

**Gloucester Township**

**Companion Animal  
Management Plan**

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## **1. INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT OF THIS PLAN**

### **1.1. Introduction**

Council recognizes that companion animals play an important role in today's society and wants people to enjoy them, be it for companionship, work, entertainment or sport.

Understanding that municipalities are responsible for addressing issues such as public health, public safety, and public resources as they relate to the ownership of pet animals, The Township of Gloucester has developed a Companion Animal Management Plan to promote responsible pet ownership.

The field of animal services operates within a complex and changing environment that requires an understanding of animal behavior, human behavior, and community behavior, and the township appreciates the importance of public education and outreach to help ensure success of the Companion Animal Management Plan.

The development of a Companion Animal Management Plan engages the community by involving all stakeholders, encouraging and guiding them to support and embrace the municipality's responsible pet ownership goals.

### **1.2. Purpose of Companion Animal Management Plan**

The Companion Animal Management of the Township of Gloucester aims to promote and facilitate a municipal environment of responsible and considerate ownership of dogs and cats and addresses the following:

- A. The well-being of the community, including animals as well as people; costs of animal control and sheltering; wildlife and environmental protection; governance and community relations.

- B. The purpose of the plan is also to address issues such as public health, public safety, and public resources as they relate to the ownership of pet animals.
- C. The Companion Animal Management Plan supports the municipality's responsible pet ownership goals, which include:
  - 1. Improve public awareness and promote socially responsible pet ownership through community engagement, outreach, and marketing.
  - 2. Fostering a pet-friendly community where pet nuisance is minimized.
  - 3. Improving the care and protection of pet animals in the community.
  - 4. Decreasing relinquishment and abandonment of cats and dogs and improving re-homing rates.
  - 5. Reducing dog fights and dog bites.
  - 6. Reducing the number of dogs and cats euthanized in New Jersey each year.
  - 7. Enabling the municipality to take a consistent approach to companion animal management issues throughout the municipality.
  - 8. Providing a strategic plan to support the activities of animal services within the municipality. Reducing public and environmental nuisance(s) caused by dogs and cats.
  - 9. Encouraging neutering of dogs and cats in the community to prevent strays.

### **1.3. Companion Animal Statistics**

- A. Approximately 52 million dogs and 57 million cats live in U.S. homes.
- B. One unspayed female cat and her unaltered offspring can produce 420,000 cats in seven years.
- C. Seven puppies and kittens are born for every one human.

- D. More than 12 million dogs and cats are euthanized in pounds and shelters across the country every year. Millions more are abandoned in rural and urban areas. The fact is there are simply not enough homes for them.
- E. As many as 25% of dogs entering shelters across the country each year are purebreds.
- F. Approximately 61% of dogs entering shelters across the country will be euthanized.
- G. About 75% of all cats entering shelters across the country will be euthanized.
- H. Nearly two-thirds (62%) of households own a pet compared with 56% in 1988.
- I. Almost half, or 47%, of households own more than one type of pet.
- J. Cats are more popular than man's best friend, with 73 million felines in the United States compared with 68 million dogs.
- K. Annual pet spending is \$35.9 billion, up from \$34.4 billion in 2004, and more than double from just a decade ago.

## **2. LEGISLATION**

The Township of Gloucester will comply with all applicable laws concerning pet ownership.

### **2.1. Township Codes Concerning Pets and Animal Abuse**

#### A. Definitions

1. The following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

DOG OR CAT - Any dog or cat, male or female.

DOG OR CAT OF LICENSING AGE - Any dog or cat which has attained the age of seven (7) months or which possesses a set of permanent teeth.

KENNEL - A Kennel is defined as any establishment, location or premises wherein or whereon more than 4 dogs or cats, or combination thereof, are harbored, kept or maintained, or the business of boarding, selling or breeding dogs or cats for sale is carried on. This shall not apply to the temporary (until weaned) keeping of dogs or cats which have been born to a female dog or cat kept on the same premises. Kennels are prohibited in all residential zones.

LEASH - Any rope, chain, strap or other restraining device.

OWNER - When applied to the proprietorship of a dog or cat , includes every person having a right of property in such dog or cat and every person who has such dog or cat in his keeping.

PERSON - An individual, firm, partnership, corporation or association of persons.

PET SHOP - Any room or group of rooms, cage or exhibition pen, not part of a kennel, wherein dogs or cats for sale are kept and displayed. Pet Shops are prohibited in all residential zones.

POUND - An establishment for the confinement of dogs or cats seized either under the provisions of this ordinance or otherwise.

RUNNING AT LARGE - The presence of any dog or cat, whether licensed or not, off the lands and premises of its owner and unre-

strained by a leash.

SHELTER - Shelters where dogs or cats are received, housed, kept, maintained or distributed without charge are prohibited in all residential zones.

TOWNSHIP - The Township of Gloucester, County of Camden, New Jersey.

HABITUAL BARKING - The creating of a "noise disturbance" from a habitual barking, yelping or howling dog continuously for fifteen (15) minutes or intermittently for one.

POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS DOG - any dog or dog hybrid declared potentially dangerous by a municipal court pursuant to section 7 of P.L. 1989, c.307(C.4:19-23)

VICIOUS DOG - any dog or dog hybrid declared vicious by a municipal court pursuant to section 6 of P.L. 1989, c.307 (C.4:19-22)

2. Word Usage. The singular shall include the plural.

B. License required, Licensing authority.

No person shall keep or harbor any dog or cat within the Township of Gloucester, in the County of Camden, without first obtaining a license, therefore, to be issued by the Township Clerk upon application by the owner and payment of a prescribed fee, and no person shall keep or harbor any dog or cat in said Township except in compliance with the animal management plan.

- C. Annual procurement of license and registration tag; tag to be worn by dog or cat.

Any person who shall own, keep or harbor a dog or cat of licensing age shall in the month of January of each year, apply for and procure from the Office of the Township Clerk a license and official registration tag for each such dog or cat owned, kept or harbored and shall place upon each such dog or cat a collar or harness with the registration tag securely fastened thereto.

- D. Fees; expiration date of license and registration.

The person applying for the license and registration tag shall pay a fee of twenty one dollars (\$21.00) for the registration of each spayed dog or cat and twenty four dollars (\$24.00) for the registration of each unspayed dog or cat, before January 31st of each calendar year, effective January 1, 2008. A late fee of fifteen (\$15.00) dollars shall be charged for each license not applied for by March 31st of each calendar year.

Any person applying for a license and registration tag for a dog determined to be potentially dangerous pursuant to N.J.S.A. 4:19-17 et seq. of the laws of the State of New Jersey shall pay an annual fee of \$700.00.

- E. Seeing Eye Dogs.

Dogs used as guides for blind persons and commonly known as "Seeing eye dogs" shall be licensed and registered as other dogs herein above provided for, except that the owner or keeper of such dog shall not be required to pay any fee therefore.

- F. Dogs or cats attaining licensing age; newly acquired dogs or cats.



The owner of any newly acquired dog or cat of licensing age or of any dog or cat which attains licensing age shall make application for a license and registration tag for such dog or cat within ten (10) days after such acquisition or age attainment.

G. Dogs or Cats brought from outside township.

1. Any person who shall bring or cause to be brought into the Township of Gloucester any dog or cat licensed in another state for the current year and bearing a registration tag, and shall keep the same or permit the same to be kept within the Township for a period of more than ninety (90) days, shall immediately apply for a license and registration tag for each such dog or cat, unless such dog or cat is licensed under another section of this ordinance.
2. Any person who shall bring or cause to be brought into the Township any unlicensed dog or cat, and shall keep the same or permit the same to be kept within the Township for a period of more than ten (10) days, shall immediately apply for a license and registration tag for each such dog or cat.

H. Application information; registration numbers.

1. The application shall state the breed, sex, age, color and markings of the dog or cat for which the license and registration are sought, and whether it is of a long or short haired variety; also, the name, street and post office address and telephone number of the owner and the person who shall keep or harbor such dog or cat.

2. The information on said application and said registration number issued for the dog or cat shall be preserved for a period of three (3) years by the Township Clerk.

I. Inoculation against rabies.

1. No person in the Township of Gloucester shall own, possess, harbor or have in custody any dog or cat over seven (7) months of age unless such dog or cat has been vaccinated or inoculated against rabies by a licensed veterinarian. Such vaccination or inoculation shall consist of an anti-rabies vaccine of standard and accepted quality and formula, the duration of which shall be noted on the vaccination certificate or tag.
2. No license or registration tag will be issued unless proof of rabies vaccination or inoculation has been presented to the Township Clerk.
3. Registration numbers shall be issued in the order of the applications.

J. Dog canvass.

The Township Clerk shall cause, every two years, a canvass to be made of all dogs owned, kept or harbored within the limits of the Township and shall report to the State Department of Health the result thereof.

K. Impoundment; notice of seizure; disposition.

1. Any person appointed for that purpose by the governing body of the Township shall take into custody and impound or cause to be taken into custody and impounded and thereafter destroyed or disposed of as provided in this section;

- a. Any dog or cat off the premises of the owner or of the person keeping or harboring said dog or cat which said official or his agent have reason to believe is a stray dog or cat.
  - b. Any dog or cat off the premises of the owner or of the person keeping or harboring said dog or cat without a current registration tag on his collar.
2. If any dog or cat 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 if the owner or person keeping or harboring said dog or cat is known, any person authorized by the governing body shall forthwith serve on the person keeping or harboring said dog or cat a notice, in writing, stating that the dog or cat has been seized and will be liable to be disposed of or destroyed if not claimed within seven (7) days after the service of the notice.
3. When any dog or cat so seized has been detained for seven (7) days after notice, when notice can be given as above set forth, or has been detained for seven (7) days after seizure when notice has not been and cannot be given as above set forth, and the owner or person keeping or harboring said dog or cat has not claimed said dog or cat and paid all expenses incurred by reason of its detention, including maintenance, not exceeding ten dollars (\$10.00) for the first day and three dollars (\$3.00) a day thereafter, or if the dog or cat is unlicensed at the time of the seizure and the owner or person keeping or harboring said dog or cat has not produced a license and registration tag for said dog or cat, any person authorized by the governing body may cause the dog or cat to be destroyed in a manner causing as little pain as possible.
4. Authorization to enter premises.

Any officer or agent authorized to perform any duty under this ordinance is hereby authorized to go upon any premises to seize for impounding any dog or dogs and cat or cats which he may lawfully seize and impound when such officer is in immediate pursuit of such dog or dogs, and cat or cats, except upon the premises of the owner of the dog or cat if said owner is present and forbids the same. No person shall hinder, molest or interfere with anyone authorized to perform any duty under this ordinance

L. Habitual barking.

It shall be unlawful for any person to own, keep, maintain, harbor, or have in possession any dog which by frequent or habitual barking, shall cause a nuisance by creating a serious annoyance or disturbance to any individual or to the neighborhood.

M. Running at large.

No person owning, keeping or harboring any dog or cat shall suffer or permit it to run at large upon the public streets or in any public park or in any public building or in any other public place within the Township or upon any private premises outside the premises of the owner.

N. Property damage

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

O. Control and Clean-Up.

1. No person owning, possessing, harboring, keeping, walking or in custody or charge of any dog or cat shall cause, suffer, permit or allow such dog or cat to soil, defile, defecate on or commit any nuisance on any common thoroughfare, sidewalk, passageway, bypath, play area, park, school ground or any place where people congregate or walk, or upon any public property whatsoever, or upon any private property without the permission of the owner of said property; provided however, it shall be a complete defense to a violation of this section that such person immediately shall have removed and disposed of all feces and droppings deposited by said dog in a suitable and sanitary manner.
2. Any person owning, possessing, harboring, keeping, walking or in custody or charge of any dog or cat shall have in his or her possession appropriate sanitary means to remove immediately any feces and droppings which may be deposited by such dog or cat on or in the areas enumerated or described in subsection A above. Such means shall include, but is not limited to a scooper, shovel, container, disposal bag, wrapper or other implement.
3. Disposal in a suitable and sanitary manner shall include but shall not be limited to taking the removed feces and droppings home in a container, disposal bag or wrapper and placing the same in a trash can or removing the same from the container, bag or wrapper and depositing the same in the sanitary sewer. In no event shall disposal in a suitable and sanitary matter include the placement of unwrapped feces or droppings in a trash can, or the placement or disposal into a storm sewer or the burial of said feces or droppings on or in property or areas enumerated and described in Subsection A above.
  - a. This shall not apply to any blind person owning, possessing, harboring, keeping, walking, in custody or charge of, or accompanied by a guide dog or seeing eye dog.

P. Noxious Odors, Nuisance.

No person owning, possessing, harboring, keeping or in custody or charge of any dog or dogs or cat or cats shall cause, suffer, permit or allow the accumulation of dog and/or cat feces or droppings upon his or her property or upon property occupied by him or her to the extent that the odor may be noticeable to any adjoining property owner or owners or that it creates or results in an attraction for vermin breeding or any other public health nuisance to adjoining property owners and neighbors.

Q. Removal of registration tags; false registration tags.

No person, except an officer in the performance of his duties, shall remove a registration tag from the collar of any dog or cat without the consent of the owner, nor shall any person attach a registration tag to a dog or cat for which it was not issued.

R. Licensing requirements for kennels and pet shops.

1. Any person who keeps or operates or proposes to establish a kennel or pet shop shall apply to the Township Clerk for a license entitling him to keep or operate such establishment, which application shall describe the premises where the establishment is located or is proposed to be located and the purpose for which it is to be maintained and shall be accomplished by the written approval of the governing body, showing compliance with the local and state rules and regulations governing the location of and sanitation at such establishment.

2. All licenses issued for kennels or pet shops shall state the purpose for which the establishment is maintained, and all such licenses shall expire on the last day of June of each year and shall be subject to revocation by the governing body on the recommendation of the State Department of Health or the Mayor of the Township of Gloucester, for failure to comply with the rules and regulations of the State Department of Health or the ordinances of the Township governing the same, after the owner has been afforded a hearing by either the State Department of Health, or the governing body or as may be required by N.J.S.A. 4:19-15.8.

3. Any person holding such license shall not be required to secure individual licenses for dogs owned by such licensee and kept at such establishments. Such licenses shall not be transferable to another owner or different premises.

S. License fees for kennels and pet shops.

The annual license fee for a kennel providing accommodations for ten (10) or less dogs shall be ten dollars (\$10.00) and for more than ten (10) dogs, twenty-five dollars (\$25.00). The annual license fee for a pet shop shall be ten dollars (\$10.00). No fee shall be charged for a shelter or pound.

T. Control of dogs or cats in kennels and pet shops.

No dog or cat kept in a kennel, pet shop, shelter or pound shall be permitted off such premises, except on a leash or in a crate or under other safe control.

U. Disposition of fees collected.

1. License fees and other money collected or received under the provisions of this ordinance, except those fees which are forwarded to the State of New Jersey, shall be forwarded to the Treasurer of the Township and shall be placed in two special accounts separate from any of the other accounts and shall be used for the following purposes:
  - a. For collecting, keeping and impounding of dogs and cats liable to seizure under this ordinance.
  - b. For local prevention and control of rabies.
  - c. For payment of damage to or losses of poultry and domestic animals, except dogs and cats, caused by unknown dog or dogs.
  - d. For canvass of unlicensed dogs as prescribed by the State of New Jersey.
  - e. For administering the provisions of this ordinance.
  - f. For providing for dog control in the Township.
2. The registration tag fee of \$1.00 for each dog, and all other fees collected in connection with dog licensing and registration shall be forwarded within thirty (30) days after collection by the Township Clerk to the State Department of Health.
3. All Fees collected from cats will remain in the Township.

V. Potentially Dangerous and Vicious Dogs.



1. It shall be the duty of the Police Department or Animal Control Officer of the Township to receive and investigate complaints against dogs, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 4:19-17 through 4:19-37.
2. The Municipal Court of the Township of Gloucester is charged with determining whether a dog is vicious or potentially dangerous based on criteria provided by State Statute, N.J.S.A. 4:19-17 through 4:19-37. No dog which has been so determined to be a vicious or potentially dangerous dog shall be permitted to run at large or be upon any street or public place in the Township of Gloucester, except while securely muzzled and under leash; and the owner or person harboring any such vicious or potentially dangerous dog who shall suffer or permit such dog to run at large or be upon any street or public place in said Township while not securely muzzled and under leash shall be guilty of a violation of this law.

W. Animal Abuse.

1. No owner or person in charge shall fail to provide their animals with humane care and treatment, sufficient, good and wholesome food and water, proper shelter and protection from the weather, veterinary care, when needed to prevent suffering.
2. No person shall beat, cruelly ill-treat, torment, overload, overwork and otherwise abuse any animal or cause or permit any fight between animals or between animals and humans.
3. No owner of an animal shall abandon such animal.

X. Violations and Penalties.

Any person who violates or refuses to comply with any part of the provisions of this ordinance or with the rules and regulations promulgated by the State Department of Health governing the sanitary conduct and operation of kennels, pet shops, shelters or pounds to preserve sanitation therein and prevent the spread of rabies and other diseases of dogs and/or cats within and from such establishments shall be liable to a fine of not more than five hundred dollars (\$500.00) or imprisonment for not more than ninety (90) days, or both for each offense, to be recovered by and in the name of the Township.

Any person who fails to obtain a dog and/or cat license and registration tag as herein provided shall be liable to a fine of not less than twenty five dollars (\$25.00) and not more than one hundred dollars (\$100.00). Any person who violates or fails to comply with any part of Sections 47-15, 47-15.2 shall upon conviction thereof be liable to a fine not to be exceed two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00) for each offense or by imprisonment for a term not exceeding thirty (30) days, or both at the discretion of the Court."

#### License Denial

Any person found violating or refusing to comply with any part of the provisions of this Ordinance, resulting from a complaint filed in Municipal Court of the Township of Gloucester, by any citizen, special officer or member of the Police Department, on three (3) or more occasions, shall be denied the issuance of a license to keep or harbor any dog and/or cat within the Township of Gloucester and any dog and/or cat shall be removed by Order of the Municipal Court of the Township of Gloucester.

#### Y. Duties of the Animal Control Officer

1. The Animal Control Officer shall patrol, on a regular basis, all municipal streets for stray, lost, deceased and free-roaming animals, during normal business hours, and the attempted apprehension of said animals.
2. The Animal Control Officer shall respond to complaints as generated by municipal residents, municipal officers and municipal police during normal business hours.
3. The Animal Control Officer shall respond to complaints as generated after normal business hours when they have been received by the municipal police department. These complaints, in order for the Animal Control Officer to respond, must have the approval of a municipal police supervisor.
4. The Animal Control Officer shall respond to complaints for sick and/or injured animals on a 24 hour a day, 7 days per week basis. Injured animals shall receive veterinary care prior to being taken to an animal shelter. The owners of said animal(s) receiving veterinary care shall be responsible for all associated costs of the treatment. If the animal receiving such veterinary care has no known owner, the municipality shall be responsible for all associated costs.
5. The Animal Control Officer shall attempt to notify the owners of animals wearing identification tags or other identification devices, and shall attempt to reunite these animals with their owners. There shall be no charge for this service, unless the animal in question was impounded during non-business hours. In such an event, the animal's owner shall be responsible for any applicable overtime charge(s); unlicensed dogs which are apprehended and taken to a shelter will not

be returned to the owner by the Animal Control Officer unless proof of current license is provided to the Animal Control Officer.

6. The Animal Control Officer shall remove deceased animals from the municipality's streets, both public and private. Deceased animals on private property shall be removed only if the area of property where the carcass is located is easily accessible to the Animal Control Officer. This service shall not include the removal of deer, livestock, rodents or birds.
7. The Animal Control Officer shall remove sick and/or injured wildlife that pose a rabies threat, from both public and private property, and shall dispose of said animals in accordance with the laws of the State of New Jersey. The Animal Control Officer shall prepare and transport specimens for rabies testing if so directed by the County.
8. The Animal Control Officer shall enforce and impound animals under N.J.S.A. 4:19-19 (the "vicious dog law"), if directed to do so by the municipal police chief. Owners of impounded animals shall be responsible for all associated impounding, transportation and boarding costs.
9. The Animal Control Officer shall provide a service for the removal of unwanted pets. The owners of said pets shall be responsible for any removal and turn over fees.
10. The Animal Control Officer shall provide to municipal residents, humane traps, used to catch feral cats. The resident may be required to give a refundable \$35.00 deposit per trap if the Animal Control Officer deems it necessary. This service shall not apply to apartment complexes, commercial, industrial or rental properties. The Animal

Control Officer shall remove contained stray cats from residents during normal business hours.

11. Upon request by the municipality, and to the extent allowed by law, the Animal Control Officer shall enforce the Municipal Animal Control Ordinances. If a summons is issued and a court appearance required, the Animal Control Officer retains the right to request that the court grant restitution for the time and costs of the investigations and prosecution of the matter.
12. The Animal Control Officer shall transport all impounded animals to the shelter of the Municipality's choosing. If the shelter is located outside of the County, a charge of .28 cents per mile, per round trip, will be charged to the Municipality. The Municipality shall be responsible for all charges and contracts associated with the shelter.
13. The Animal Control Officer shall provide to the municipality all necessary licensing and insurance documents as required in performing the duties of a Certified Animal Control Officer, as directed in N.J.S.A. 4:19-1 et seq.
14. The Animal Control Officer shall provide to the municipality a detailed activity report at the end of every month. The report shall detail the time and date of all actions taken, including but not limited to complaints, the nature of the complaint, and any other action(s) taken.
15. The Animal Control Officer shall provide to the Municipality a telephone number to give to residents, municipal officers, and the police department, for reporting animal complaints during regular business hours. The Animal Control Officer shall provide a pager number for the

police department to use during non-business hours to contact the Animal Control Officer on call.

16. The Animal Control Officer shall be responsible for providing to the general public information that will teach and promote both humane education and knowledge of animal welfare and animal control regulations.
17. Upon reasonable request the Animal Control Officer will be available to meet with Municipal Officials at a mutually convenient time during the contract period to address any issues arising from performance under the contract.

### **3. STRATEGY**

The Township of Gloucester, Camden County, New Jersey, shall work towards creating a more stable environment for companion animals, and encourage responsible pet ownership within the community.

#### **3.1. Companion Animal Management Plan Purpose**

- A. To inform and educate the community about companion animals and promote responsible pet ownership.
- B. To ensure that the needs of the community are reflected through Council's companion animal management policies, procedures and practices.
- C. Provide a service to residents that responds to concerns, mediates nuisance and monitors activities.

#### **3.2. Key Objectives**

- A. To improve compliance with registration requirements for dogs and cats.
- B. To respond to residents complaints about the keeping of dogs and cats in Gloucester Township in a proactive manner.
- C. To promote responsible pet ownership.
- D. Decrease the amount of stray cats and dogs.
- E. Reduce the number of dogs and cats euthanized.
- F. Promote neutering or spaying of companion animals.

### 3.3. Further Actions and Outreach

- A. Animal education
  - 1. Animal education workshops
  - 2. Martin Luther King Day of Service at Shelter
  - 3. Police K-9 Demonstrations
  - 4. Events at Dog Park
  - 5. Put press releases and reminders about dog and cat licensing on Gloucester Township website, brochures available to the public
  - 6. Publish information through township newsletter
  
- B. Participate in the development of a County-wide Companion Animal Management Plan

The Township of Gloucester wishes to work in collaboration with Camden County, New Jersey, to develop a county wide Companion Animal Management Plan with an expected goal completion date of 2013.

- C. Encourage Responsible Pet Ownership
  - 1. Gloucester Township has yearly free rabies clinics for licensed pet owners to receive free rabies shots for their cats or dogs.
  - 2. The Animal Welfare Association requested advertising on the township website of their recent feral cat trap and release program.



3. The Township of Gloucester enacts a dog census every two years.
4. Timber Creek Park, a park owned by Camden County, located within Gloucester Township, has a dog park area for responsible pet owners.
5. Municipal parks and open space has signage prohibiting companion animals in certain locations and require that all pet waste is disposed of properly.