ARTICLE I

Control and Licensing of Dogs

[Adopted 12-29-1980 by Ord. No. 243-80 as Ch. V of the 1980 Revised General Ordinances]

§ 78-1. Definitions.

As used in this article, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

DOG — Includes canines of both sexes.

§ 78-2. License required.

All dogs, regardless of sex, over six months of age and not confined to a licensed kennel, kept within the limits of the Township, shall be licensed as hereinafter provided.

§ 78-3. Term of license; fees. [Amended 4-1-1987 by Ord. No. 274-87; 2-17-1988 by Ord. No. 282-88; 12-16-2009 by Ord. No. 488-2009]

Licenses shall be issued yearly by the Township Clerk for a period coextensive with the calendar year, or such part thereof as remains at the time of issuance of the license, upon payment to him of the yearly license fee of $10 for dogs which have been spayed or neutered and $15 for dogs which have not been spayed or neutered. All licenses shall expire at midnight on the last day of the year for which issued, and the fees paid therefor shall be the same regardless of the time of issuance of such license. Any owner who fails to pay the license fees herein required on or before the first day of April in each year shall, in addition thereto, pay a late charge of $20 upon payment said license fee for each dog required to be licensed by this article.

§ 78-4. Exemption from fees. [Added 6-19-1996 by Ord. No. 344-96]

Dogs used as guides for blind persons and commonly known as "Seeing Eye" dogs, dogs used to assist handicapped persons and commonly known as "Service" dogs and dogs used to assist deaf persons and commonly known as "Hearing Ear" dogs shall be licensed and registered as other dogs herein provided for, except that the owner or keeper of such dog shall not be required to pay any fee therefor.

§ 78-8. Registration tag required; removal; loss. [Amended 6-19-1996 by Ord. No. 344-96]

The tag shall be on the dog at all times and fastened to the collar. No tag shall be used upon any other dog, except the dog for which it is issued, nor shall anyone maliciously remove or mutilate the tag. If satisfactory proof is presented that the tag has been lost or stolen, the Animal Control Officer shall issue another tag, which shall be noted upon the original certificate and record. A replacement fee shall be charged for lost or stolen tags, which fee will be at cost for said tag.

§ 78-9. Barking, crying or whining dogs.

No dog shall be permitted or allowed to bark, cry, whine or otherwise disturb the peace, quiet or sleep of anyone for any unreasonable length of time.

§ 78-10. Leash required on streets; farming or hunting dogs.

No person owning, keeping or harboring any dog shall suffer or permit it to be upon any of the public streets or upon any private property in the Township (except the private property of the person, owning, keeping or harboring such dog, or except upon premises where permission has been given by the owner thereof to the person owning, keeping or harboring any such dog), to keep it on the private property of the person so giving permission unless such dog is accompanied by a reliable person over the age of 12 years and is securely confined and controlled by an adequate leash not more than six feet long, provided, nevertheless, that the provisions for leasing and attendance shall not apply in farming and hunting areas of the Township.

§ 78-11. Dogs running at large; impoundment. [Amended 6-19-1996 by Ord. No. 344-96]

A. The Animal Control Officer, or any person, firm or agency appointed for the purpose by the Township Committee, shall take into custody and impound or cause to be taken into custody and impounded, and thereafter destroyed or offered for adoption, as provided in this section and in N.J.S.A. 4:19-15.16, the following:

(1) Any dog off the premises of the owner or of the person keeping or harboring said dog which said Animal Control Officer or other appointed person has reason to believe is a stray dog.

(2) Any dog off the premises of the owner or of the person keeping or harboring said dog without a current registration tag on his collar.

(3) Any female dog in season off the premises of the owner or of the person keeping or harboring said dog.

(4) Any dog or other animal which is suspected to be rabid.

(5) Any dog or other animal off the premises of the owner reported to, or observed by, a certified Animal Control Officer to be ill, injured or creating a threat to public health, safety or welfare, or otherwise interfering with the enjoyment of property.

B. If any animal so seized wears a collar or harness having inscribed thereon or attached thereto the name and address of any person or a registration tag, or the owner or the person keeping or harboring said animal is known, any person authorized by the Township Committee shall forthwith serve on the person whose address is given on the collar, or on the owner or the person keeping or harboring said animal, if known, a notice in writing stating that the animal has been seized and will be liable to be offered for adoption or destroyed if not claimed within seven days after the service of the notice.

C. A notice under this section may be served either by the delivering it to the person on whom it is to be served; or by leaving it at the person's usual or last known place of abode or at the address given on the collar; or by forwarding it by post in a prepaid letter addressed to that person at his usual or last known place of abode or the address given on the collar.

D. Any person authorized by the Township Committee may cause an animal to be destroyed in a manner causing as little pain as possible and consistent with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 4:22-19 or offered for adoption seven days after seizure, provided that:

(1) Notice is given as set forth above and the animal remains unclaimed;

(2) The owner or person keeping or harboring the animal has not claimed the animal and paid all expenses incurred by reason of its detention, including maintenance costs not exceeding $4 per day; or

(3) The owner or person keeping or harboring a dog which was licensed at the time of seizure does not produce a license and registration tag for the dog.

§ 78-12. Dangerous or vicious dogs. [Amended 6-19-1996 by Ord. No. 344-96]

The provisions of Chapter 307 of the Laws of 1989 (N.J.S.A. 4:19-17 et seq.), regarding potentially dangerous dogs and vicious dogs, shall be applicable in the Township.

§ 78-13. Injuries to grounds or property.

No person, owning, keeping or harboring a dog shall permit or suffer it to do any injury or to do any damage to any lawn, shrubbery, flowers, ground or property.

§ 78-24. Violations and penalties.

Any person who is found guilty of violating any provision contained in this article shall be punished by a fine not less than $5 and not more than $500.