

Chapter 5. Licensing of Dogs

5-1. DEFINITIONS.

As used in this chapter.

DOG

Any dog, bitch or spayed bitch.

DOG OF LICENSING AGE

Any dog which has obtained the age of seven months or which possesses a set of permanent teeth.

OWNER

When applied to the proprietorship of such a dog, includes every person having a right of property in such dog and every person who has such dog in his keeping.

POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS DOG

Any dog or dog hybrid declared potentially dangerous pursuant to N.J.S.A. 4:19-23.

VICIOUS DOG

Any dog or dog hybrid declared vicious pursuant to N.J.S.A. 4:19-22.

5-2. DOG LICENSING.

5-2.1. License required.

[Amended 12-16-2014 by Ord. No. 2014-28; 4-7-2015 by Ord. No. 2015-4]

Any person who shall own, keep or harbor a dog of licensing age shall apply for and procure from the Township Clerk a license and official metal registration tag for each such dog and shall securely fasten the same to a collar or harness of the dog. Any residence licensing more than five dogs shall be considered a "kennel" and shall be required to adhere to the provisions of Section **4-5** of the Township Code, including the inspection of the property by the County Board of Health. Notwithstanding the above limitation on the number of dogs permitted in a household, property owners that owned and legally licensed dogs in Southampton as of December 31, 2014, shall be permitted to continue to license those specific previously licensed animals until: 1) the dogs pass; 2) the dogs are donated or sold to another responsible owner; or 3) the owner moves outside of the borders of Southampton. The purpose of this grandfathering provision is to allow for a humane dwindling of dogs at homes with a current quantity greater than five dogs. No owner shall be permitted to license new dogs at a residence if such licensing would exceed the five-dog limitation.

5-2.2. License fee.

[Amended 7-15-2014 by Ord. No. 2014-15]

The sum to be paid annually for a dog license shall be the fee for a license of \$7.80. An additional fee of \$1 shall be paid for the registration tag, issued, plus \$0.20 for the Pilot Clinic Fund. An additional fee of \$3 shall be charged for all nonspayed and nonneutered dogs. In the event the license is issued after April 1 of any year, the total license fee shall be paid and the registration fee currently in effect by the State of New Jersey. A late payment in the amount of \$5 shall be charged in addition to the current fees for a one-year license (\$14 for spayed and \$17 for nonspayed after April 1 of licensing year). License fees shall not be prorated. All licenses and registration tags shall expire on the last day of January in the year following their issue.

5-2.3. License tags.

License forms and uniform official metal registration tags designed by the State Department of Health shall be issued and shall be numbered serially and shall bear the year of issuance and the name of the Township of Southampton.

5-2.4. Time of application.

The owner of any newly acquired dog of licensing age or of any dog which attains the licensing age shall make application for license and registration tag for such dog within 10 days after such acquisition or age attainment. The application shall contain all information necessary to satisfy any requirements of law including regulations of the State Department of Health.

5-2.5. Exemption for seeing eye dogs.

Dogs used as guides for blind persons and commonly known as "seeing eye" dogs shall be licensed and registered as other dogs, except that the owner or keeper of such dog shall not be required to pay any fee therefor.

5-2.6. Violation of chapter.

[Amended 7-15-2014 by Ord. No. 2014-15]

Should the animal control officer of Southampton Township issue a summons for failure to license a dog or failure to attach said license tag to the dog, the owner thereof shall appear in municipal court on the return date of the summons if the owner's plea is not guilty. If the owner of the dog desires to plead guilty to the charge and pay the fine as appears herein, the owner may do so by appearing at the Southampton Township Court Violations Bureau or submitting the summons, pleading guilty and paying the fine by mail to the attention of the violation bureau. Failure to obtain a license in violation of Chapter 5 of the Ordinances of Southampton Township shall be punishable by a violation or fine not to exceed \$2,000.

5-2A. VICIOUS AND POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS DOGS.

a.

State Law Incorporated by Reference. The State statute governing vicious and potentially dangerous dogs, N.J.S.A. 4:19-17 et seq., is hereby incorporated in this section by reference.

b.

Liability of owner for costs of impoundment and destruction. If a dog is declared vicious or potentially dangerous pursuant to N.J.S.A. 4:19-17 et seq., and all appeals pertaining hereto have been exhausted, the owner of the dog shall be liable to the Township of Southampton for the costs and expenses of impounding a vicious or potentially dangerous dog in the municipal pound in the amount of \$35 per day and of destroying a vicious dog in the amount of \$35.

c.

Licensing, registration and identification of potentially dangerous dogs. The owner of a dog declared potentially dangerous pursuant to N.J.S.A. 4:19-23 shall apply to the Township Clerk for a potentially dangerous dog license, municipal registration number and red identification tag. The Township Clerk shall issue same upon written verification from the municipal animal control officer that the owner has complied with the orders of the panel convened pursuant to N.J.S.A. 4:19-21. The owner shall annually renew said potentially dangerous dog license.

The fee for issuance of a potentially dangerous dog license and each annual renewal thereof shall be \$750.

d.

Telephone number for reporting violations of N.J.S.A. 4:19-17 et seq. The Township Clerk shall publicize a telephone number for reporting violations of the Act establishing requirements for owners of vicious and potentially dangerous dogs, N.J.S.A. 4:19-17 et seq., and shall forward this number to the State Department of Health.

5-3. CONTROL OF DOGS.

5-3.1. Running at large.

It shall be unlawful for any person owning, keeping, harboring or having the custody or possession of a dog, whether registered or not, to permit such dog at any time to be in or upon any public street, or in or upon any public place, or to permit such dog to run at large unless such dog at such time, shall be led by a chain, cord, thong or other leash in the hands of a person capable of leading and controlling such dog or shall be securely confined in an automobile or other vehicle.

5-3.2. Vicious dogs.

Any vicious dog which shall be in or upon any public street, or in or upon any public place, or which shall run at large in the Township in violation of this chapter may be seized, taken into custody, impounded or destroyed, or otherwise disposed of by the dog catcher, dog warden, any member of the police force of the Township or by other person or persons who may be employed or appointed by the Township or by the Township Committee for the purpose.

The term "vicious dog" where used in this chapter shall mean and include any dog, which at any time, has attacked or shall attack a human being or another dog or other domestic animal, while off the premises occupied by the person owning, keeping, harboring, or having the custody or possession of the attacking dog.

5-3.3. Female dogs.

No female dog in season shall be permitted off the premises of the owner thereof or of the person keeping or harboring the dog.

5-3.4. Barking and howling.

No person shall keep, harbor or maintain any dog which habitually barks, whines, howls or makes other disturbing noises.

5-3.5. Interference.

No person shall molest, obstruct or interfere with a dog catcher, a dog warden, a member of the police force of the Township, or any other representative of the Township while engaged in the enforcement of this chapter, or any provision hereof.

5-4. ANNUAL CANVASS OF DOGS.

The chief of police of the Township, or such other person as may be designated by resolution of the Township Committee, shall make or cause to be made an annual canvass of all dogs owned, kept, or harbored within the Township limits and shall file a report thereof with the Township Clerk not later than January 31 of each year.

5-5. (RESERVED)

[1]

*Editor's Note: Former § 5-5, Dog Kennels, derived from portions of Ord. No. 1985-5 was repealed by Ord. No. 2010-10. See § **4-5** for licensing of dog kennels.*