

LETTERKENNY TOWNSHIP

FRANKLIN COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-1

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF LETTERKENNY TOWNSHIP,
FRANKLIN COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, PROHIBITING NUISANCES RELATING TO DOGS,
CATS, AND DOMESTICATED FOWL ON PRIVATE AND PUBLIC PROPERTY WITHIN THE
TOWNSHIP; ESTABLISHING PROCEDURES FOR ENFORCEMENT OF THE SAME; AND
FIXING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION.

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors deems it to be in the best interests and general welfare of the citizens and residents of this Township to prohibit disturbances of the peace caused by dogs, cats, and domesticated fowl on public and private property and unreasonable annoyance and discomfort to others in the legitimate enjoyment of their rights of person or property; and

WHEREAS, the Second Class Township Code, as amended, 53 P.S. Section 65712, authorizes Townships of the Second Class to prohibit nuisances, and to impose penalties therefore.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED AND ORDAINED, and it is enacted and ordained, by the Board of Supervisors of this Township as follows:

SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS.

For the purpose of this Ordinance, the following terms, phrases, words and their derivations shall have the meanings given herein. When not inconsistent with the context, words used in the present tense include the future; words include the plural number; any personal pronoun shall be construed so as to mean either the masculine, feminine, or neuter gender, as the context may require; and the word "shall" is always mandatory and not merely precatory.

- (1) "Township" is the Township of Letterkenny, Franklin County, Pennsylvania.
- (2) "Board of Supervisors" is the Board of Supervisors of Letterkenny Township, Franklin County, Pennsylvania.
- (3) "Owner" is a person owning, leasing, occupying, or having charge of any premises within the Township.
- (4) "Person" is any natural person, firm, partnership, association, corporation, company, or organization of any kind.
- (5) "Nuisance" is the unreasonable, unwarrantable, or unlawful use of public or private property which causes injury, damage, hurt, inconvenience, annoyance, or discomfort to any person in the legitimate enjoyment of his reasonable rights of person or property.
- (6) "Dog owner" shall include every person have a right of proprietorship or ownership in a dog; and every person who keeps or harbors a dog or has it in his care or custody; and every person who permits a dog to remain on or about any premises occupied by him; and the parents of any child under 18 years of age who owns or has the control or custody of a dog; regardless of whether any such dog is licensed or unlicensed.
- (7) "Cat owner" shall include every person having a right of proprietorship or ownership in a cat; and every person who keeps or harbors a cat or has it in his care or custody; and every

person who permits a cat to remain on or about any premises occupied by him; and the parents of any child under 18 years of age who owns or has the control and custody of a cat, regardless of whether any such cat is licensed or unlicensed.

- (8) "Domesticated fowl owner" is a person having a right of proprietorship or ownership in domesticated fowl; and every person who keeps or harbors domesticated fowl or has it in his care or custody; and every person who permits the domesticated fowl to remain on or about any premises occupied by him; and the parents of any child under 18 years of age who owns or has the control or custody of the domesticated fowl.
- (9) "Permits" means of suffer, allow, consent, let; to give, leave, or license; to acquiesce by failure to prevent, or to expressly accept or agree to the doing of any act.

SECTION 2. BARKING DOGS.

- (A) Nuisance Defined. With respect to dogs, a dog owner shall be presumed to have created or maintained a nuisance if he shall:
 - (1) permit his dog to cause annoyance or discomfort to or to disturb the peace of the citizens, residents, or other persons lawfully in the Township, by barking, yelping, howling, or causing any other unseemly noise; or
 - (2) permit his dog to make any loud or harsh noise or disturbance with such frequency as to interfere with or disturb the peace, quiet, rest, sleep, or repose of any person within the Township.
- (B) Presumptions.
 - (1) Disturbance of the Peace; Annoyance. It shall not be necessary to establish that any occurrence has lasted for any specific period of time in order to find a violation of this section. However, continuous barking, yelping, howling, or the making of any loud or harsh noise by a dog for more than one-half (1/2) hour on any one occasion shall give rise to the presumption that such dog has disturbed the peace and has caused the annoyance and discomfort of persons in the Township.
 - (2) Permission. At the trial of any charge of violation of this section, if it shall be determined that a dog has disturbed the peace, quiet, rest, sleep, or repose of any person within the Township or has caused the annoyance or discomfort of such persons by barking, yelping, howling, or causing any other unseemly noise as hereinbefore set forth it shall be conclusively presumed that the dog owner has permitted the occurrence to have happened.

SECTION 3. OFFENSIVE DOG ODORS.

- (A) Nuisance Defined. With respect to dogs, a dog owner shall be presumed to have created or maintained a nuisance if he shall:
 - (1) permit his dog to cause annoyance or discomfort to the citizens, residents, or other persons lawfully in the Township, by emitting any offensive odor or smell whether from a dog, dog waste, dog box, dog kennel or dog run.
- (B) Presumptions.

- (1) Annoyance. It shall not be necessary to establish that any occurrence has lasted for any specific period of time in order to find a violation of this section. However, continuous odor or smell from a dog for more than one-half (1/2) hour on any one occasion shall give rise to the presumption that such dog has caused the annoyance and discomfort of persons in the Township.
- (2) Permission. At the trial of any charge of violation of this section, if it shall be determined that a dog by its offensive odor or smell has caused the annoyance or discomfort of any person within the Township, it shall be conclusively presumed that the dog owner has permitted the occurrence to have happened.

SECTION 4. DOG AND CAT DEFECATION AND URINATION AND DOMESTICATED FOWL RUNNING AT LARGE.

- (A) Nuisance Defined. With respect to dogs and cats, a dog owner or cat owner shall be presumed to have created or maintained a nuisance if he shall permit his dog or cat to defecate or urinate,
 - (1) upon any street, sidewalk, passageway, park, or any other public place where people congregate or walk; or
 - (2) upon any private property of another person without the permission of the owner of said property unless, with regard to defecation only, such dog owner or cat owner shall immediately remove and dispose of in a sanitary manner all feces deposited by such dog or cat.
- (B) Nuisance Defined. With respect to domesticated fowl, a domesticated fowl owner shall be presumed to have created or maintained a nuisance if he shall permit his fowl to run at large,
 - (1) upon adjoining properties, any of the common thoroughfares, sidewalks, passageways, play areas, parks, streets, alleys, or
 - (2) upon public or private roads or any place where people congregate or walk, or upon public and private property.
- (C) Presumption. At the trial of any charge of violation of this section, if a dog or cat has defecated or urinated upon public or private property or a domesticated fowl has run at large upon public or private property as hereinbefore set forth, it shall be conclusively presumed that the dog, cat, or domesticated fowl owner has permitted the occurrence to have happened.

SECTION 5. NOTICE REQUIRED.

- (A) Method of Serving Notice. Prior to the filing of a private criminal complaint for violation of Section 2, 3, or 4 of this Ordinance, it shall be necessary to serve written notice upon the dog owner or cat owner in one of the following ways:
 - (1) by mailing copy of the notice to the dog, cat, and domesticated fowl owner by any form of mail requiring a receipt signed by the dog, cat, and domesticated fowl owner or his agent; or

- (2) by personal delivery of the notice at the residence of the dog, cat, and domesticated fowl owner; or
- (3) by handing a copy of the notice at the residence of the dog, cat, and domesticated fowl owner to an adult member of the family with which he resides; but if no adult member of the family is found, then to an adult person in charge of such residence; or
- (4) by fixing a copy of the notice to the door at the entrance of the premises in violation.

(B) Form to be Provided. Notice required under this section must be given on a form to the prescribed and provided by the Township and said required notice may be executed and served as required by the aggrieved party or by a Township official on complaint received from the aggrieved party in writing and signed.

(C) Content of Notice. Notice shall set forth the name and address of the dog owner or cat owner; the nature and extent of the violation or offense; the identity of the person giving notice; the date of the sending or posting of notice; and a statement to the effect that a complaint may be filed if the nuisance is not abated with seventy-two (72) hours of the time of receipt or posting of notice.

(D) Duration of Notice. Any notice given pursuant to this section shall be valid for a period of six (6) months; within six (6) months, no additional notice need be given prior to the filing of a private complaint.

SECTION 6. PENALTY FOR VIOLATION.

Any person found guilty of a violation of this Ordinance in a summary proceeding before a District Magistrate shall pay a fine of not more than three hundred (\$300.00) dollars and the costs of prosecution, and in default of payment of such fine and costs of prosecution, shall be imprisoned for not more than ten (10) days; provided, each day's continuance of a violation shall constitute a separate offense.

SECTION 7. ENFORCEMENT.

The provisions of this Ordinance may be enforced by any person who, after prior notice is given as required, shall, as an affiant, institute a criminal proceeding by filing a complaint with the District Magistrate as provided by law.

SECTION 8. EXCEPTION; HUMANE SOCIETY.

Because of the unique nature and necessity of its mission, the Humane Society shelter shall be absolutely exempt from the provisions of this Ordinance.

SECTION 9. SEVERABILITY.

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or portion of this Ordinance is for any reason held invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed a separate, distinct and independent provision and such holdings shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions hereof.

SECTION 10. CONFLICTING ORDINANCES.

Any Ordinance inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance is hereby repealed to the extent of the conflict. This Ordinance expressly replaces Ordinance No.1992-3.

SECTION 11. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Ordinance shall become effective five (5) days after the adoption hereof.

ENACTED AND ORDAINED, This 23rd day of July 2024, in lawful session duly assembled.

ATTEST:

LETTERKENNY TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Wendy Wenger, Secretary

Lance G. Norton, Chairman

Charles H. Myers, Vice Chairman

Larry G. Horn, Supervisor

Note: Original signed copy is filed at the township and available for inspection upon request.