

**GENERAL LAW TOWNSHIP OF SANDS**

**MARQUETTE COUNTY, MICHIGAN**

**ORDINANCE NUMBER 4**

**Dog and Cat Control Ordinance**

An ordinance to regulate the possession and control of dogs and cats; to protect the public health by preventing unsanitary conditions from occurring; and to provide penalties for violations hereof.

THE GENERAL LAW TOWNSHIP OF SANDS, MARQUETTE COUNTY, MICHIGAN,  
ORDAINS:

**Section 1: Title**

This ordinance shall be known and cited as the Sands Township Dog and Cat Control Ordinance.

**Section 2: Definitions**

Owner: Any person who (1) harbors or keeps any dog or cat; (2) has right or property interest in any dog or cat; or (3) any person who shall permit any dog or cat to remain about any premises owned or occupied by him or her for a period of five (5) days shall be deemed to be the owner of such dog or cat for the purpose of this Ordinance.

Custodian: A person who has charge of the dog or cat.

Working Dog: A dog used for sporting purposes, search/rescue, personal aid, herding, sledding, or skjoring.

**Section 3: Noise Control**

No person shall own, keep, or have charge of any dog or cat which by loud, frequent, or persistent barking, howling, yelping, or other noise causing an annoyance, disturbance, or a nuisance to occupiers of neighboring property.

#### **Section 4: Leash Requirements**

No person who owns or has custody of a dog or cat shall permit any dog or cat to run/roam unleashed on:

- Property open to the public, or
- Private property not owned or leased by the owner or custodian of the dog or cat, unless that owner or custodian has permission

If a dog or cat is removed from the pet owner's premises or from property for which the pet owner has permission for the dog or cat to run/roam freely, it shall be securely held:

- Upon a leash of durable material and in the custody of a responsible person, or
- In a shipping receptacle (crate), or
- In a closed motor vehicle

It shall be lawful for any enforcement officer(s) to seize any dog or cat running at large in the Township in violation of this ordinance.

#### **Section 5: Waste Removal**

If a dog or cat is not within the limits of the owner's premises, the person in custody of the dog or cat shall be required to pick up, remove, and properly dispose of all waste left by the dog or cat.

#### **Section 6: Confinement**

It shall be unlawful for any person owning, keeping, harboring, or having charge of any dog or cat to confine, keep, or harbor such dog or cat in a structure, pen, coop, or yard, or otherwise so as to create an unsanitary, unwholesome, malodorous, or obnoxious condition. Any structure, pen, or coop maintained for the purpose of confining, keeping, or harboring any dog or cat shall not be constructed nor maintained so as to be nearer than 15 feet to any property line.

#### **Section 7: Exception**

Working dogs, while in performance of their duties in non residential areas, shall be exempt from Sections 4 and 5 of this Ordinance.

#### **Section 8: Registration**

Any dog four months of age or older is required to be licensed as required by Marquette County.

## **Section 9: Penalties**

Any person who violates any provision of this Ordinance is responsible for a municipal civil infraction. Any person who is found responsible or admits responsibility for a municipal civil infraction shall be subject to a civil fine of \$100.00. However, in no case shall costs of less than \$9.00 or more than \$500.00 be ordered. Each violation shall be considered a separate offense. Repeat offenses shall be subject to increased fines of an additional \$50.00 per violation in any given three-year period. A violation of this Ordinance shall also be subject to such additional sanctions, remedies and judicial orders as provided by Michigan law.

The Township may sue in any court of competent jurisdiction for civil relief, including damages or injunctive relief, and may recover its fees, costs, and expenses incurred from any person, partnership, firm, association, or corporation who violates the Dog and Cat Control Ordinance.

## **Section 10: Enforcement**

This Ordinance shall be enforced by the Sands Township Ordinance Enforcement Officer, Supervisor, local law enforcement, and/or any other such person the board may designate.

## **Section 11: Seizure**

In addition to other penalties provided in this Ordinance, enforcement may include seizure of any dog or cat in violation of Section 4 of the Ordinance. Any official authorized under Section 10 of this Ordinance shall have the authority to take up, seize, and place any dog or cat in violation of Section 4 at any animal shelter, dog pound, or any other place or dog or cat facility deemed appropriate by the authorized official. Such impoundment shall be at the cost of the owner of the dog or cat impounded. The authorized official has the authority to move the impounded dog or cat to a registered kennel or other shelter at the owner's request.

## **Section 12: Effective Date**

This ordinance shall take effect thirty days after its publication. All ordinances or parts of ordinance in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

## **Section 13: Publication**

A summary of this ordinance shall be published in a newspaper circulated within Sands Township, Marquette County, Michigan within thirty days following the adoption hereof.

## **Section 14: Repeal**

All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

## **Section 15: Severability and Saving Clause**

Should any section, clause, or provision of this ordinance be declared by the courts to be invalid, the same shall not affect the validity of this ordinance as a whole or any part thereof, other than the part declared to be invalid.