification is given.

(B) Dogs found loose and wandering without a City Dog license tag may be impounded and an impoundment fee of $10.00 (ten dollars) levied with $2.00 (two dollars) per day thereafter.

(C) Dogs may be boarded at the City Dog Pound upon request from owners or keepers. The fee shall be $1.00 (one dollar) per day if food is provided by the owner or keeper.

SECTION 13: DISPOSITION OF IMPOUNDED DOGS:

(A) Unidentified dogs without City Dog License tags may be held for an 8 (eight) day period for claiming. If not claimed by the 8th day, the dog shall become the property of the City of Bethel and may be sold, given away, or disposed of at the discretion of the Dog Control Agent. All dogs sold, given away, or bought at the pound and not vaccinated for rabies must receive a rabies shot and City Dog License payable by the claimant, owner, or new owner before the dog is released from the pound.

(B) All identified dogs with City Dog license tags not claimed by the owner or keeper by the 8th day after receiving notification that their dog was impounded, shall become the property of the City of Bethel and may be sold, given away, or disposed of at the discretion of the Dog Control Agent.

(C) Unwanted or abandoned dogs and animals brought to the pound by citizens for impoundment shall become the property of the City of Bethel and may be sold, given away, or disposed of at the discretion of the Dog Control Agent.

SECTION 14: RABIES CONTROL:

(A) The City of Bethel Dog Control Agent under the direction of the Director of Public Safety shall engage, co-operate with other agencies, investigate and program a Rabies Control Program for the City of Bethel, Alaska.

(B) A dog suspected of having rabies shall be impounded at the City Dog Pound, or at a safe place, and observed for a 10 (ten) day period by the Dog Control Agent. An owner or keeper of a dog having bitten a human, and the dog is impounded to be observed for rabies, must bear the expense of boarding a dog as stated in Section 12.

(C) Any dog suspected of having rabies and loose, running at large, uncontrolled and evades attempts to be caught, shall be shot and the head be sent to the Arctic Health Laboratory for an examination of rabies disease.

SECTION 15: PENALITIES:

(A) Any person or persons who open a vehicle being used to transport dogs to the City Dog Pound or doors of the City Dog Pound with the intent of allowing impounded dogs to escape, such person or persons, upon conviction, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

(B) Any owner of a mad, vicious or dangerous dog, who allows such a dog to run loose in a neighborhood or on a highway, upon conviction, shall be subject to a fine of not less than $10.00 (ten dollars) or more than $50.00 (fifty dollars).

(C) Any owner of any unlicensed dog who allows such dog to wander at large within the City of Bethel, upon conviction, shall be subject, upon the first conviction of a fine of not more than $25.00 (twenty-five dollars). Upon any second or subsequent conviction, such owner, shall be subject to a fine of not more than $50.00 (fifty dollars).

(D) Any owner of any dog licensed by the City of Bethel and while displaying such licensed tag, allows such dog to wander at large within the City of Bethel, shall upon a first offense, receive a written warning from the Director of the Department of Public Safety or his agent. Such owner, upon a second conviction, shall be subject to a fine not exceeding $10.00 (ten dollars). Such owner, upon a third or subsequent conviction shall be subject to a fine of no more than $25.00 (twenty-five dollars).

SECTION 16: EXEMPTION:

Any person using a firearm to destroy dogs as required or permitted by this Ordinance, shall be exempt from Ordinance 2 Section 4.

SECTION 17: EFFECTIVE DATE:

This Ordinance shall become effective upon passage and approval by the City Council of the City of Bethel, Alaska.

FIRST READING_____,19___

SECOND READING_____,19___

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS_____day of_____19___

ATTEST: _____
MAYOR

_____
CITY CLERK