

FORSYTH TOWNSHIP
ANIMAL CONTROL ORDINANCE

PREAMBLE:

The Forsyth Township Board recognizes that Public Act 339 of 1919, and Public Act 368 of 1978, constitute State Law for the regulation for dogs. The Board furthermore recognizes that animals require legal protection, that the property rights of owners and non-owners of animals need to be protected, and that the health, safety, and welfare of the people in Forsyth Township will best be served by adoption of this ordinance.

Section I: Name

This ordinance shall be known and cited as the "Forsyth Township Animal Control Ordinance. Upon final adoptance, all Township ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with any of the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed.

Section II: Purpose

The purpose of this ordinance is to establish additional regulations for the ownership, and keeping of dogs and other animals in Forsyth Township that are in accordance with any current Federal, State or Local rules, regulations or laws.

Section III: Definitions

- A. "1919 Dog Law" shall refer to Public Act 339 of 1919, MCL 287.261 et seq.
- B. "Animal control officer" shall mean any agent designated by the Forsyth Township Board to enforce this ordinance and any other applicable Federal, State or Local rule, regulation or law.
- C. "Animal Control Agency" shall mean any law enforcement agency; or Forsyth Township if an employee or agent is authorized by Forsyth Township; or any third-party agency authorized by Forsyth Township.
- D. "Owner" shall mean any person who has a right of property in an animal, any person who permits an animal on or about his/her premises, or any person who exercises dominion or control over an animal with or without the authority of any person who claims a superior property right in the animal.

Section IV: Regulations

- A. Animal Control Agency Assignment and Responsibility

1. The Forsyth Township Board will designate an agent or agents that shall be responsible for the enforcement of this ordinance and the state laws referenced in the Preamble related to the enforcement of dogs.

2. This responsibility extends to any animal within Forsyth Township other than an animal subject to superseding Federal, State or Local rules, regulations or laws.

B. Animal Control Agency Powers and Duties

1. Confinement of Dogs

- a. The Animal Control Agency may capture, accept, and confine unlicensed, stray, unwanted, abandoned, and abused dogs and transport them to the nearest animal welfare shelter.

- b. Owner's Responsibilities. No person shall intentionally, or by failure to exercise due care, allow a dog or another animal to not be under the owners control, run at large, stray, or otherwise be off the owner's premises unless held on leash, subject to the exceptions found at MCL 287.262. No person shall intentionally, or by failure to exercise due care, allow a dog or another animal to damage property off the owner's premises.

Section V: Penalty

- A. Any person violating the provisions of this ordinance may be subject to a municipal civil infraction violation in the amount of \$150.00.

Section VI:

A. Miscellaneous

1. This ordinance shall take effect thirty (30) days after publications as required by law.

2. The provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared to be severable, and if any clause, sentence, word, section, or provision is declared void or unenforceable for any reason by a court of competent jurisdiction the remaining portions of said ordinance shall remain in force.