

Ordinance 2019-12

*BOROUGH OF HIGHTSTOWN
COUNTY OF MERCER
STATE OF NEW JERSEY*

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 5, ENTITLED “ANIMAL CONTROL”, OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHTSTOWN, NEW JERSEY

WHEREAS, the Hightstown Borough Health Officer desires to amend the schedule of cat licensing in the Borough to coincide with the licensing of dogs; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Borough Council find this change would be more efficient for the administration process.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Hightstown, in the County of Mercer, and State of New Jersey, as follows:

Section 1. That Chapter 5, entitled “Animal Control”, is hereby amended to read as follows (underline for additions, strikethroughs for deletions):

Section 5-1 Dogs

Subsection 5-1.2 License Required; Fees.

- a. Licenses and official metal registration tags shall be required for the following dogs of licensing age:
 1. Any dog owned or kept within the Borough by a resident of the Borough as of January 1 of any calendar year.
 2. Any dog acquired by any person during the course of any calendar year and kept within the Borough for more than ten (10) days after acquisition.
 3. Any dog attaining licensing age during the course of the calendar year.
 4. Any unlicensed dog brought into the Borough by any person and kept within the Borough for more than ten (10) days.
 5. Any dog licensed by another State brought into the Borough by any person and kept within the Borough for more than ninety (90) days.
- b. Application for License.
 1. Each application for a license under this section shall be signed by the owner or keeper of the dog and shall give the following information:
 - (a) A general description of the dog sought to be licensed, including breed, sex, age, color and markings, and whether such dog is of a long- or short-haired variety.
 - (b) The name, street and post office address of the owner and of the person who shall keep or harbor such dog.

(c) Evidence of rabies vaccination in accordance with subsection 5-1.4.

2. No license to own, keep or harbor a dog shall be issued to or in the name of a minor.

c. Annual License; Date of Application. Applications for licenses for dogs which are required to be licensed by the provisions of paragraph a. shall be made prior to January 31 of each calendar year to the Borough Clerk or other official designated by the Mayor and Council. In all other cases, the application for a license shall be made within ten (10) days of the day upon which the dog in question first becomes subject to the provisions of this section.

d. License Record. The information on all applications under this subsection and the registration number issued to each licensed dog shall be preserved for a period of three (3) years by the Borough Clerk. In addition, the Clerk shall forward similar information to the State Department of Health each month on forms furnished by the Department.

e. Fees. The person applying for a license shall pay a fee of ten dollars and eighty cents (\$10.80) for each dog license, shall also pay one dollar and twenty cents (\$1.20) for the registration tag (Pilot Clinic fee) for each dog and an additional fee of three (\$3.00) dollars for any dog of reproductive age which has not had its reproductive capacity permanently altered through sterilization. Any dog owner claiming to be exempt from the payment of the additional fee of three (\$3.00) dollars shall provide a copy of a veterinarian's certificate, or a notarized statement by the owner, of the animal's neutering. The fees of one dollars and twenty cents (\$1.20) and additional fee of three (\$3.00) dollars, when collected, shall be forwarded to the State Treasurer as provided by law. The same fee shall be charged for the annual renewal of each license and registration tag. If application shall not be made within the time limit set forth hereinabove, there shall also be a late charge per license, as follows. If application is made:

1. During February: five (\$5.00) dollars.
2. During March: ten (\$10.00) dollars.
3. After March 31: fifteen (\$15.00) dollars.

f. Expiration Date. Each dog license and registration tag shall expire on December 31 of the calendar year in which it was issued.

g. Exceptions.

1. Dogs used as guides for blind persons and commonly known as "Seeing Eye" dogs shall be licensed and registered as other dogs, except that the owner or keeper shall not be required to pay any fee.

2. Any dog owned in New Jersey and duly licensed for the current licensing year and bearing the proper registration tag for a New Jersey municipality shall be exempt from the license and the tag provisions of this subsection.

h. Limitation on Number of Dogs. No more than two (2) dogs of licensing age shall be owned by or kept by any one (1) family group. "Family group," as used herein, shall mean all persons occupying one (1) dwelling unit. Any person owning or keeping more than two (2) licensed dogs on the effective date of this section may retain the dogs so long as that person remains the owner or keeper of the dogs.

i. The fee to replace a lost dog registration tag shall be one (\$1.00) dollar. (1991 Code § 57-2; New; Ord. No. 2007-30)

Section 5-2 Cats

Subsection 5-2.3 Licensing Requirements.

a. Cats shall have license number displayed. Any person who shall own, keep or harbor a cat of licensing age shall annually apply for and procure from the Borough Clerk or other official designated by the Mayor and Council thereof to license cats in the municipality in which he/she resides a license and official registration tag with license number or a registration sleeve for each cat so owned, kept or harbored and shall place upon such cat a collar or other device with the license number securely fastened or displayed thereon. Acceptable methods of displaying the license number shall include but are not limited to breakaway or elastic collars. License tags or sleeves are not transferable.

b. Sanitation of Quarters. The quarters where cats are kept shall be kept clean and sanitary under standards generally accepted for the housing, feeding and care of cats by the American Veterinary Medical Association.

c. Time for Applying for License. The owner of any newly acquired cat of licensing age or of any cat which attains licensing age shall make application to the Borough Clerk for a license tag or sleeve for such cat within ten (10) days after such acquisition or age attainment. This requirement will not apply to a nonresident keeping a cat within the Borough for no longer than ninety (90) days.

d. Cats Brought into the Borough.

1. Any person who shall bring or cause to be brought into the Borough any cat licensed in another State for the current year and bearing a registration tag or sleeve and shall keep the same or permit the same to be kept within the Borough for a period of more than ninety (90) days shall immediately apply for a license and registration tag or sleeve for each such cat.

2. Any person who shall bring or cause to be brought into the Borough any unlicensed cat and shall keep the same or permit the same to be kept within the Borough for a period of more than ten (10) days shall immediately apply for a license and registration tag or sleeve for each such cat.

e. Application; Contents; Preservation of Information.

1. The application shall state the breed, sex, age, color and markings of the cat for which license and registration are sought and whether it is of a long- or short-haired variety, also the name, street and post office address of the owner and the person who shall keep or harbor such cat. The information on the application and the registration number issued for the cat shall be preserved for a period of three (3) years by the Borough Clerk or other official designated to license cats in the Borough.

2. Applications for licenses for cats which are required to be licensed by the provisions of this section shall be made prior to January 31 each year to the Borough Clerk or other official designated by the Mayor and Council. In all other cases, the application for license shall be made within ten (10) days of the day upon which the cat in question first becomes subject to the provisions of this section, as set forth more specifically in paragraphs c. and d.

f. License Forms and Tags. License forms and official tags or sleeves shall be furnished by the Borough and shall be numbered serially and shall bear the year of issuance and the name of the Borough.

g. Evidence of Inoculation with Rabies Vaccine or Certification of Exemption; Requirement for License. No Borough Clerk or other official designated by the Mayor and Council to license cats shall grant any such license and official registration tag or sleeve for any cat unless the owner thereof provides evidence that the cat to be licensed and registered has been inoculated with a rabies vaccine of a type approved by and administered in accordance with the recommendations of the United States Department of Agriculture and the United States Department of Human Services or has been certified exempt as provided by subsection 5-2.2. The rabies inoculation shall be administered by a duly licensed veterinarian or by such other veterinarian permitted by law to do the same.

h. License Fee Schedule. A license shall be issued after payment of a fee of fourteen (\$14.00) dollars for each cat not neutered and ten (\$10.00) dollars for each neutered cat. Those family groups which presently possess more than two (2) cats, in accordance with subsection 5-2.3b., shall not be required to pay total annual fees in excess of

thirty (\$30.00) dollars for the licensing of all of the cats, exclusive of any delinquent fees which may apply in accordance with this subsection. Person who fail to obtain a license as required within the time period specified in this subsection will be subject to a delinquent fee per license as follows. If application is made:

(a) During February: Five (\$5.00) dollars.

(b) During March: Ten (\$10.00) dollars.

(c) After March 31: Fifteen (\$15.00) dollars.

i. Fees; Renewals; Expiration Date of License.

1. Expiration Date. Each cat license and registration tag shall expire on December 31 of the calendar year in which it was issued.

2. Licenses from another municipality shall be accepted. The person applying for the license and registration tag and/or sleeve shall pay the fee fixed or authorized. The fee for the renewal of a license and registration tag or sleeve shall be the same as for the original, and the license, registration tag or sleeve and renewal thereof shall expire on December 31 of the calendar in which it was issued.

3. Only one (1) license and registration tag or sleeve shall be required in the licensing year for any cat in the Borough. Any valid New Jersey license tag or sleeve issued by a New Jersey municipality shall be accepted by the Borough.

j. Loss of License. If a license tag or sleeve has been misplaced or lost, the Borough Clerk may issue a duplicate license and/or registration sleeve for that particular cat at a fee of one (\$1.00) dollar.

k. Proof of Licensing. Proof of licensing shall be produced by any person owning, keeping, maintaining or harboring a cat, upon the request of any Health Official, Police Officer, Animal Control Officer or other authorized person.

l. Interfering with Persons Performing Duties Under This Section. No person shall hinder, molest or interfere with anyone authorized or empowered to perform any duty under this section.

m. Disposition of Fees Collected. License fees and other moneys collected or received under the provisions of this section shall be forwarded to the Treasurer of the Borough and, to the extent permitted by law, shall be placed in a special account separate from any of the other accounts of the Borough and shall be used for the following purposes only: collecting, keeping and disposing of cats liable to seizure; for local prevention and control of rabies; providing antirabies treatment under the direction of the Board of Health for any person known or suspected to have been exposed to rabies; and for administering the provisions of this section. Any unexpected balance remaining in such special account shall be retained until the end of the third fiscal year following and may be used for any of the purposes set forth in this section. At the end of the third fiscal year following and at the end of each fiscal year thereafter there shall be transferred from such special account to the general funds of the Borough any amount then in such account which is in excess of the total amount paid into the special account during the last two (2) fiscal years next preceding. (1991 Code § 87-14; New; Ord. No. 2004-15; Ord. No. 2007-30)

Section 2. This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon final passage and publication in accordance with the law.

Section 3. All other Ordinances or parts of Ordinances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

Section 4. In the event that any portion of this Ordinance is found to be invalid for any reason by any Court of competent jurisdiction, such judgment shall be limited in its effect only to that portion of the Ordinance

actually adjudged to be invalid, and the remaining portions of this Ordinance shall be deemed severable therefrom and shall not be affected.

Introduction: July 15, 2019

Adoption: August 5, 2019

ATTEST:

DEBRA L. SOPRONYI
MUNICIPAL CLERK

LAWRENCE D. QUATTRONE
MAYOR