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CHAPTER 2

ANIMALS

Part 1

General Regulations

§101. Title and Purpose. This Chapter shall be known as the Animal Ordinance of East Buffalo Township, Union County, Pennsylvania. The purpose of this Ordinance is to provide regulations to protect the health, safety and welfare of the residents of East Buffalo Township and to ensure that animals within East Buffalo Township are treated in a safe and humane manner. Residents may keep animals within East Buffalo Township for noncommercial purposes subject to the following regulations.

§102. Definitions. For the purposes of this Chapter, the following words and phrases, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, shall be defined as follows:

ANIMAL - Any of a kingdom (Animalia) of living things including insects, fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals, but excluding humans. Animals may be domesticated or nondomesticated.

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER - The persons or entity appointed by the Township whose duties shall consist of enforcing the provisions of this Chapter and such other duties as the Board of Supervisors of East Buffalo Township shall approve by Resolution.
(Ordinance 417, adopted October 14, 2024)

ANIMAL WELFARE ORGANIZATION - Any not-for-profit group with a 501(c)(3) status whose primary mission is animal welfare.

CAREGIVER - Any person who provides care, including food, water, shelter, and, in some cases, medical care, to feral cats, in accordance with a program approved by the Township to trap, neuter, vaccinate, ear-tip, and return feral cats to the location at which they were trapped.

CAT - The genus and species known as *Felis catus*.

CHICKEN - The genus and species known as *Gallus gallus domesticus*.

COMMUNITY CAT - A cat that is abandoned, lost or feral and cared for by a community cat colony caregiver pursuant to this Chapter.

COMMUNITY CAT COLONY - A group of abandoned, lost or feral cats that live more or less together as a unit (and are managed by a community cat colony caregiver). Although not every cat in a colony may be feral, any nonferal cats that congregate with the colony shall be deemed to be a part of it.

COMMUNITY CAT COLONY CAREGIVER - A person who provides food, water, or shelter to, and otherwise cares for, a feral cat colony while not being considered the owner, harborer, controller or keeper of a community cat.

DOG - The genus and species known as *Canis familiaris*.

DOMESTIC LIVESTOCK - Any member of the bovine, caprine, equine, gallinaceous, ovine, or porcine species, including but not limited to cows, steers, horses, ponies, pigs, sheep, goats and poultry, kept for noncommercial, personal uses.

EAR-TIPPING - The straight-line cutting of the tip of the left ear of a cat while the cat is anesthetized to indicate that the animal has been spayed or neutered, and lawfully vaccinated for rabies.

FERAL CAT - An unowned, free-roaming cat that is partially socialized or unsocialized to humans and tends to resist contact with humans.

HEN - A female adult chicken.

KEEPING AND MAINTAINING AN ANIMAL - The keeping and maintaining of an animal shall include but not be limited to providing food, shelter and/or medical care for said animal or permitting said animal access to said food and/or shelter notwithstanding the fact that said food and/or shelter is not intended for said animal.

LIVESTOCK - Any member of the bovine, caprine, equine, gallinaceous, ovine, or porcine species, including but not limited to cows, steers, horses, ponies, pigs, sheep, goats and poultry, kept for commercial uses.

NUISANCE - Continuous or incessant noise for a period of fifteen (15) minutes, odors, vectors, dust, vibrations, or excretion of bodily waste beyond an owner's or renter's property.

OFFICER - Any person employed by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania or the Township, whose duty it is to preserve peace, make arrests, enforce the Pennsylvania Dog Law (Act 225 of 1982, P.L. 784), as amended, or enforce this Chapter.

OWNER - Any person having the right of property in any animal or having control of or custody of any animal, or any person who harbors or permits an animal to remain on or around property owned by that person.

PARTICIPANT - An eligible animal welfare organization appointed by the Township to run a TNR program in the Township.

PET, EXOTIC - An animal listed by and requiring an ownership permit issued by the Pennsylvania Game Commission.

PET, NOVELTY - An animal that is kept for pleasure that is not a customary household pet, nor of a domesticated variety, provided

that it is not otherwise prohibited by law and is kept inside the dwelling.

ROOSTER - A male adult chicken.

RUNNING AT LARGE - An unrestrained animal upon a public highway, street, alley, park or any other public land or upon property of another person other than the owner. This shall include but not be limited to chasing motor vehicles or bicycles, or harassing any person in such a manner as to cause intimidation or apprehension of bodily harm.

STRAY CAT - Any cat whose owner or keeper from time to time allows the cat to run free off the property of the owner or keeper.

TETHERING - The restraint of a domestic animal by tying it to any object or structure by any means, not to include using a handheld leash for the purpose of walking the animal.

TOWNSHIP - East Buffalo Township, Union County, Pennsylvania.

TRAP, NEUTER AND RETURN (TNR) - A nonlethal approach to feral cat population control whereby feral cats are humanely trapped, sterilized, vaccinated, ear-tipped, and then returned to the location where they were originally trapped.

§103. Authority of Township. The Board of Supervisors of East Buffalo Township is hereby authorized and empowered to employ an Animal Officer as provided in §104 hereof to carry out the provisions of this Ordinance, upon such terms and conditions of compensation as may be approved by the Board of Supervisors of East Buffalo Township, from time to time.

§104. Animal Control Officer; Office Established. There is hereby established the office of the Animal Control Officer of East Buffalo Township whose duties shall consist of enforcing the provisions of this Chapter and such other duties as the Board of Supervisors of East Buffalo Township shall approve by Resolution.

(Ordinance 417, adopted October 14, 2024)

§105. Prohibitions. The following shall be prohibited unless specifically permitted by other provisions of this Chapter:

(1) Running At Large. It shall be unlawful for any person(s) to permit any dog, cat, or other animal, owned, kept, maintained, or in the custody or control of such person(s) to run at large in East Buffalo Township.

(a) This prohibition shall not be applicable in the Agricultural-Preservation, Agricultural-Residential and Woodland-Preservation Zoning Districts.

(b) Animals may be permitted to run at large on lands owned by the Township in areas designated by the Township from time to time by resolution.

(c) This prohibition shall not be applicable to a participant of a TNR program as provided in Section 304 of this Chapter or a registered caregiver of a TNR program as provided in Section 306 of this Chapter.

(Ordinance 425, adopted July 14, 2025).

(2) Disturbing the Peace and Endangering the Health or Property of Others. It shall be unlawful for any person(s) who own, keep, maintain or control any dog, cat, or other animal:

(a) To permit, by frequent and habitual barking, howling, or yelping, unreasonably loud and disturbing noises of such character, intensity and duration so as to disturb the peace, quiet and good order of any neighborhood;

(b) To permit said dog, cat, or other animal to injure, threaten or endanger any person(s) by jumping on, knocking down, attacking or menacing said person(s) or to threaten, endanger, harm, destroy or injure the property of another person(s); or

(c) To permit said dog, cat, or other animal to create offensive odors or unsanitary conditions which are a menace or hazard to the health, comfort or safety of others.

Whenever it is established that any dog, cat, or other animal has bitten any person(s), or shows signs of being infected with rabies, the person(s) who own, keep, maintain or control said animal, upon the order of the Pennsylvania Department of Health or an Officer, shall quarantine said animal in a veterinarian's kennel for a period of ten (10) days at such person(s) expense.

(3) Animal Defecation. It shall be unlawful for any person(s) to cause or permit any dog, cat, or other animal owned, kept, maintained, or in the custody or control of such person(s) to soil, defile, defecate, urinate, or commit any nuisance on any lawn, yard, common thoroughfare, sidewalk, passageway, bypath, play area, park, or any other place where people congregate or walk, whether public or private property, other than the property of such person(s) or of another who consents prior thereto.

(4) Providing Food. It shall be unlawful for any person or persons to place food that could be consumed by a dog, cat, or other animal outside an enclosed structure. Enclosed structure shall include a pen, shelter, run or similar structure that is secured and intended for use in the housing or keeping of a dog, cat, or other animal. For purposes of this Section, devices utilized to provide food for birds shall not be a violation of this Section, provided the same is designed to prevent access by dogs, cats, or other animals.

(a) This prohibition shall not be applicable to a participant of a TNR program as provided in §304 of this Chapter or a registered caregiver of a TNR program as provided in §306 of this Chapter.

(5) Physical Restraint of Animal. It shall be unlawful for any person or persons owning, keeping, maintaining or controlling an animal to physically restrain and leave unattended the said animal except upon

lands owned by the said person or lands which the said person shall have a legal right of possess or occupy.

(6) Obstruction of Officer. It shall be unlawful for any person(s) or entity to obstruct any Officer or any other person(s) authorized to enforce the provisions of this Chapter.

§106. Detention of Animals. Any dog, cat, or other animal found running at large as provided in §105(1) hereof or disturbing the peace or endangering the health or property of others as provided in §105(2) hereof shall be taken into custody by any Officer who shall, as he deems proper in his sole discretion, either:

(1) Maintain custody of the animal and, if licensed, return it within twenty-four (24) hours to the person(s) in whose name the license has been issued;

(2) Maintain custody of the animal if licensing of the said animal is not required by law and return it within twenty-four (24) hours to the person(s) owning, keeping, maintaining or controlling the animal if such person be known; or

(3) If the person(s) owning, keeping, maintaining or controlling the animal are unknown or the animal has been captured on a previous occasion, then in that event the Officer shall remove the animal to a place of detention, and place it in the care and custody of the keeper of the place of detention.

§107. Notice to Owners. If the dog, cat, or other animal is detained as provided in §106 herein, then immediate notice shall be given to the person(s) in whose name the license has been issued or the person(s) known to be owning, keeping, maintaining or controlling the animal. Said notice shall be either personally or by certified mail.

§108. Maintenance of Detained Animals. Any dog, cat, or other animal detained as provided in §106 herein shall be properly kept, boarded, fed, and maintained, as follows:

(1) If licensed, or if unlicensed and the person(s) owning, keeping, maintaining or controlling the said animal are known, then for a period of at least ten (10) days after notice of said detention has been given as provided in §107 hereof, after which time said animal shall be disposed of either by sale or by destruction in some humane manner and the carcass buried or disposed of, other than for the purposes of vivisection; or

(2) If unlicensed and the person(s) owning, keeping, maintaining or controlling the said are unknown, then for a period of at least three (3) days, after which time said animal shall be disposed of either by sale or by destruction in some humane manner and the carcass buried or disposed of, other than for the purposes of vivisection.

§109. Service Charges and Penalties.

(1) Service Charges. The Animal Officer may impose a service charge of not more than Twenty-Five Dollars (\$25.00) upon any person or persons whose animal may become the subject of capture and is returned

to them by the Animal Officer as hereinabove provided. Such person or persons shall pay the said charge to the Township Secretary within forty-eight (48) hours after the return of the animal.

Any person or persons, whose animal may become the subject of capture and detention as hereinabove provided, may reclaim such animal by paying to the keeper of the place of detention, the sum regularly charged by said keeper for such services, plus the Twenty-Five Dollar (\$25.00) service charge provided for above which shall be paid to the Township Secretary within forty-eight (48) hours after the return of the animal. Further, if the animal is of character which requires a license under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and does not bear a license when impounded, proof of proper licensure must be demonstrated to the keeper of the place of detention, prior to redemption by its owner. The animal cannot be reclaimed until such time as the owner has procured a proper license.

(2) Penalties. Violations of this Chapter shall be enforced by an action brought before a District Judge in the same manner provided for the enforcement of summary offenses under the Pennsylvania Rules of Criminal Procedure. The Township Solicitor may assume charge of the prosecution without the consent of the District Attorney as required by Pennsylvania Rule of Criminal Procedure No. 83(c). The fine for a violation of this Chapter shall not exceed \$1,000.00 and/or imprisonment to the extent allowed by law for the punishment of summary offenses.

Any animals found by the District Judge to be a danger to the health, safety and/or property of any person or entity may, at the direction of the District Judge, be disposed of by destruction in some humane manner and the remains disposed of in accordance with the law.

§110. Use of Charges and Fines. The charges assessed and the fines imposed hereunder shall be for the use of Township.

§111. Severability. If any section, paragraph, subdivision, clause, or provision of this Chapter shall be judged invalid, such adjudication shall apply only to the section, paragraph, subdivision, clause, or provision so adjudged, and the remainder of this Chapter shall be deemed valid and effective.

(Ordinance 411, adopted July 10, 2023)

CHAPTER 2

ANIMALS

Part 2

Dogs

§201. Responsibilities of Dog Owners.

(1) Any person keeping a dog in the Township shall observe all provisions of the Pennsylvania Dog Law (Act 225 of 1982, P.L. 784), as amended, and those set forth in Part 1 of this Chapter.

(2) All dogs three (3) months or older must be licensed.

(3) No owner shall leave a dog outside and unattended during a period in which a severe weather warning has been issued for Union County by the National Weather Service or for a continuous period of time greater than half an hour if the temperature during such period remains entirely below 32 degrees Fahrenheit or above 90 degrees Fahrenheit. Outside includes but is not limited to, a dog in a securely fenced-in yard, a dog in a carrier, or a dog tethered or tied out. A dog shall be considered outside regardless of access to an outdoor dog house or similar structure unless such structure is a properly functioning climate-controlled and weather-resistant structure.

(4) No dog shall be kept outside the home on a tether. A person may tether a dog only when the owner, pet sitter or person familiar to the dog is present on the property where the dog is tethered.

(5) All dogs outside of a fenced yard shall be on a leash.

§202. Licensing. All dogs three (3) months or older must be licensed in accordance with the Pennsylvania Dog Law, as amended.

§203. Dangerous Dogs.

(1) A dog determined to be dangerous under Section 502-A of the Pennsylvania Dog Law, as amended, shall be restrained or otherwise kept in accordance with the provisions of the above-referenced Dog Law.

(2) Dogs may be killed only in accordance with the requirements of the Pennsylvania Dog Law, as amended, and otherwise, said dogs must be detained and delivered to the police or a state dog warden. While detained, said dog must be treated in a humane manner.

(As amended by Ordinance 411, adopted July 10, 2023)

§204. Prohibitions. The following shall be prohibited unless specifically permitted by other provisions of this Chapter:

(1) Running At Large. As provided in Section 105 of this Chapter, it shall be unlawful for any person(s) to permit any dog,

owned, kept, maintained, or in the custody or control of such person(s) to run at large in East Buffalo Township.

(a) This prohibition shall not be applicable in the Agricultural-Preservation, Agricultural-Residential and Woodland-Preservation Zoning Districts.

(b) Dogs may be permitted to run at large on lands owned by the Township in areas designated by the Township from time to time by resolution.

(As added by Ordinance 427, adopted November 24, 2025)

CHAPTER 2

ANIMALS

Part 3

Cats

§301. Responsibilities of Cat Owners Regarding Stray Cats.

Effective on the date of adoption of this Ordinance, it shall be unlawful for any owner of any cat to permit such cat to run free outside the residence of its owner unless said cat has been:

- (1) Neutered or spayed to prevent it from procreating;
- (2) Immunized against rabies in compliance with Pennsylvania law;
- (3) Appropriately ear-tipped on the left ear to signify that it has been neutered or spayed and immunized; and,
- (4) This Section shall not apply to the Agricultural Preservation Zoning District, the Agricultural Residential Zoning District or the Woodland Preservation Zoning District.
(As amended by Ordinance 425, adopted July 14, 2025).

§302. Feeding of Stray or Feral Cats. It shall be unlawful for any person to feed stray or feral cats, where such feeding causes a nuisance to neighbors or creates a condition contrary to the health, safety and welfare of the Township, unless that person participates as a caregiver in a trap, neuter and return program managed by the Township or an organization approved by the Township.

§303. Establishment of TNR Program. East Buffalo Township hereby authorizes the establishment of a trap, neuter and return program (TNR) and hereby authorizes eligible animal welfare organizations to make application to the Township to participate in said TNR program.

§304. Responsibilities of TNR Program Participants. Animal welfare organizations may make application to the Township to serve as a participant in a TNR program. Participants approved by the Township shall have the following responsibilities:

- (1) Register each feral cat colony they are managing with the Township. Information submitted to the Township shall include general location (neighborhood), number of cats in the colony, and name and number of caregivers working with the colony;
- (2) Record and report to the Township, on an annual basis, the intake and disposition of each feral cat the organization had neutered;
- (3) Record and report to the Township, on an annual basis, the estimated total number of members and the number of sterilized members of each feral cat colony within the Township for which they have implemented a TNR program;

(4) Record and report to the Township, on an annual basis, the number of kittens born into each feral cat colony within the Township for which they have implemented a TNR program, and

(5) Address complaints received by the Township and passed along to the participant regarding caregiver behavior, and serve as an intermediary to address and, where possible, remediate behavior within a reasonable period of time, based on the matters at issue and utilizing Township resources where necessary.

§305. Requirements for Participants. Animal welfare organizations shall complete an application to serve as a participant in a TNR program on a form provided by the Township which shall contain the following:

- (1) Name and address of the animal welfare organization;
- (2) Contact person for the animal welfare organization; and
- (3) Proof of the animal welfare organization's 501(c)(3) status, indicating that the organization's primary mission is animal welfare.

§306. Caregiver Registration. Any person or persons who wish to be recognized as a caregiver of feral cats shall make application to the Township to serve as a caregiver through a TNR program. Such person or persons shall complete an application on a form provided by the Township which shall contain the following:

- (1) Name and address of the proposed caregiver;
- (2) Approximate number of feral cats that the proposed caregiver provides care for; and
- (3) Location at which the proposed caregiver provides such care.

§307. Prohibitions. The following shall be prohibited unless specifically permitted by other provisions of this Chapter:

(1) Running At Large. As provided in Section 105 of this Chapter, it shall be unlawful for any person(s) to permit any cat, owned, kept, maintained, or in the custody or control of such person(s) to run at large in East Buffalo Township.

(a) This prohibition shall not be applicable in the Agricultural-Preservation, Agricultural-Residential and Woodland-Preservation Zoning Districts.

(b) Cats may be permitted to run at large on lands owned by the Township in areas designated by the Township from time to time by resolution.

(c) This prohibition shall not be applicable to a participant of a TNR program as provided in Section 304 of this Part or a registered caregiver of a TNR program as provided in Section 306 of this Part.

(As added by Ordinance 427, adopted November 24, 2005)

(Ordinance 411, adopted July 10, 2023)

CHAPTER 2

ANIMALS

Part 4

Chickens

§401. Chicken Regulations. Residents may keep chickens for noncommercial, personal use under the conditions set forth in this Part and in compliance with the provisions of the East Buffalo Township Zoning Ordinance. This Part shall not be applicable to chickens kept, raised or maintained in the A-P, A-R and W-P Zoning Districts.

§402. Hens Permitted; Roosters Prohibited.

(1) No more than six (6) hens shall be kept on a lot and shall be for noncommercial, personal use only, except as otherwise provided in Chapter 27 of the Code of Ordinances of East Buffalo Township.

(2) No person shall keep or maintain any rooster on a lot smaller than five (5) acres.

§403. Permit. No person may own, keep, or maintain chickens without first satisfying the requirements found in §511 of the Township Zoning Ordinance.

§404. Chicken Coops and Chicken Runs.

(1) Coops and chicken runs must prevent the chickens from running at large. Chickens will be considered running at large within the meaning of this Chapter when off the owner's premises or outside of the coop or chicken run. For lots ten (10) acres or greater in area, chickens will be considered running at large within the meaning of this Chapter when off the owner's premises.

(2) Coops and chicken runs shall be open at all times for inspection by the Township.

§405. Feed and Water. Chickens shall be provided with access to feed and clean water at all times. All feed, water, and other such items associated with the keeping of chickens shall be properly stored in a clean and sanitary manner to prevent the infestation of rats, mice, or other rodents or vectors.

§406. Sanitation. Facilities utilized for the keeping of chickens must be kept in a sanitary condition and free from offensive odors. The facilities must be cleaned regularly to prevent the accumulation of waste. Manure from chickens may be disposed of in one of the following manners:

(1) Bagged and placed in the household trash;

(2) Composted and applied on site (kept in a vermin-proof composting container designed to limit odors). Finished dried manure may be spread on-site, provided it does not pollute stormwater run-off.

§407. Nuisance. No person shall keep or harbor chickens in the Township in a manner that creates a nuisance. Chickens running at large shall be considered a public nuisance.

§408. Veterinary Care. All chickens shall be afforded veterinary care if they are known or suspected to be sick or injured. Landowners permitted to keep chickens should be cognizant of the health of their chickens and be aware of the risks associated with bird/avian flu. For additional information regarding bird/avian flu, visit websites for the Centers for Disease Control (www.cdc.gov) and the United States Department of Agriculture (www.aphis.usda.gov).

§409. Disposal. Dead chickens may be taken to a veterinarian for disposal or bagged and disposed of in the trash.

§410. Slaughtering. No person shall slaughter or butcher any chicken except in compliance with the provisions of the East Buffalo Township Zoning Ordinance.

§411. Prohibitions. The following shall be prohibited unless specifically permitted by other provisions of this Chapter:

(1) **Running At Large.** As provided in Section 105 of this Chapter, it shall be unlawful for any person(s) to permit any chicken, owned, kept, maintained, or in the custody or control of such person(s) to run at large in East Buffalo Township.

(a) This prohibition shall not be applicable in the Agricultural-Preservation, Agricultural-Residential and Woodland-Preservation Zoning Districts.

(b) Chickens may be permitted to run at large on lands owned by the Township in areas designated by the Township from time to time by resolution.

(As added by Ordinance 427, adopted November 24, 2025)

(Ordinance 411, adopted July 10, 2023)