

Joplin Animal Outdoor Housing

Joplin Health Department

By City of Joplin | May 19, 2025

Joplin Animal Outdoor Housing

Objectives:

1. Review relevant Joplin City Ordinance for animals in outdoor shelters
2. Review sample codes and ordinances from other jurisdictions
3. Discuss recommended updates to Joplin City Ordinance
4. Answer questions and receive guidance from Council

Joplin Code Allows Removal Without Owner's Consent

Situations must be provable, substantial and immediate

1. Animal in immediate danger from neglect or abuse and in substantial harm
2. Animal in immediate danger due to sickness or injury
3. Neglect from lack of adequate care as defined by code
    a) Housing doesn't meet code minimums; not suitable to age, species, condition of animal
    b) Food, water, vet care not provided at adequate intervals
4. Animal abandoned by definition (three days)
5. When in pursuit of animal in violation of code

When Joplin Code Allows Tethering

Tethering
18-145

Tethering is **not** allowed, *expect* in the following situations:

1. Temporary not to exceed 30 minutes
2. When in vehicle in transit
3. Law enforcement, service dogs, veterinary, USDA

If tethered under above exceptions, then:

1. Non-choke collar
2. Minimum tether length is three times body length of animal
3. Free of objects that can tangle or strangle
4. Tether shall weigh no more than 1/8 of body weight of animal
5. Not in periods of extreme weather

Animal Abuse Neglect Ordinance

Joplin City Ordinance Sec. 18-5 (c)(1)

"(c)(1) Animal neglect and abandonment—Penalties.

A person is guilty of animal neglect when he has custody or ownership or both of an animal and fails to provide adequate care or adequate control, which results in substantial harm to the animal to include:"

What Qualifies As Adequate Housing? Neglect

Joplin City Ordinance Sec. 18-5 (c)(1) *Continued*

"(c)(1) a. A structurally sound, properly ventilated, sanitary, dry and weatherproof shelter suitable for the species, age and condition of the animal, which is free of litter or hazardous substances and objects, and which provides access to shade from direct sunlight and regress from exposure to inclement weather conditions. The shelter shall have at a minimum a floor, walls with an opening suitable for the size of the animal and a roof. Unacceptable shelter includes but is not limited to barrels, crates, cardboard boxes and tarpaulins;"

Minneapolis, MN

Minneapolis, MN
Chapter 64.70
(Ord. No. 2016-009, § 1, 2-12-16)

"64.70. Dog house or enclosure.
(a) A person in charge or control of any dog which is kept outdoors or in an unheated enclosure shall provide the dog with shelter and bedding as prescribed in this section as a minimum.
(b) The shelter shall include a moisture proof and windproof structure of suitable size to accommodate the dog and allow retention of body heat. It shall be made of durable material with a solid, moisture proof floor or a floor raised at least two (2) inches from the ground. The structure must have a windbreak at the entrance.
(c) The structure shall be provided with a sufficient quantity of suitable bedding material consisting of hay, straw, cedar shavings, blankets, or the equivalent, to provide insulation and protection against cold, heat, and dampness and enable the animal to regulate and maintain normal body temperature.
(d) Shade from the direct rays of the sun, during the months of May to October shall be provided.
(e) All shelters required by this section shall be subject to all building or zoning regulations of the City of Minneapolis, in addition to any other applicable law."

Kansas City, MO

Kansas City, MO
Section 14-1

"Adequate shelter means a structurally sound, properly ventilated, sanitary and weatherproof shelter suitable for the species, condition and age of the animal which provides access to shade from direct sunlight and regress from exposure to inclement weather conditions. The condition of the shelter should be such as to not exacerbate existing weather conditions, e.g., a metal doghouse in the hot sun."

Nashville, TN

Nashville, TN
8.12.030

"B. No person shall allow pregnant animals, nursing females, or animals less than six months old to remain outdoors during periods of inclement weather unless such animal is accompanied by a custodian, keeper or handler. For purposes of this subsection, inclement weather conditions shall mean freezing temperatures, a heat index of ninety-five degrees Fahrenheit (95°F) or above as determined by the National Weather Service, thunderstorms, or tornados."

Nashville, TN

Nashville, TN
8.12.080

"Adequate shelter means a structure or enclosure which provides an animal with protection from the elements (weather), which structure or enclosure must have a roof, floor and three sides, and be of sufficient size as to allow each animal to stand up, lie down and turn around in a natural position."

O’Fallon, MO

O’Fallon, MO
210.040

“Protection From Temperature Extremes.

7. An owner may not leave an animal outside and unattended in the case of severe weather conditions, during weather or when a heat advisory or cold advisory has been issued by a local or State authority or jurisdiction, or where temperatures and/or heat and cold indices fall below thirty-two degrees Fahrenheit (32°F.) or above eighty-five degrees Fahrenheit (85°F).

8. An owner may not leave an animal inside where temperatures and/or heat and cold indices fall below thirty-two degrees Fahrenheit (32°F.) or above eighty-five degrees Fahrenheit (85°F.), including, but not limited to, confinement in garages and basements.”

O’Fallon, MO

O’Fallon, MO
210.020

“Adequate Shelter.

Structurally sound, properly ventilated and weather-proofed housing which is large enough to let the animal housed in it stand up, turn around and lie down; equipped with bedding that will not absorb water and/or freeze; and will not exacerbate existing weather conditions by, for example, absorbing heat on hot sunny days or excessive size which would not retain body heat in winter. Suitable drainage must be provided so that water is not standing in or around shelter.”

State of Missouri

State of Missouri
Division 30 Ch. 9
Animal Health

"(D) Outdoor Housing Facilities.

1. Restrictions. The following categories of animals must not be kept in outdoor facilities, unless that practice is specifically approved by the attending veterinarian:

   A. Animals that are not acclimated to the temperatures prevalent in the area or region where they are maintained;

   B. Animal breeds that cannot tolerate the prevalent temperatures of the area without stress or discomfort (such as short-haired breeds in cold climates);

   C. Sick, infirm, aged, or young animals; and

   D. When their acclimation status is unknown, animals must not be kept in outdoor facilities when the ambient temperature is less than fifty degrees Fahrenheit (50°F) or ten degrees Celsius (10°C)."

State of Missouri

State of Missouri
continued

"2. Shelter from the elements. Outdoor facilities for animals must include one (1) or more shelter structures that are accessible to each animal in each outdoor facility and that are large enough to allow each animal in the shelter structure to sit, stand, lie in a normal manner, and to turn about freely. In addition to the shelter structures, one (1) or more separate outside areas of shade must be provided by means of trees, permanent awnings, or suspended shade cloth or heavy duty tarps in good repair and firmly secured to a frame, large enough to contain all the animals at once and protect them from the direct rays of the sun. Tarps kept firmly secure and in good repair may be used as windbreaks. Shelters in outdoor facilities for animals must contain a roof, four (4) sides, and a floor and must:"

State of Missouri

State of Missouri
continued

"A. Provide the animals with adequate protection and shelter from the cold and heat;

B. Provide the animals with protection from the direct rays of the sun and the direct effect of wind, rain, or snow;

C. Be provided with a wind break and rain break at the entrance; and

D. Contain clean, dry bedding material if the ambient temperature is below fifty degrees Fahrenheit (50°F) or ten degrees Celsius (10°C). Additional clean, dry bedding is required when the temperature is thirty-five degrees Fahrenheit (35°F) or one and seven-tenths degrees Celsius (1.7°C) or lower."

State of Missouri

State of Missouri
continued

"3. Construction. Building surfaces in contact with animals in outdoor housing facilities must be impervious to moisture. Metal barrels, cars, refrigerators or freezers, and the like must not be used as shelter structures. The floors of outdoor housing facilities may not be of bare dirt or sand; must have adequate drainage; and must be replaced if there are any prevalent odors, diseases, insects, pests, or vermin. All surfaces must be maintained on a regular basis. Surfaces of outdoor housing facilities, including houses, dens, and the like, that cannot be readily cleaned and sanitized, must be replaced when worn or soiled. If aggregate or fine gravel is used for flooring, it must be appropriate to the size of the dog."

State of Missouri - Summary

State of Missouri
continued

- Requires animal to be in good health & body condition, not aged or young
- Requires animal to be acclimated to local weather
- Breed must be tolerant to conditions
- Shelter per animal and sized to allow animal to turn, lay and sit naturally
- Requires shade that is durable, good repair, and large enough for animal
- Shelter must contain roof, four sides, floor, protection from elements
- Windbreak provided at shelter entrance
- Dry bedding if ambient temp below 50°F; additional bedding if 35°F or below
- Excludes barrels, appliances, and similar as acceptable shelters
- Enclosure floor cannot be bare dirt or sand; must drain

Joplin Health Department Recommendations

Suggested Updates to Current Ordinance

1. Update Joplin City Ordinance to meet the standards of State of Missouri
2. These are recommendations that we currently provide to citizens
3. The update would:
   a) Define shelter size to allow animal to sit, stand, turn and lie in normal manner
   b) Require bedding material if forecasted temperature is 50°F or below, plus nestable bedding at 35°F or below
   c) Require wind/rain break at shelter entrance
   d) Further define "suitable" for size and condition of animal to include species, age, health conditions
   e) Define acceptable bedding material (non-absorbent)
   f) Define size of shade to be sized for animal to fit entire body
   g) Require a minimum of one (1) shelter per animal

The End

Questions?

Guidance from Council