



# VILLAGE OF RIDGEWOOD

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## Ridgewood Companion Animal Management Plan

### Introduction

The Village Council adopted Resolution 17-113 Support Responsible Pet Ownership on April 12<sup>th</sup> 2017 which recognizes the important role of dogs, cats and other pets and wildlife in the community. In particular the Resolution recognizes the need to:

- Avoid conflicts between animals and humans through regulation (including licensing) and policing/enforcement.
- Protect animals from ill-treatment.
- Care for and rehabilitate strays while minimizing euthanasia.
- Require dogs and cats to be vaccinated to protect animal and human health.
- Provide information on resources for spaying/neutering services to reduce unwanted pets, education and training of the public to avoid mistreatment and pet friendly recreational facilities.

The Ridgewood Companion Animal Management Plan is created to support the above objectives but with particular emphasis on licensing and vaccination while also reducing animal euthanasia, abuse and suffering and improving education efforts and recreational facilities.

### Responsibilities

Licensing of dogs and cats is mandated by Village code and is administered by the Department of Health including canvassing for unlicensed dogs and cats.

The Village appointed Animal Control Officer investigates reports of aggression, bites and potentially dangerous/vicious dogs.

Issues of control of wild animals is outsourced by the Village appointed Animal Control Officer who will also provide shelter facilities.

Enforcement is conducted where appropriate by police, Department of Health and Village appointed Animal Control Officer.

Education and outreach is conducted by the Department of Health, Village appointed Animal Control and partner organizations such as library, schools, animal and human health providers, volunteer organizations, etc.

## The Plan

Licensing – licensing of all dogs resident in the Village is required by NJ State Law and of cats by Village ordinance and both are administered by the Department of Health and Village appointed Animal Control.

Vaccinations – in order for a dog or cat to be licensed the owner must provide evidence of current vaccination against rabies.

Enhanced compliance – it is the goal of this plan and the Department of Health to attain full compliance with licensing and vaccination laws and regulations by investigating lapsed licenses and canvassing residents.

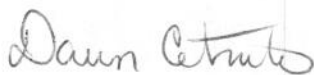
Animal welfare – stray dogs and cats are impounded and efforts made to reunite them with their owners, failing that to facilitate their adoption and reduce as much as possible the need to euthanize unwanted pets.

Outreach – the Department of Health will lead a team of interested parties which may include representatives from the police, Village appointed Animal Control, Village Council, pet related businesses and organizations, animal and human health providers, schools, media and the community and undertakes outreach to the community to encourage licensing and vaccination, to conduct and publicize events, provide education about animals and solicit input from the community. The team will periodically review and update this plan and the actions it prescribes.

Public safety – leash laws apply throughout the Village to ensure adequate control of dogs. Instances of aggressive animals, bites etc. are investigated by the police, Department of Health and Village appointed Animal Control Officer.

Education – educational events are organized or promoted by the Department of Health with or by its partner organizations. The Department of Health creates and/or distributes educational materials which may include brochures/information sheets, publications in the media etc.

Recreation – The Department of Parks & Recreation allows recreation of leashed dogs in two parks and the County Parks Department Park in Ridgewood provides recreational facilities for leashed dogs as well as fenced areas for unleashed dogs to exercise.



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May 25<sup>th</sup> 2017