

**ANIMAL CONTROL  
TOWNSHIP OF COURTLAND, MICHIGAN  
ord. no. 18 eff. March 13, 1980**

**ARTICLE 1  
GENERAL**

**1. INTENT.**

It is deemed by the Township of Courtland that the ownership of an animal is a privilege which carries with it responsibilities to the Township and residents with regard to the care and custody of said animal. It is the intent of this Ordinance to protect the people of Courtland Township from problems caused by unrestrained or annoying animals.

(ord. no. 18 eff. March 13, 1980)

**2. TITLE.**

This Ordinance shall be known as, and may be cited and referred to as "The Animal Control Ordinance of Courtland Township."

(ord. no. 18 eff. March 13, 1980)

**3. PENALTY.**

Any person violating the provisions of this Ordinance is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not exceeding One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) or by imprisonment in the County Correctional Facility for a period not exceeding 90 days, or both such fine and imprisonment.

(ord. no. 18 eff. March 13, 1980)

**4. VALIDITY.**

If any part of this Ordinance shall be held invalid, such part shall be deemed severable and the invalidity thereof shall not affect the remaining parts of this Ordinance.

(ord. no. 18 eff. March 13, 1980)

**ARTICLE II  
DEFINITIONS**

**1. DEFINITIONS.**

Whenever, in this Ordinance, the following terms are used they shall have the meaning as described to them in this Article, unless it is apparent from the context thereof that some other meaning is intended.

(ord. no. 18 eff. March 13, 1980)

2. **ANIMAL.**

As used in this Ordinance, animal shall mean dog, cat, bird, reptile, mammal, fish or any other dumb creature.

3. **ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER.**

The Animal Control Officer shall mean the agent of the Kent County Department of Animal Control or any other officers designated for such duties by the Township.  
(ord. no. 18 eff. March 13, 1980)

4. **ANIMAL SHELTER**

The Animal Shelter may mean either the Kent County Animal Shelter or the Humane Society of Kent County.  
(ord. no. 18 eff. March 13, 1980)

5. **TOWNSHIP.**

As used in this Ordinance, shall mean the Township of Courtland.  
(ord. no 18 eff. March 13, 1980)

6. **COUNTY.**

As used in this Ordinance, shall mean the County of Kent.  
(ord. no 18 eff. March 13, 1980)

7. **DIRECTOR.**

As used in this Ordinance, shall refer to the director of the Kent County Department of Animal Control.  
(ord. no 18 eff. March 13, 1980)

8. **DEPARTMENT.**

As used in this Ordinance, shall refer to the Kent County Department of Animal Control.  
(ord. no. 18 eff. March 13, 1980)

9. **IMPOUNDED.**

If any animal pursuant to this Ordinance or any statute has been received into the custody of any animal shelter, such animal will have been “impounded” as that word is used in this Ordinance.  
(ord. no. 18 eff. March 13, 1980)

10. **OWNER.**

Owner, when applied to the proprietorship of an animal, means every person having a right of property in the animal, or every person who keeps or harbors the animal or has it in his care, or every person who permits the animal to remain on or about any premises occupied by him. For the purposes of this act any person keeping or harboring any animal for seven consecutive days shall be deemed the owner thereof within the meaning of this Ordinance.

(ord. no. 18 eff. March 13, 1980)

11. **PERSON.**

Includes an individual, partnership, corporation, trust, and any association of persons.

(ord. no. 18 eff. March 13, 1980)

**ARTICLE III  
DOGS**

1. **LICENSES.**

All Dogs over the age of 6 months within the Township shall at all times be currently licensed in accordance with the requirements of State Law and of the County Animal Control Ordinance. A license tag issued by the County shall be securely affixed to a collar, harness, or other device which shall be worn by the dog at all times unless the dog is within the confines of the residence of the owner or of a dog run or other secure enclosure on the owner's premises.

(ord. no. 18 eff. March 13, 1980)

2. **LIMIT ON NUMBER OF DOGS.**

No person shall have within his care, custody or control within the Township more than 3 dogs other than dogs under 6 months of age born to a female under the care, custody or control of such person, provided that this provision shall not be construed to require any person to dispose of any licensed dog owned by such person at the effective date of this Ordinance. This limit on the number of dogs shall not apply in townships permitting kennel licenses if such kennel complies with existing County and State Laws.

(ord. no. 18 eff. March 13, 1980)

3. **BARKING DOGS.**

No person owning or having charge, care, custody or control of a dog shall permit such dog at any time, by loud or frequent, or habitual barking, yelping or howling, to cause annoyance to people in the neighborhood or to persons utilizing the public walks or streets of the neighborhood.

(ord. no. 18 eff. March 13, 1980)

4. **DOGS RUNNING AT LARGE.**

No person owning or having charge, care, custody or control of any dog shall cause, permit, or allow the same to run at large or to be upon any highway, street, lane, alley, court or other public place, or upon any private property or premises other than those of the person owning or having charge, care, custody, or control of such dog, within the Township, unless such dog is restrained by a substantial chain or leash not exceeding six (6) feet in length and is in the charge, care, custody, or control of a person with the ability to restrain it.

(ord. no. 18 eff. March 13, 1980)

5. **FEMALE DOGS IN HEAT.**

No person owning or having charge, care, custody or control of an unsprayed female dog shall permit such dog to be or to run at large during the copulative season (i.e., when said dog is in heat as that term is commonly understood) unless such dog shall be restrained as provided in number 4 (35.094) above at all times other than when the dog is within the confines of the residence of the owner or of a dog run or other secure enclosure on the owner's premises.

(ord. no. 18 eff. March 13, 1980)

**ARTICLE IV  
VICIOUS ANIMALS**

1. **RESTRAINT; DEFINITION.**

A vicious animal shall at all times when not securely confined be securely muzzled and led by a leash. Any animal shall be deemed vicious which has bitten a person or domestic animal without molestation, or, which by its actions, gives indications that it is liable to bite any person or domestic animal without molestation.

(ord. no. 18 eff. March 13, 1980)

2. **PROSECUTIONS.**

On sworn complaint that any one of the following acts exist:

- (1) That any animal has attacked or bitten a person;
- (2) That any animal shows vicious habits or molests passersby when lawfully on the public highways;

The County may secure a summons against the owner of said animal commanding him to appear and show cause why said animal should not be ordered to be confined or destroyed. Upon such hearing, the District Court shall proceed to determine whether it

shows vicious habits or molests passersby when lawfully on the public highway, and if the Court shall so find, it shall forthwith either order said animal confined to the premises of the owner or shall order the Director of Animal Control to cause said animal to be destroyed or shall enter such other order relative to the care of such animal as the Courts shall determine to be appropriate.  
(ord. no. 18 eff. March 13, 1980)

3. **CIVIL LIABILITY.**

Nothing in this chapter shall be construed as limiting the common law liability of the owner of an animal for damages committed by it.  
(ord. no. 18 eff. March 13, 1980)

4. **PENALTY.**

Any person who shall violate an order to confine an animal owned by him to his premises pursuant to the provisions of this chapter, or who shall, on demand, refuse to surrender any animal owned by him to avoid the destruction thereof pursuant to an order made under this chapter, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by fine or imprisonment.  
(ord. no. 18 eff. March 13, 1980)

Section 2. **EFFECTIVE DATE.**

This Ordinance shall be effective on March 13, 1980.  
(ord. no. 18 eff. March 13, 1980)