

AGGRESSIVE ANIMALS

Our animals can be our best friends and closest companions. Most of us take comfort in caring for our pets in the best way we know how. As our community continues to grow and evolve, it is important to note that Chelan County Code governs legal activity as it pertains to animals in this area. Please take a minute to refresh yourself with the consequences for unleashed, aggressive animals. If your home is rented to others, either as a vacation retreat or under a long term contract, please ensure that your guests and tenants are well aware of the Chelan County Code.

a) Any animal constituting a public nuisance as described in Section [7.40.020](#) may be taken into custody with or without a warrant by any peace officer or humane officer of Chelan County and impounded within the county, and a written report of the circumstances constituting the basis of impoundment shall be filed by the agency causing the animal to be impounded.

(b) A potentially dangerous wild animal found not to be in compliance with the provisions of this chapter and therefore a public nuisance may be removed from Chelan County by Chelan County animal control. Animal control shall provide the owner with a thirty-day written notice to comply. If the owner fails to comply, animal control may impound the animal at the owner's expense until such time as the nuisance violation is cured or an order of destruction is obtained from a court of competent jurisdiction.

(c) Impounded animals shall be held for a period of seventy-two hours commencing one a.m. following the date of detainment, excluding the days that the holding facility is not open. Injured, diseased or wild animals need not be held, but may be disposed of in a humane manner at the discretion of the impounding authority.

(d) Any person may file a complaint, under oath, with the Chelan County district court alleging any animal described in Section [7.40.020](#) to be a public nuisance, whereupon the district court may issue a warrant directed to the Chelan County sheriff or any other peace officer or humane officer to impound such animal.

(e) An approved animal shelter shall be any animal shelter which has been approved in writing by the Chelan County commissioners. Approval may be withdrawn by the Chelan County commissioners by notice in writing at any time. (Res. 2005-129 (part), 12/20/05; Res. 94-63 § 3, 5/3/94).

Residents or guests that witness aggressive or unleashed animals are encouraged to contact the Chelan County Sheriff to file a complaint and request action. In an emergency situation with an animal, please do not hesitate to dial 911. For less urgent reporting purposes, please contact Chelan County Rivercom Dispatch at 509.663.9911.