

**CITY OF RIFLE, COLORADO**  
**ORDINANCE NO. 2**  
**SERIES OF 2021**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF RIFLE, COLORADO AMENDING  
CHAPTER 7, ARTICLE VI OF THE RIFLE MUNICIPAL CODE REGARDING  
IMPOUNDED ANIMALS.

WHEREAS, the City of Rifle (“Rifle” or the “City”) is a home-rule municipality organized pursuant to Article XX of the Colorado Constitution and with the authority of the Rifle Home Rule Charter; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 7, Article VI of the City of Rifle Municipal Code (the “Code”) sets forth the City’s regulations regarding animals; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds and determines that the following amendments to Chapter 7, Article VI of the Code regarding impounded animals are in the best interest of the public health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Rifle.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RIFLE, COLORADO, ORDAINS THAT:

1. The foregoing recitals are incorporated by reference as findings and determinations of the City Council.

2. Section 7-6-10 of the Code is hereby amended with the addition of the following definition:

*Irresponsible animal owner* means a person who owns, keeps or harbors one or more animals and has violated, three or more times, one or more ordinances or statutes that regulate animal ownership or animal behavior.

3. Section 7-6-90(c) of the Code is hereby amended as follows, with underlined text added:

**Sec. 7-6-90. – Impounded Animals.**

\* \* \*

(c) Disposition of impounded animal being held pending Municipal Court proceedings. If an animal is impounded and is being held pending Municipal Court proceedings for any violation of the provisions of this Article, the animal may not be released except on the order of the Municipal Court. The Municipal Court may order said animal to be euthanized in a humane manner or surrendered if, after a judicial hearing, it finds that: (1) such animal is vicious and that it represents a clear and present danger to the citizens or other animals in the community; or (2) the animal is experiencing extreme pain or suffering; or (3) the

owner is found to be an irresponsible animal owner. Any animal which remains unclaimed for five (5) days after its release has been ordered by the Municipal Court may be euthanized or placed for adoption at the discretion of the animal shelter. The owner shall be liable for the costs of the care, keeping or disposal of the animal, including but not limited to payment of a bond for the cost of impoundment pending court proceedings pursuant to Section 18-9-202.5, C.R.S.

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INTRODUCED on April 7, 2021 read by title, passed on first reading, and ordered published as required by the Charter.

INTRODUCED a second time at a regular meeting of the Council of the City of Rifle, Colorado held on April 21, 2021, passed without amendment, approved, and ordered published in full as required by the Charter.

DATED this 21 day of April, 2021.

CITY OF RIFLE, COLORADO

By

  
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Mayor *Pro Tem*

ATTEST:

  
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City Clerk

