Chapter 2

Animals

Part 1
Animal Control

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§2-101. Short Title.

This Part shall be known as the “Animal Control Ordinance of East Vincent Township.”

(Ord. 107, 4/1/1992, §1)

§2-102. Definitions.

Animal Control Officer - any person designated as such whose duty it shall be to control animals within the Township of East Vincent, pursuant to the terms hereinafter set forth.

Excessive noise - barking by a dog or the making of other noise by any animal, including dogs, which although intermittent, is generally continuous and sustained over a period of 15 minutes or more.

Kennel - any establishment wherein animals are kept for the purpose of breeding, boarding, sale or show purposes, and which is so constructed that animals cannot stray therefrom.

Owner - when applied to the proprietorship of an animal shall include every person having a right of property in such animal, and every person who keeps or harbors such animal, or has it in his care, and every person who permits such animal to remain on or about any premises occupies by him.

Person - include State and local officers or employees, individuals, corporations, co-partnerships, and associations.

Singular words shall include the plural. Masculine words shall include the feminine and neuter.

(Ord. 107, 4/1/1992, §2)

§2-103. Running at Large Prohibited.

It shall be unlawful for the owner, custodian or keeper of any animal licensed or unlicensed to allow such animal to run at large at any time, either upon any street, alley or public grounds in the Township of East Vincent or upon the property of another, other than the owner, custodian or keeper of such animal, unless accompanied and under the direct control of such owner, custodian or keeper.

(Ord. 107, 4/1/1992, §3)

§2-104. Seizure and Impounding of Animals Running at Large and Redemption.

1. It shall be the duty of every police officer, or any person so designated as the Animal Control Officer under this Part, to seize and detain any animal which is found running at large, either upon the public streets or highways, or upon the property of another other than the owner of such animal, and unaccompanied by the owner or keeper. It shall be the privilege of every police officer, or Animal Control Officer to kill
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any animal which is found running at large and is deemed by the officer after due consideration, to constitute a threat to the public health and welfare.

2. The police officer or Animal Control Officer shall cause any animal bearing a proper license tag and so seized and detained to be properly kept and fed, and shall cause immediate notice, either personal or by certified mail, to be given to the person in whose name the license was procured, and his agent to claim such animal in accordance with the provisions hereinafter set forth. In the event that an unlicensed animal is seized and detained, there shall be no obligation hereunder to notify or determine the owner of said animal unless the name and address of the owner of the said animal is properly affixed to said animal.

3. The seized and detained animals may be redeemed by the owner or his agent within 10 days of mailing of notice, and upon payment such fees and charges as may be established from time to time by resolution of the Board of Supervisors plus any reasonable costs that are incurred by reason of detention paid to the facility holding said animal. [Ord. 185]

(Ord. 107, 4/1/1992, §4; as amended by Ord. 185, 8/2/2006)

§2-105. Nuisance to Adjacent Property, Excessive Noise Prohibited.

1. Owners will be responsible for their animals, including cleanliness of pounds and kennels and yards to prevent any nuisance or health hazard to adjacent property owners. [Ord. 185]

2. No animal shall be allowed to create excessive noise. Owners will be responsible for any noise disturbance caused by their animal.

(Ord. 107, 4/1/1992, §5; as amended by Ord. 185, 8/2/2006)

§2-106. Female Dogs in Heat.

It shall be unlawful for the owner or keeper of any female dog to permit such female dog to go beyond the premises of such owner or keeper at any time she is in heat, unless such female dog is properly restrained by means of a collar and leash.

(Ord. 107, 4/1/1992, §6)


It shall be unlawful for the owner or keeper of any animal to fail to keep such animal at all times either:

A. Confined within the premises of the owner and/or keeper.

B. Firmly secured by means of a collar and chain or other device so that it cannot stray beyond the premises on which it is secured.

C. Under reasonable control of some person or when engaged in lawful hunting or field training accompanied by the owner or handler.

D. Confined within a pasture of the owner with the fencing in good repair.

E. All grazing, pasture or exercise areas shall be fenced.

(Ord. 107, 4/1/1992, §7)

§2-108. Raising, Maintenance, or Breeding of Livestock or Poultry.
§2-108 Animals

1. The raising maintenance, or breeding of livestock or poultry (excluding pets such as dogs, cats, rabbits, and the like and excluding horses for the personal recreational use of the occupants of the principal home) for private, noncommercial use only of a single family dwelling is permitted provided the following requirements are met:
   A. Minimum lot size shall not be less than 5 acres.
   B. No structure used for housing of livestock or poultry or manure pile shall be located closer than 100 feet to any property line, nor 200 feet from any dwelling other than that of the owner.

2. Up to four dogs and/or cats over 6 months old may be kept as pets provided that any outside shelter or exercise area is enclosed, and meets the Pennsylvania State Cruelty Law standards for adequate shelter¹ and located in the rear yard area at least 10 feet from any lot line and not less than 50 feet from any dwelling other than that of the owner.

3. The keeping of a horse or horses for private non-commercial recreation use only of a single-family dwelling is permitted provided that all the requirements of §27-1610, “Keeping of Animals,” of the Zoning Ordinance [Chapter 27], are met. (Ord. 185, 8/2/2006)

§2-109. Penalty.

Any owner, custodian or keeper of any animal who shall violate the terms of this Part, upon conviction thereof in an action brought before a magisterial district judge in the manner provided for the enforcement of summary offenses under the Pennsylvania Rules of Criminal Procedure, shall be sentenced to pay a fine of not more than $1,000 plus costs and, in default of payment of said fine and costs, to a term of imprisonment not to exceed 90 days, provided such fine and costs may be in addition to any payments required to be made under §2-104.3.

(Ord. 107, 4/1/1992, §8; as amended by Ord. 185, 8/2/2006)


1. Animal Defecation on Public and Private Property Restricted. No person, having possession, custody or control of any animal shall knowingly or negligently permit any animal to commit any nuisance, i.e., defecation or urination, upon any gutter, street, driveway, alley, curb or sidewalk in the Township, or upon the floors or stairways of any building or place frequented by the public or used in common by the tenants, or upon the outside walls, walkways, driveways, alleys, curbs or stairways of any building abutting on a public street or park, or upon the ground of any public park or public area, or upon any private property other than the property of the owner of such animal.

2. Disposal of Animal Feces. Any person having possession, custody or control of any dog or other animal which commits a nuisance, i.e., defecation or urination, in any area other than the private property of the owner of such dog or other animal, as prohibited in subsection .1 shall be required to immediately remove any feces from such

surface and either:
   A. Carry same away for disposal in a toilet.
   B. Place same in a nonleaking container for deposit in a trash or litter receptacle.

3. *Dogs Accompanying Blind or Handicapped Persons Exempted.* The provisions of subsections .1 and .2 hereof shall not apply to a guide dog accompanying any blind person, or to a dog used to assist any other physically handicapped person.

*(Ord. 107, 4/1/1992, §10; as amended by Ord. 185, 8/2/2006)*