
Township of Ocean

Companion Animal Management Plan

2014-2017

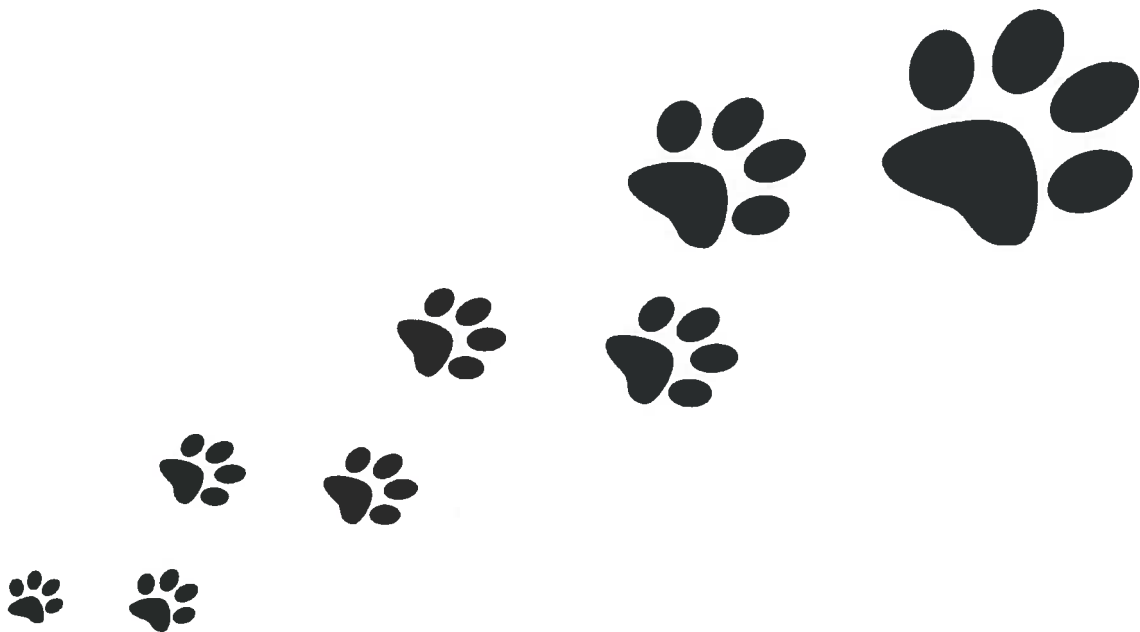




TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|---|-----------|
| COMPANION ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLEDGE | 3 |
| INTRODUCTION | 6 |
| QUICK REFERENCES | 7 |
| BEING A RESPONSILBE OWNER | 8 |
| PET LICENSING..... | 10 |
| PET LICENSING APPLICATION | 11 |
| HAVE A HEART TRAP | 12 |
| TRAP AGREEMENT | 13 |
| FREE ANNUAL RABIES CLINIC | 14 |

Companion Animal Management Pledge

MUNICIPAL SUPPORT FOR RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERSHIP PROGRAMS IN THE COMMUNITY
2014

RECOGNIZING, that cats and dogs are an integral and valuable part of all communities, and contribute to the well-being of humans, whether as companions, service animals, or therapy pets, and

UNDERSTANDING, that municipalities have an important role in ensuring the wellbeing of animals while balancing the needs of pet owners and non-pet owners.

WHEREAS, legislators and municipal officials report that the number of calls from citizens about animal related issues rival any other issue(s), and

WHEREAS, there are approximately 2.2 million owned dogs and 2.5 million owned cats in New Jersey, and

WHEREAS, New Jersey was the first state in the nation to develop an innovative state-wide spay/neuter program and all proceeds from the sale of Animal Friendly License Plates are used to reimburse participating veterinarians for spaying and neutering surgeries, and

WHEREAS, State responsibility for promoting responsible pet care and ensuring that pets do not suffer due to abuse, neglect, or lack of proper care in kennels, pet shops, shelters, and pounds (animal facilities) is vested in the Office of Animal Welfare within the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, and

WHEREAS, The New Jersey Society to Prevent Cruelty to Animals (NJSPCA) and municipal Animal Cruelty Investigators (ACIs) are responsible for investigating and acting as officers for the detection, apprehension, and arrest of offenders against the animal cruelty laws, and

WHEREAS, New Jersey mandates training requirements for animal control officers and Animal Cruelty Investigators, and

WHEREAS, New Jersey impounds over 100,000 animals per year in animal shelters and impoundment facilities, and

WHEREAS, approximately 37% of the animals that enter New Jersey's impoundment facilities are euthanized, at a rate of around 3000 every month, and

WHEREAS, free-roaming unvaccinated cats and dogs present a potential health threat to humans through the spread of such zoonotic diseases as rabies, leptospirosis, toxoplasmosis, roundworms, animal bites, and environmental contamination from animal feces, and

WHEREAS, stray and unwanted pets place an enormous financial burden on municipalities and non-profit humane agencies organized to care for these animals, and

WHEREAS, it is more humane and cost-effective to reduce the number of unwanted animals than it is to impound and euthanize unwanted or unclaimed dogs and cats, and

WHEREAS, all dogs are required to be licensed in the municipality where they are housed and the majority of municipalities also require licensure of cats, current vaccination against rabies is a pre-requisite to licensure, and

WHEREAS, all municipalities are required to canvass their residents to locate unlicensed dogs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Ocean, in the County of Ocean, State of New Jersey resolve to take the following steps with regard to our municipal responsibilities with the intent of making the Township of Ocean a truly sustainable community.

It is our intent to do our utmost, within the bounds of our jurisdiction, to ensure that companion animals are treated humanely, respectfully, and responsibly through public education and through exercise of powers vested within New Jersey municipalities as follows:

Authority of municipalities:

Pursuant to New Jersey Statutes, all municipalities must appoint a certified animal control officer who shall be responsible for animal control within the jurisdiction of the municipality, including providing emergency veterinary care for injured stray animals and coverage outside of normal working hours;

The municipality in which an animal facility is located is responsible for issuing the license for that facility to operate;

The NJ Vicious Dog Law establishes a state-wide standard for municipalities to effectively address situations of vicious or potentially dangerous dogs, regardless of breed;

The Animal Population Control Program provides for low-cost spaying and neutering for pet owners adopting dogs and cats from New Jersey shelters, pounds, and animal adoption referral agencies and pet owners participating in one of several Public Assistance Programs.

The Municipality pledges to:

Enforce all animal and rabies control statutes and regulations, including the requirement to pick up and impound all stray dogs and cats, excepting stray and feral cats in managed TNR programs.

Work to improve the enforcement of animal cruelty statutes.

Educate our community, including school children, about their responsibilities towards the pet animals they chose to keep.

Institute, as appropriate, cat licensing ordinances and increase the percentage of licensed dogs and cats through ease of licensing and licensing enforcement measures.

Presented this fourteenth day of August 2014

CERTIFICATION

I, Diane Ambrosio, Clerk of the Township of Ocean, in the County of Ocean and the State of New Jersey, do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the Township Committee at its Regular Business Meeting held on the 14th day of August 2014.


Diane B. Ambrosio, RMC
Municipal Clerk



INTRODUCTION

The Companion Animal Management Plan is a practical guide to managing pets in the Township of Ocean. It is designed to help owners understand their responsibilities by providing guidelines and directions.

WHY WE NEED A COMPANION ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Township of Ocean has developed a Companion Animal Management Plan to establish humane, efficient and effective solutions to companion animal issues. This Plan provides a framework for enhanced community quality of life for animals and its residents.

This management plan aims to:

- Provide Companion Animal owners with support, education, regulation and facilities to accommodate their pets within the broader community and environment.
- Manage Companion issues and encourage responsible pet ownership via education and knowledge of services and provisions and provisions available.

BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

- A reduction in the number of complaints being received due to an increased community awareness of the responsibilities of pet owners.
- Promote socially responsible pet ownership through community engagement and outreach.
- Creating a pet-friendly community where pet nuisance is minimized.
- Improving the care and protection of pet animals in the community.
- Increasing the numbers of canine good citizens.
- Managing the population of dogs and cats.

PLEASE BE AWARE THIS DOCUMENT IS INTENDED AS A GUIDE ONLY



QUICK REFERENCES

| | |
|---|-------------------------|
| Township of Ocean Website..... | www.twpoceannj.gov |
| Township of Ocean Municipal Town Hall | (609) 693-3302 |
| Township of Ocean Board of Health | (609) 693-3302 ext. 221 |
| Township of Ocean Police Department | (609) 693-4007 |
| Township of Ocean Code Enforcer | (609) 693-3600 ext. 108 |
| Popcorn Park Zoo | (609) 693-1900 |
| Ocean County Board of Health | (732) 341-9700 |
| Fish and Wildlife | (908) 735-5450 |
| Northern Ocean County Animal Facility | (732) 657-8086 |
| Southern Ocean County Animal Facility | (609) 978-0127 |
| Jersey Shore Animal Center | (732) 920-1600 |

If you have information regarding animal cruelty or abuse involving pets or wildlife, which occurred in the Township of Ocean contact any of the following agencies:

- The Township of Ocean Police Department.
- The Popcorn Park Zoo.
- **The New Jersey Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (NJSPCA)** has a 24 hour hotline to report animal cruelty, 800-582-5979. Cases may be investigated by the NJSPCA or referred to a county NJSPCA organization for investigation.

If you have information regarding animal cruelty or abuse involving livestock, horses, or poultry, contact the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, Division of Animal Health at 609-671-6400 or Manoel.tamassia@ag.state.nj.us



BEING A RESPONSIBLE OWNER

RESPONSIBLE PET OWNER

There are very important areas you need to be aware of to be a responsible pet owner.

1. Be aware of your responsibilities.
2. Always provide your pet(s) with adequate shelter, food, and water at all times.
3. Obedience training which help aids pet(s) social and emotional needs.
4. Meet the ongoing costs in caring for your pet(s) such as keeping up to date vaccinations, maintenance of health and welfare, spay/neutering, micro chipping, and licensing.

CREATE A SAFE AND CARING HOME ENVIRONMENT FOR PET

Prior to bringing pet(s) home consider:

1. The size of your residence.
2. If you can obligate the amount of time needed to care for the pet(s).
3. Cost of lifetime care of pet(s).
4. The size of your yard.

KEY ISSUES TO BE AWARE OF FOR DOG OWNERS

There are many responsibilities that a dog owner must be consciously aware of. The most common issues and complaints include:

- licensing
- nuisance barking
- dogs at large
- dog attacks
- dog defecation



KEY ISSUES TO BE AWARE OF FOR CAT OWNERS

Outside environments pose many risks to allow cat(s) complete freedom. If you meet all their needs, license, and spay/neuter cats are happy to live inside your home.

Even the most cared for well-fed cats have a natural instinct to hunt. By keeping your cat(s) inside will ensure that it does not mix with the feral cat population. This reduces potential health issues and diseases the cat(s) may contract. It will also stop the feral cat population from growing.



PET LICENSING

All dogs and cats 7 months and older must be licensed. License due in January or each year. They are available by mail or in person at the Board of Health office. Proof of Rabies vaccination and spaying/neutering certification are required. Rabies Vaccinations MUST be valid for 10 months of the current year to license the pet.

Call (609) 693-3302 ext. 221 for additional information.

LICENSE FEES: \$12.00 if animal is spayed/neutered

\$15.00 if animal is not spayed or neutered

10.00 LATE FEE WILL BE CHARGED, IF LICENSE IS NOT OBTAINED PRIOR TO MARCH 1ST

Licenses issued in the Township of Ocean

Please note that Super Storm Sandy's devastating impact on the community caused a reduction in the licensing population depicted in 2012 and 2013

| YEAR | CATS | DOGS |
|------|------|-------|
| 2008 | 248 | 1,049 |
| 2009 | 238 | 1,031 |
| 2010 | 239 | 1,043 |
| 2011 | 231 | 1,030 |
| 2012 | 233 | 967 |
| 2013 | 219 | 894 |



TOWNSHIP OF OCEAN

50 Railroad Avenue, Waretown, New Jersey 08758 • (609) 693-3302 • Fax: (609) 693-9026



ANIMAL LICENSING FORM



ALL TOWNSHIP OF OCEAN DOG & CAT OWNERS

All dogs and cats, 7 months or older, in the Township of Ocean, must be licensed. Licenses may be obtained at the Township of Ocean Board of Health office, Town Hall, 50 Railroad Avenue, Waretown, NJ during the hours of 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday, or by mail.

Cannot re-new if rabies expires prior to November of current year.

Free rabies clinics are held at the Southern Ocean County Animal Facility, 321 Hay Road, Manahawkin, NJ. (609) 978-0127. Call for clinic dates.

Name: _____ Dog or Cat: _____

Pet's name: _____ Hair: Short / Medium / Long

Address: _____ Sex: Male / Female

Breed: _____ Color: _____ Age: _____

Phone #: _____ Spayed or Neutered: Yes / No (need proof)

Please fill out form and return to: Board of Health, 50 Railroad Ave, Waretown, NJ 08758, along with a self-addressed, stamped envelope, appropriate fee (Non neutered/non spayed - \$15.00, Neutered or Spayed - \$12.00) and rabies and neuter/spay certificates from Vet. All veterinary proofs will be returned.

WARNING: Failure to purchase a dog license on time will result in the issuance of a summons and fine during the annual census of dogs/cats.



HAVE A HEART TRAP

FERAL CATS

To reduce the number of feral cats in the community residents of the Township of Ocean may obtain a “Have a Heart Trap” located in Municipal Town Hall Clerk’s Office. Following specific animal friendly instructions feral cats can be trapped humanly.

After the cat is trapped please contact the Popcorn Park Zoo to take the cat to their rescue adoption shelter. This helps decrease the feral cat issue in the town and gives the cats a chance at being adopted or living in Popcorn Park Zoo’s “Cat Sanctuary”.

Trapping wildlife is prohibited but if accidentally trapped the Popcorn Park Zoo will release the animal.



TOWNSHIP OF OCEAN
BOARD OF HEALTH
(609) 693-3302, x 221
8:30am to 4:30pm

TRAP AGREEMENT

PLEASE READ THESE RULES CAREFULLY. FAILURE TO ADHERE TO THE RULES STATED HERE WILL FORFEIT YOUR PRIVILEGE TO USE ONE OF OUR TRAPS.

1. Trap may be obtained from the Township Board of Health office Monday through Friday from 8:30am to 4:30pm. Trap may only be kept until 4:00pm on Friday. There is a \$25.00 refundable deposit fee and a charge of \$5.00 daily if the trap is not returned to the Board of Health office by the 4:00pm deadline.
2. Traps are to be set in the morning and checked as early in the morning as possible. If by 1:00pm there is nothing in the trap, it must be unset until the next morning. You may contact the Animal Control Officer at (609) 693-1900.
3. There will be no use of the traps on Saturday or Sunday.
4. Traps are not to be set during poor weather (rain, snow, extreme cold or heat).
5. The Township must know what you are trying to trap to make sure that you are given the proper size trap. Any animal caught in a trap that is native to this area (raccoons, skunks, opossums, etc.) must be released on or near the site where it was trapped. State regulations prohibit the relocation of certain animals.
6. The Township reserves the right to remove a trap at any time, such as an emergency situation, dangerous situation, or person or persons not adhering to these rules.
7. We ask that when you catch something in the trap you move it to a well shaded, dry and safe place until it can be picked up by an Animal Control Officer.
8. Anyone found to be abusing a trapped animal will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.
9. Remember that an animal in a trap will be scared, which may make it dangerous. Keep children away from the trap, and keep trapped animal in a quiet place.
10. By signing this agreement, you will be responsible for the animal caught in the trap, and for the replacement of the trap if it is lost or stolen or broken due to misuse.
11. All stray animals caught in a trap will be held for 7 days, and then become the property of the Humane Society to put to sleep or put up for adoption as the Society sees fit.

Signature (upon pick-up of trap in good condition)

Signature (upon leaving the trap in good working condition)



FREE ANNUAL RABIES CLINIC

Sponsored by the Township of Ocean and Ocean County Board of Health the every first Saturday of February a Free Rabies Clinic is offered within the township.

GOAL

Greater public safety and animal welfare.