

**WOODCOCK TOWNSHIP  
CRAWFORD COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

**Ordinance No. 1999 - 01-25**

AN ORDINANCE TO REGULATE THE KEEPING OF DOGS, PROHIBITING CERTAIN ACTS OF DOGS WHICH CONSTITUTES A PUBLIC NUISANCE, PROVIDING FOR THE ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF THE ORDINANCE, AND PROVIDING FOR PENALTIES OF UP TO \$300.00 FOR VIOLATIONS.

*Whereas*, the Township has the power to prohibit and regulate the running at large of dogs under Section 1530 of the Township Code (53 P.S. §66530), and nuisances under Section 1529 of the Township Code (53 P.S. §66529); and the Supervisors find that the uncontrolled conduct of dogs may create a nuisance in fact and pose a threat to the health, safety and welfare of the Township citizens; and the Supervisors desire to regulate the keeping of dogs in a manner consistent with and supplemental to the Pennsylvania Dog Law for purposes of protecting the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Woodcock Township.

*Now Therefore*, be it ordained and enacted by the Board of Supervisors of Woodcock Township, Crawford County, Pennsylvania and it is hereby ordained and enacted by and with the authority of same as follows:

**Section 1. Title.**

This Ordinance shall be known as the Woodcock Township Dog Ordinance.

**Section 2. Definitions.**

The following words and phrases when used in this Ordinance shall have, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the meanings given to them in this section:

- a. Dog shall mean the genus and species known as *canis familiaris*.
- b. Owner, when applied to the proprietorship of a dog, shall mean every person having a right of property in such dog, and every person who keeps or harbors such dog or has it in his care, and every person who permits such dog to remain on or about any premises occupied by him.
- c. Persons shall include individuals, corporations, partnerships and associations.
- d. Restraint shall mean keeping a dog confined within the premises of the owner; or firmly secured by means of a collar and chain or other device so that it cannot stray beyond the premises on which it is secured; or under the reasonable control of some person, or when engaged in lawful hunting, exhibition or field training.

**Section 3. Declaration of Public Nuisance.**

The Township of Woodcock hereby declares that any dog which:

- a. molests passerbys or passing vehicles;
- b. is repeatedly not under restraint;
- c. barks, cries, whines or howls in an excessive, continuous and untimely fashion,

is and shall be considered a public nuisance.

**Section 4. Dog Control Required.**

It shall be the duty and obligation of the owner of any dog to control the conduct of such dog as follows:

- a. Owners shall keep their dogs under proper restraint at all times.
- b. Owners shall be required to exercise proper care and control of their dogs to prevent them from becoming a public nuisance.
- c. Every female dog in heat shall be confined in a building or a secure enclosure in such a manner that such female dog cannot come into contact with another dog except for planned breeding.

**Section 5. Civil Penalty for Violation.**

Any owner or other person responsible for control of a dog who is found by the district justice or other court of law to have violated Section 4 above by failing or refusing to comply with the dog control requirements set forth in Section 4, shall be liable to pay a civil penalty not to exceed \$300.00 for each violation. Each day that the violation is found to exist shall constitute a separate offense.

**Section 6. Enforcement.**

It is the intent of the Board of Supervisors of Woodcock Township that enforcement of this Ordinance may be instituted and pursued by citizens aggrieved by such violations. The Board of Supervisors of Woodcock Township may, in their discretion, after investigation of a violation of this Ordinance, authorize the institution of proceedings by the Township for the enforcement of the provisions of this Ordinance when, in the opinion of the Township Supervisors, the violation constitutes a serious threat to the public health or safety.

**Section 7. Pre-Enforcement Notice.**

No enforcement action shall be taken pursuant to this Ordinance, whether by the Township or a citizen, unless a written notice was served, by mail or personally, upon the person or persons responsible for control of the dogs at least 10 days before the enforcement action is commenced. The notice shall include a description of the conduct which is a violation of the Ordinance, a statement concerning the section of the Ordinance being violated and the civil penalties which may be imposed for violation, and the identification of the person(s) who intend to seek enforcement if the violations continue.

**Section 8. Severability.**

The provisions of this Ordinance shall be severable, and if any provisions hereof shall be held to be unconstitutional, invalid or illegal, by any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of any of the remaining provisions of this Ordinance.

**Section 9. Repealer.**

All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances which are inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.

**Section 10. Effective Date.**

This Ordinance shall become effective Five (5) days after enactment.

*Ordained and Enacted* by the Board of Supervisors of Woodcock Township on this 25 day of January, 1999.

**Woodcock Township Board of Supervisors**

By: Robert C. Campbell  
Chairman

By: Ronald K. Chapin  
Supervisor

By: James L. Craig  
Supervisor

Attest:  
By: Renée D. Hayes  
Secretary

[seal]

To: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**WOODCOCK TOWNSHIP  
DOG ORDINANCE**

**ENFORCEMENT NOTICE**

Woodcock Township Supervisors adopted the Woodcock Township Dog Ordinance, Ordinance No. 1999-01-25, that provides as follows:

Under Section 3 of the Ordinance, a dog that molests passers by or passing vehicles, that repeatedly is not under restraint, or that barks, cries, whines or howls in an excessive, continuous and untimely manner is declared a public nuisance.

Owners of dog are required by Section 4 of the Ordinance to keep their dog(s) under proper restraint at all times, to exercise care to prevent the dog(s) from becoming a public nuisance as defined above, and to confine dogs in heat.

Under Section 5 of the Ordinance, a person who fails to comply with the dog control requirements of the Ordinance as summarized above may, if found guilty, be sentenced to pay a fine/penalty of up to \$300 for each violation.

Section 6 allows enforcement by aggrieved residents who may file a complaint with District Justice Zilhaver at the 2100 Independence Court facility in Saegertown, Pennsylvania.

You are hereby notified that the Township has received a complaint from:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

that you have a dog that is not being controlled as required by Section 4 of Ordinance No. 1999-01-25. The activity which violates the Ordinance is described as follows:

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Please make every effort to alleviate this problem to avoid further enforcement action by your neighbors or the Township. The Township appreciates your cooperation in resolving this problem peacefully.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Woodcock Township Secretary