

Introduced: 05/14/2024  
Publication: 05/23/2024  
Public Hearing: 06/11/2024  
Adopted: 06/11/2024

**TOWNSHIP OF TEWKSBURY  
HUNTERDON COUNTY, NEW JERSEY  
ORDINANCE NO. 04-2024**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF TEWKSBURY, HUNTERDON  
COUNTY, NEW JERSEY CREATING TITLE 6, ANIMALS, CHAPTER 6.10, AT  
LARGE AND NUISANCE DOMESTICATED ANIMALS, OF THE TOWNSHIP  
CODE OF ORDINANCES**

**WHEREAS**, domesticated animals that are permitted to run at large within the Township of Tewksbury (the "Township") or which are not properly maintained and controlled by their owners may cause significant inconvenience, damage and nuisance.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the Township Committee of the Township of Tewksbury, Hunterdon County, New Jersey, as follows:

**SECTION 1.** Title 6, Animals, Chapter 6.10, At Large and Nuisance Animals, of the Township Code of Ordinances is hereby created as follows:

6.10.010 – Definitions.

"Domesticated Animal" means any animal which is kept for the use or pleasure of its owner, and shall include livestock and any animals raised or kept for commercial purposes.

"Extraordinary or catastrophic conditions" means an act or event characterized by an unanticipated, grave, natural, or man-made event or disaster which occurs outside the control of, and without fault by, the owner.

"Minor violation" shall include violations of this chapter that occur due to neglect and unintentional acts or substandard practices which do not place the life of any domesticated animal in imminent peril, or do not cause protracted disfigurement, protracted impairment of health or protracted loss or impairment of function of limb or bodily organ, or does not injure or place the life of a person in peril.

"Owner" when applied to the proprietorship of domesticated animals, means every person having a right of property in such domesticated animals and every person who keeps such domesticated animals.

"Person" shall include any corporation, company, society, firm, partnership, association, organization and any other group or entity acting as a unit, as well as an individual. For penalty purposes, the term "person" as applied to associations shall mean the partners or members thereof, and, as applied to corporations, the officers thereof.

"Public Nuisance" with respect to any domesticated animal means a disturbance of the general peace by barking, howling, crying, calling out, or making any other noise or commotion which causes injury to the health or comfort of ordinary people to an unreasonable extent under all of the relevant circumstances.

6.10.020- Control of domesticated animals by owner; prohibited acts.

No person owning, keeping or harboring any domesticated animal shall permit, suffer or allow the domesticated animal to:

- A. Be off the premises of the owner or custodian of the domesticated animal, or be upon any public land, street, right of way or other public place, unless the domesticated animal shall be accompanied by and under the effective control of a person who is responsible for such domesticated animal;
- B. Cause any injury to any persons or other animals, or cause damage to any lawn, shrubbery, flowers, grounds, trees or any property of persons other than the owner or custodian of the domesticated animal, except for any such injury or damage caused by extraordinary or catastrophic conditions;
- C. Become or remain a public nuisance; or
- D. Trespass or remain upon property owned by any person other than the owner of the domesticated animal without the permission of the owner of said property.

6.10.030 – Enforcement.

- A. The provisions of this Chapter shall be enforced by the Township Police Department or Animal Control Officer.
- B. No person shall be charged with or convicted of a violation of this section except upon the sworn complaint and testimony of one (1) or more persons owning or occupying one (1) or more properties in the vicinity of the defendant's property or domesticated animal.
- C. Should any violation of this chapter occur due to extraordinary or catastrophic conditions, the owner or custodian of a domesticated animal shall be afforded a period of time not exceeding thirty (30) days to abate the violation. Should the owner or custodian of any domesticated animal fail to make repairs or abate any violation within that time, they shall be deemed to be in continuing violation of this chapter and shall be subject to enforcement.

6.10.040 – Penalties.

- A. Any person who commits a minor violation of this chapter may be issued a written warning upon the first offense.
- B. Any person who fails or refuses to comply with the provisions of this Chapter as a second offense or subsequent offense, or as a non-minor violation for any offense, shall, upon conviction thereof, be assessed a penalty pursuant to the provisions of Section 1.08.010, General Penalty, of this Code. A separate offense shall be deemed committed on each day during or on which a violation occurs or continues.

**SECTION 2.** All actions of the Township taken prior to the date of adoption hereof contemplated by this Ordinance are hereby ratified and approved.

**SECTION 3.** If any section, paragraph, subsection, clause or provision of this Ordinance shall be declared invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of this Ordinance as a whole or any remaining part thereof.

**SECTION 4.** All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances of the Township of Tewksbury heretofore adopted that are inconsistent with any of the terms and provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

**SECTION 5.** This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its final passage, approval and publication as provided by law.

I HEREBY CERTIFY the above to be a true copy of an Ordinance introduced by the Township Committee of the Township of Tewksbury at a duly convened meeting held on 05/14/2024 and adopted on 06/11/2024.

  
Jennifer Ader  
Township Clerk

