

## **Chapter 2**

### **Animals**

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#### **Part 2**

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**Part 1****Animal Defecation****§2-101. Animal Defecation on Public and Private Property Restricted.**

No person, having possession, custody or control of any animals, shall knowingly or negligently permit any dog or other animal to commit any nuisance, i.e., defecation or urination, upon any gutter, street, driveway, alley, curb or sidewalk in the Township of Reading, or upon the floors or stairways of any building or place frequented by the public or used in common by the tenants, or upon the outside walls, walkways, driveways, alleys, curbs or stairways of any building abutting on a public street or park, or upon the grounds of any public park or public area, or upon any private property other than the property of the owner of such animal.

*(Ord. 1987-2, 7/16/1987, §2-201)*

**§2-102. Disposal of Animal Feces.**

Any person having possession, custody or control of any dog or other animal which commits a nuisance, i.e., defecation or urination, in any area other than the private property of the owner of such dog or other animal, as prohibited in §2-101 shall be required to immediately remove any feces from such surface and either:

A. Carry same away for disposal in a toilet.

B. Place same in a nonleaking container for deposit in a trash or litter receptacle.

*(Ord. 1987-2, 7/16/1987, §2-202)*

**§2-103. Dogs Accompanying Blind or Handicapped Persons Exempted.**

The provisions of §§2-101 and 2-102 hereof shall not apply to a guide dog accompanying any blind persons, or to a dog used to assist any other physically handicapped person.

*(Ord. 1987-2, 7/16/1987, §2-203)*

**§2-104. Penalties.**

Any person, firm or corporation who shall violate any provision of this Part shall, upon being found liable thereof in a civil enforcement proceeding commenced by Reading Township, pay a fine of not more than \$600 plus all court costs, including reasonable attorney's fees incurred by Reading Township. The Reading Township Police Department, the appropriate enforcement officers of Reading Township or other appropriate officers or authorized agents on behalf of Reading Township shall have the power to enforce the provisions of this Part. The amount of the fine imposed for the violation of this Part shall be established by the officer who determines that a violation has occurred. Notice of the violation of this Part and the amount of the fine imposed shall be given by personal delivery or by certified mail to the person or entity violating this Part. If the person or entity violating this Part fails or refuses to pay the fine imposed within the period specified within the notice of the violation of this Part, the Township, or an officer or authorized agent thereof, shall file a civil enforcement

proceeding with the district justice to enforce the fine imposed.

(*Ord. 1987-2, 7/16/1987, §2-204, as amended by Ord. 1996-3, 12/9/1996, §2*)

**Part 2****Keeping of Animals****§2-201. Definitions.**

As used in this Part, the following terms, shall have the meanings indicated, unless a different meaning clearly appears from the context:

*Animal*—any domestic animal or fowl, any wild animal or any household pet.

*Domestic animal*—any animal normally or ordinarily domesticated or raised in this area and climate as livestock or for work or breeding purposes, or normally or ordinarily kept as a household pet.

*Household pet*—any dog, cat, or other domestic animal normally and ordinarily kept in or permitted to be at large in the dwelling of its owner.

*Large animal*—any wild or domestic animal of the bovine, equine or sheep family.

*Person*—any person, firm, partnership, association, or corporation.

*Small animal*—any wild or domestic animal such as a rabbit, hare, guinea pig, rat, mouse, or chinchilla; and any wild or domestic fowl such as a chicken, turkey, goose, duck, or pigeon (excepting homing pigeons).

*Wild animal*—any animal, including bird, fowl, or reptile not normally or ordinarily domesticated; not normally or ordinarily raised in this area and climate as livestock or for work or breeding purposes; or not capable of being kept as a household pet.

In this Part, the singular shall include the plural, the plural shall include the singular, and the masculine shall include the feminine.

(Ord. 1987-2, 7/16/1987, §2-301)

**§2-202. Household Pets.**

It shall be unlawful for any person to keep any household pet, except as provided in this Section:

A. If any such pet shall be kept in a dwelling owned or occupied by its owner, such owner shall be required to follow such procedures and practices, as to the number of such pets to be kept there, and as to sanitation, to insure that no public nuisance shall be created or maintained and no threat to the health of persons living elsewhere than in such dwelling shall be created.

B. If any such pet shall be kept in an enclosure outside such dwelling, the provisions of §2-203 of this Part, insofar as the same applies to small animals, shall be applicable to the keeping of such household pet.

(Ord. 1987-2, 7/16/1987, §2-304)

**§2-203. Violation of State Law.**

Any violation of this Part that would also violate any State law shall be prosecuted under that State law and not under this Part.

(*Ord. 1987-2, 7/16/1987, §2-305*)

**§2-204. Penalties.**

Any person, firm or corporation who shall violate any provision of this Part shall, upon being found liable thereof in a civil enforcement proceeding commenced by Reading Township, pay a fine of not more than \$600 plus all court costs, including reasonable attorney's fees incurred by Reading Township. The Reading Township Police Department, the appropriate enforcement officers of Reading Township or other appropriate officers or authorized agents on behalf of Reading Township shall have the power to enforce the provisions of this Part. The amount of the fine imposed for the violation of this Part shall be established by the officer who determines that a violation has occurred. Notice of the violation of this Part and the amount of the fine imposed shall be given by personal delivery or by certified mail to the person or entity violating this Part. If the person or entity violating this Part fails or refuses to pay the fine imposed within the period specified within the notice of the violation of this Part, the Township, or an officer or authorized agent thereof, shall file a civil enforcement proceeding with the district justice to enforce the fine imposed. Any violation of this Part shall be deemed a separate offense for each and every day such violation shall continue and shall subject the violator thereof to the penalties above imposed for each and every separate offense.

(*Ord. 1987-2, 7/16/1987, §2-306; as amended by Ord. 1996-3, 12/9/1996, §2*)