

CHAPTER 27 ANIMAL CONTROL

Section 27.1 Intent.

- A. 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 Chapter to protect the people of Courtland Township from problems caused by unrestrained or annoying animals.
- B. This Chapter is intended to supplement, not supersede, the Kent County Animal Control Regulations. In case of conflict, the provisions of these regulations shall supersede this Chapter.

Section 27.2 Title. This Chapter shall be known as, and may be cited and referred to as “The Animal Control Ordinance of Courtland Township.”

Section 27.3 Definitions. Whenever the following terms are used in this Chapter they shall have the meaning as described to them in this Chapter, unless it is apparent from the context thereof that some other meaning is intended.

- A. **Animal** means a dog, cat, bird, reptile, mammal, fish or any other dumb creature.
- B. **Animal Control Officer** means the agent of the Kent County Department of Animal Control or any other officers designated for such duties by the Township.
- C. **Animal Shelter** means either the Kent County Animal Shelter or the Humane Society of Kent County.
- D. **Township** means the Township of Courtland.
- E. **County** means the County of Kent.
- F. **Director** means the director of the Kent County Health Department or his/her designee.
- G. **Department** means the Kent County Health Department.
- H. **Impounded** means if any animal pursuant to this Chapter 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 Chapter.
- I. **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 Chapter.

- J. **Person** means an individual, partnership, corporation, trust and any association of persons.

Section 27.4 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.

Section 27.5 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. This limit on the number of dogs shall not apply in a properly licensed kennel operated in compliance with the Township Zoning Ordinance, and other ordinances and laws.

Section 27.6 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.

Section 27.7 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.

Section 27.8 Female Dogs in Heat. No person owning or having charge, care, custody or control of an unspayed 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 Section 27.7 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.

VICIOUS ANIMALS

Section 27.9 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.

Section 27.10 Prosecutions. On sworn complaint that any one of the following acts exist: (1) That any animal has attacked or bitten a person; or (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 Court shall determine to be appropriate.

Section 27.11 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.

Section 27.12 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, as provided in this Code.

KENNELS

Section 27.13 County License Required. Each person having a kennel shall have and maintain a valid kennel license and health permit from the Kent County Health Department.

Section 27.14 License Revocation. If at any time the Township Board determines that a kennel constitutes a nuisance, it may so declare and require revocation of the license by the County.