

Bergrivier, South Africa

Impoundment of Animals

Legislation as at 9 November 2009

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Impoundment of Animals

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Bergrivier South Africa

Impoundment of Animals By-law, 2009

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and includes any amendments published up to 12 April 2024.]*

Under the provisions of section 156 of the [Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996](#), the Bergrivier Municipality, enacts as follows:—

1. Definitions

In this by-law, unless the context otherwise indicates—

"**animal**" means any equine, bovine, sheep, goat, pig, fowl, ostrich, dog, cat or other domestic animal or bird, or any wild animal, wild bird or reptile which is in captivity or under the control of any person;

"**cattle**" means bulls, cows, oxen, heifers, steers and calves;

"**goat**" means an adult male or female goat, a wether and a kid;

"**horse**" means a stallion, mare, gelding, colt, filly, donkey and mule;

"**municipality**" means the Municipality of Bergrivier established in terms of Section 12 of the Municipal Structures [Act, 117 of 1998](#), and includes any political structure, political office bearer, councillor, duly authorised agent or any employee acting in connection with this by-law by virtue of a power vested in the municipality and delegated or sub-delegated to such political structure, political office bearer, councillor, agent or employee;

"**occupier**" means any person in actual occupation of land or entitled as owner to occupy land;

"**owner**", in relation to an animal, includes any person having possession, charge, custody or control of such animal;

"**pound**" means a facility consisting of one or more buildings, enclosures or camps which may be established by the municipality and placed under the control of a pound master, or a service provider in terms of a service delivery agreement with the municipality, for the housing and care of animals which are astray, lost or at large;

"**pound master**" means a person who may be—

- (a) a part-time or full-time employee of a municipality, or
- (b) appointed under a service delivery agreement to keep and operate a pound;

"**proprietor**" means any owner, lessee, or occupier of land;

"**sheep**" means a ram, an ewe, a wether and a lamb;

"**stallion**" means a male horse, donkey or mule not castrated or partially castrated;

"**veterinary surgeon**" means a person who is qualified as such in accordance with the provisions of the Veterinary and Para-Veterinary Professions Act, 1982 ([Act 19 of 1982](#)).

2. Purpose of by-law

The purpose of this by-law is to provide facilities for the housing and care of animals which are astray, lost or at large and for procedures, methods and practices to manage the impoundment of such animals.

3. Impoundment

Any person may impound an animal found abandoned upon his property or any street, road, road reserve or other public place.

4. Pound to which animals are to be sent

Any person upon whose land an abandoned, lost or stray animal is found, may deliver such animal to the nearest pound or such other pound designated by the municipality.

5. Receiving of animals by pound master

- (1) It is the duty of every pound master to receive into his or her charge, for impoundment, all animals brought to his or her pound, during such hours as the municipality may determine.
- (2) Any pound master who unreasonably refuses or fails to receive animals brought to his or her pound as aforesaid commits an offence and is, in addition, liable for any damage caused to the owner of the said animals, or to any other person, by reason of such refusal or failure.

6. Receipt for impounded animals

A pound master must give the person delivering an animal into his or her charge a written receipt, indicating the number and description of animals so delivered.

7. Number of enclosures

The municipality must maintain in good repair and, as far as possible, free from all infection, separate enclosures for—

- (a) ostriches and horses;
- (b) cattle;
- (c) sheep, goats and pigs;
- (d) dogs; and
- (e) cats,

provided that the municipality may in regard to any pound in its area give permission to the pound master to maintain a smaller number of enclosures thereon.

8. Destruction of dangerous or contagious animals

- (1) A pound master may cause to be destroyed any impounded animal suffering from a contagious disease, or which may prove dangerous to human life or other animals impounded, provided that no such animal may be destroyed unless a veterinary surgeon has examined it and has agreed with the pound master as to the necessity for its destruction.
- (2) If any animal suffering from a contagious disease is brought to the pound, or becomes infected while impounded, such animal must be kept separate from other impounded animals.

9. Notice of impounded animals

- (1) A pound master who knows the name of the owner of an animal impounded in his or her pound must forthwith give written notice to such owner that the said animal has been impounded.
- (2) If any animal, bearing an identification mark as contemplated in the Animal Identification [Act, 6 of 2002](#), is impounded, the pound master must follow the procedures set out in section 14 of the Animal Identification Regulations promulgated under GN R1683 dated 21 November 2003.
- (3) Where the owner of an impounded animal is not known to the pound master, or he or she must upon receipt of such animal report the impoundment to the nearest South African Police Services office.

10. Keeping of pound register

- (1) A pound master must keep a pound register with the following particulars:
 - (a) the date when, and the cause for which, all animals received by him are impounded;
 - (b) the number and description of such animals;
 - (c) the name and residence of the person impounding such animals, and the name and residence of the owner or supposed owner;
 - (d) the date and particulars of the release or sale of the animals, as the case may be; and
 - (e) any other matters which he may be directed by the municipality to ascertain and record.
- (2) The entries under subsection (1)(a), (b) and (c) must be made at the time the animals are impounded and the entries under subsection (1)(d) and (e) must be made as soon as the pound master obtains the necessary information, provided that no entry may be made after the particulars in (a) to (e) has been placed in dispute by any person.
- (3) In case of the death or injury of any impounded animal, the pound master shall enter in his pound register a description of such animal and the cause of its death or injury.

11. Inspection of and extracts from pound register

A pound register must be kept at the pound or any other approved place and must at all reasonable times be open for inspection, free of charge, to any authorised officer of the municipality, veterinary surgeon, any member of the police service or the public.

12. Submission of pound register entries after pound sales

A pound master must, within 14 days after the date of each pound sale, submit to the municipality a copy of all entries in his or her pound register made since the date of the preceding submission, and the municipality must preserve all such copies for inspection by any person desirous of seeing them.

13. Inspection of pound register at place of sale

Whenever a sale of impounded animals is to take place, the pound master or a person authorised to conduct the sale, must keep the pound register at the place of sale, and such register must be open for inspection, free of charge, to all persons desirous of inspecting it.

14. Impoundment tariff

- (1) The municipality may impose tariffs for the keeping of animals in a pound and may distinguish between different kinds of animals.

- (2) Every pound master is entitled to claim the tariff determined by the municipality in terms of subsection (1) for every animal impounded by him or her in terms of this by-law.

15. Payment

- (1) The tariffs determined in terms of section 14 must be paid to the pound master by the owner of the animals impounded.
- (2) The impounded animals may be detained by the pound master in security of payment of the tariff and any costs which the pound master may have incurred, provided that if the value of the animals impounded is in excess of the total amount due thereon, and if the owner is unable to pay the said amount, the pound master may detain only so many of the said animals as may be sufficient to secure the total amount due for all the animals, and must deliver the remainder of the animals to the said owner.
- (3) A pound master who retains any greater number of such animals than is reasonably necessary to secure such amount is liable to the owner for any damages sustained by him or her on account of such retention.
- (4) If the pound master is an official of the municipality, he must pay the tariffs received by him or her in terms of this by-law into the revenue of the municipality, the frequency of which will be determined by the department responsible for finance.
- (5) No pound master may release any impounded animal until the prescribed tariffs have been paid to him or her.

16. Notice of sale

- (1) Every pound master must—
 - (a) whenever any impounded animal has not been released within six days from the date of its impoundment, notify the municipality that such animal will be sold by public auction and the date, time and place of such auction;
 - (b) provide the municipality with detail regarding the species, colour, marks and distinguishing features of such animal;
 - (c) post a copy of the notice at a noticable place at the pound, there to remain until the day of the sale; and
 - (d) cause to be published in a newspaper circulating in the area of jurisdiction of the municipality where the pound is situated, a notice of the sale.
- (2) The cost of a notice in terms of subsection (1)(a) is recoverable from the owner of the impounded animal and is deemed to be part of the amount to be deducted from the proceeds of the sale of an animal.
- (3) If the said proceeds are less than the amount due, and the owner of the animal sold is unknown, the municipality shall make good the deficiency.

17. Auctioneer

- (1) Every sale of impounded stock must—
 - (a) be conducted by the pound master or some other person duly authorised thereto by the municipality; and
 - (b) commence at the time and date mentioned in the notice in terms of section 16(a).
- (2) No person conducting a pound sale may have any direct or indirect interest in any purchase at any sale so held by him or her.

18. Sale of animals

At every such sale—

- (a) no animal may be put up for sale unless impounded for at least two weeks;
- (b) all animals, except sheep and goats must be sold individually;
- (c) sheep and goats must be sold in lots of not more than ten, and sheep and goats, or sheep or goats with different marks or brands may not be sold together in the same lot;
- (d) animals must be sold for cash, and the proceeds, less the amount of the pound fees and other costs incurred must be handed by the pound master to the municipality, to be paid to the owners of the animals sold; provided that—
 - (i) if in any particular case the sale does not realise sufficient to cover the tariffs due, the proceeds must be first utilised for payment of the compensation due to the pound master, and if the said proceeds are insufficient to cover such compensation, the balance of compensation must be paid to the pound master by the municipality;
 - (ii) any money, being the proceeds of the sale of any impounded animal, not being claimed by the owner of such animal within twelve months from the date of sale, accrues to the municipality;
- (e) the municipality may fix a reserve price for any animal offered for sale; and
- (f) the auctioneer may withdraw any animal from the sale if the highest bid received is not satisfactory, irrespective of whether a reserve price has been fixed by the municipality.

19. Illegal impounding and penalties

Any person who illegally impounds any animal commits an offence.

20. Recovery of loss in respect of impoundment of animals from area of another municipality

Any loss suffered by the municipality as a result of the impounding in a pound under its management and control of animals found trespassing within the area of jurisdiction of another municipality, may be recovered from such other municipality.

21. Use, detention and ill-treatment of animals

No person may furiously drive or ill-treat any animal found trespassing.

22. Appeal

A person whose rights are affected by a decision of the municipality may appeal against that decision by giving written notice of the appeal and the reasons therefor in terms of section 62 of the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act, [Act 32 of 2000](#) to the municipal manager within 21 days of the date of the notification of the decision.

23. Offences and penalties

A person who contravenes any provision or fails to comply with any provision of this by-law commits an offence and shall on conviction be liable to—

- (a) a fine or imprisonment, or either such fine or imprisonment or to both such fine and such imprisonment and,

- (b) in the case of a continuing offence, to an additional fine or an additional period of imprisonment or to such additional imprisonment without the option of a fine or to both such additional fine and imprisonment for each day on which such offence is continued and,
- (c) a further amount equal to any costs and expenses found by the court to have been incurred by the municipality as result of such contravention or failure.

24. Conflict with other legislation

In the event of any conflict between any provision of this by-law and National and Provincial legislation, standards, policies or guidelines, the National and Provincial legislation, standards, policies or guidelines shall prevail.

25. Revocation of by-laws

The provisions of any by-laws previously promulgated by the municipality or by any of the disestablished municipalities now incorporated in the municipality, are hereby repealed as far as they relate to matters provided for in this by-law, and insofar as it has been made applicable to the municipality by the authorisation for the execution of powers and functions in terms of section 84(3) of the Local Government: Municipal Structures Act, [Act 117 of 1998](#).

26. Short title and commencement

This by-law shall be known as the Impoundment of Animals By-law and shall come into operation on the date of publication thereof in the Provincial Gazette.