

Chapter 2

Animals

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Part 1**Dogs****§2-101. Enforcement.**

It shall be the duty of every police officer of the Northampton Township Police Department and/or person who may be designated by said Township as Animal Control Officer to enforce all Parts and Sections of this Part.

(Ord. 212, 5/9/1984)

§2-102. Dogs at Large; Owner's Responsibility.

It shall be the duty of every citizen or inhabitant of the Township of Northampton who is the owner of any dog or at whose house or premises any dog is harbored or kept to confine and secure such dog. Hereafter it shall be unlawful for the owner of any dog or dogs or person at whose home or premises any dog is harbored or kept, licensed or unlicensed, to permit such dog to run at large, unaccompanied by the owner or person keeping said dog in the Township of Northampton. The owner or person keeping such dog shall be considered as accompanying the dog only if such dog is on a leash of 6 feet or less.

(Ord. 212, 5/9/1984)

§2-103. Seizure of Dogs at Large.

It shall be the duty of the Animal Control Officer and/or police officer to seize and/or detain any such dog or dogs, whether they are licensed or unlicensed, which are found running at large either upon the public streets or highways of the Township of Northampton or upon property other than that of the owner of such dog or dogs. Before entering any private property to seize or detain any dog or dogs found running at large, the Animal Control Officer and/or police officer must first obtain permission of the owner of such property, and if the owner cannot be found, the property owner will be notified within 24 hours of seizing the animal.

(Ord. 212, 5/9/1984)

§2-104. Audible Disturbances.

It shall be unlawful and is hereby declared to be a public nuisance in the Township of Northampton for any person to keep, maintain or allow to be kept or maintained upon premises under the control of such person any animal which creates or causes audible noise or sound, which is audible off the premises to such an extent that the sleep, rest, quiet and repose of the residents of the community are disturbed or interrupted during the day or night.

(Ord. 212, 5/9/1984)

§2-105. Sanitary Maintenance.

It shall be the responsibility of dog owners to keep their dogs from scratching, digging, defecating or urinating upon any lawns, trees, shrubs, plants, buildings or any other public or private property, excluding the property of the dog owner. The owner of

any dog, in the event that such dog defecates on any property other than that of the owner, shall immediately remove and dispose of all feces so deposited in a sanitary manner. Also, it is the responsibility of the owner of any animal to properly clean and otherwise maintain his pounds, kennels, yards and other areas in which such animal is kept to prevent the creation of any nuisance, health hazard or odor.

(*Ord. 212, 5/9/1984*)

§2-106. Number of Dogs Limited.

It shall be unlawful to keep more than four dogs 6 months of age or older on any premises, regardless of the number of owners; provided, however, that this Section shall not apply to any premises for which a kennel license has been obtained pursuant to the Dog Law, 3 P.S. §459-101 *et seq.*

(*Ord. 212, 5/9/1984*)

§2-107. Interference with Enforcement Officers.

It shall be unlawful for any person to interfere with the Animal Control Officer and/or police officer while engaged in the proper performance of his duties.

(*Ord. 212, 5/9/1984*)

§2-108. Violations and Penalties.

Any person, firm or corporation who shall violate any provision of this Part, upon conviction thereof in an action brought before a magisterial district judge in the manner provided for the enforcement of summary offenses under the Pennsylvania Rules of Criminal Procedure, shall be sentenced to pay a fine of not more than \$1,000 plus costs and, in default of payment of said fine and costs, to a term of imprisonment not to exceed 90 days. Each day that a violation of this Part continues or each Section of this Part which shall be found to have been violated shall constitute a separate offense.

(*Ord. 212, 5/9/1984; as amended by Ord. 285, 2/22/1989; and by Ord. 561, 4/25/2012*)

Part 2**Other Animals****§2-201. Animals at Large.**

No cattle, horses, mules, goats, sheep, swine or fowl shall be allowed to run at large within the limits of the Township of Northampton. The owner or person keeping any cattle, horses, mules, goats, sheep, swine or fowl who shall suffer them to run at large, or any other person found responsible, shall be subject to the penalty provided by §2-205 of this Part.

(Ord. 212, 5/9/1984)

§2-202. Noisy Animals Declared Public Nuisances.

It shall be unlawful and is hereby declared to be a public nuisance in the Township of Northampton for any person to keep, maintain or allow to be kept or maintained upon premises under the control of such person any animal or fowl which makes an audible noise or sound, which is audible off the premises to such an extent that the sleep, rest, quiet and repose of the residents of the community are disturbed or interrupted.

(Ord. 212, 5/9/1984)

§2-203. Sanitary Maintenance.

It shall be the responsibility of owners of animals and/or fowl to keep their animals and/or fowl from scratching, digging, defecating or urinating upon any lawns, trees, shrubs, plants, buildings or any other public or private property, excluding the property of the owner. The owner of any animal or fowl, in the event that such animal or fowl defecates on any property other than that of the owner, shall immediately remove and dispose of all feces so deposited in a sanitary manner. Also, it is the responsibility of the owner of any animal to properly clean and otherwise maintain his pounds, kennels, yards and other areas in which such animal is kept to prevent the creation of any nuisance, health hazard or odor.

(Ord. 212, 5/9/1984)

§2-204. Riding at Dangerous Speeds or in Hazardous Manner.

It shall be unlawful for any person to ride or drive horses or other animals through any of the streets of the Township of Northampton at any unreasonable or dangerous speed or in any manner which may be reasonably considered reckless, offensive or hazardous to the animal or a citizen.

(Ord. 212, 5/9/1984)

§2-205. Violations and Penalties.

Any person, firm or corporation who shall violate any provision of this Part, upon conviction thereof in an action brought before a magisterial district judge in the manner provided for the enforcement of summary offenses under the Pennsylvania Rules of Criminal Procedure, shall be sentenced to pay a fine of not more than \$1,000 plus costs

and, in default of payment of said fine and costs, to a term of imprisonment not to exceed 90 days. Each day that a violation of this Part continues or each Section of this Part which shall be found to have been violated shall constitute a separate offense.

(Ord. 212, 5/9/1984; as amended by Ord. 285 2/22/1989; and by Ord. 561, 4/25/2012)