

CHAPTER 1 ANIMALS

ARTICLE I

DOGS AT LARGE

History - Adopted by the Board of Supervisors of Center Township as Ordinance No. 11, July 7, 1962, as amended by Ordinance No. 99-9-6, September 8, 1999 and Ordinance No. 2004-12-12, December 8, 2004.

§1-101. General Provisions

- A. It shall be unlawful for any person owning or keeping a dog, whether licensed or unlicensed, to allow such dog at any time to run at large on any of the highways, streets, sidewalks, or public places in the Township of Center, or upon private property other than that of the owner or keeper of such dog, without the consent of the owner of such private property.
- B. It shall be unlawful for the owner of any dog to permit such dog to remain in the open and to howl, yelp, or bark for extended periods of time.
- C. It shall be unlawful for the owner of any dog to permit said dog to cause annoyance to the citizens, residents, or other persons in Center Township by barking, yelping, howling, or causing any other unseemly noise.
- D. Any person who desires to take a dog on, over, or through the highways, streets, sidewalks or public places of the Township, shall take such dog only on a leash or under other restraint proper and adequate to keep such dog from running at large.
- E. It shall be unlawful for any person owning or keeping a dog, whether licensed or unlicensed, whether accompanied or unaccompanied, and whether on a leash or other restraint or not, to allow such dog to annoy, or interfere with, the comfort or convenience of persons using any of the highways, streets, sidewalks, or public places of this Township, including the sidewalk of the person owning or keeping such dog; or to allow such dog to trespass upon, soil, damage, or destroy property of any person or persons other than the owner or keeper of such dog.

§1-102. Enforcement

- A. Any police officer or constable, or their subordinate, or anyone appointed by the Supervisors, may seize any dog found running at large on any highway, street, sidewalk, or other public place in the Township, or on private property other than that of the owner or keeper of such dog, without

the consent of the owner of such private property and unaccompanied by such owner or keeper.

- B. Every police officer or constable, or their subordinate, or anyone appointed by the Supervisors, is hereby authorized and empowered to go upon any premises and enter any building to seize and detain any dog or dogs found running at large, unaccompanied by the owner or keeper, when such officer is in immediate pursuit of such dog or dogs.
- C. It shall be the duty of every police officer or constable, or their subordinate, or anyone appointed by the Supervisors, to destroy in a humane manner any dog seized while running at large as aforesaid and which does not bear a proper license tag. If a dog so seized bears a proper license tag, then the Chief of Police or constable or his subordinates, or anyone appointed by the Supervisors, shall cause immediate notice, either personally or by registered mail, to be given to the person in whose name the license was procured, or his agent, to claim such dog within five (5) days and pending claim, to cause such dog to be properly kept and fed at the expense of the owner or keeper. If such dog has not been claimed within five (5) days, after giving of such notice, and the pounding charge, which shall be determined by the prevailing fee schedule as adopted by the Township Board of Supervisors, has not been paid, then the police officer or constable, or anyone appointed by the Supervisors, or their subordinate, shall dispose of such dog by sale for the benefit of the Township or by destruction in some humane manner.

§1-103. Violations and Penalties

Any owner, person, firm, association or corporation who shall violate or who aids in the violation or fails or refuses to comply with any provision of this Article shall, upon a conviction in a summary proceedings before a District Magistrate of Butler County, be subject to a fine of not less than fifty dollars (\$50.00) for the first offense and not less than one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for the second offense and not more than two hundred dollars (\$200.00) for either offense. Any person whose dog has been seized, detained, or destroyed as provided herein shall be subject to an additional fine of not less than fifty dollars (\$50.00) for the first offense and not less than one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for the second offense or more than two hundred dollars (\$200.00) for either offense, and costs of prosecution; all such fines to be collected as fines and penalties are now collected by law, for the benefit of Center Township.