

PITTSTON TOWNSHIP
Luzerne County, Pennsylvania
ORDINANCE NO. 7-03 of 2026

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PITTSTON, LUZERNE COUNTY,
PENNSYLVANIA PROVIDING FOR THE KEEPING AND CONTROLLING OF
CATS AND PROVIDING FOR PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF**

BE IT ENACTED AND ORDAINED by the Township of Pittston, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania (the "Township"), and it is hereby enacted and ordained by the authority of the same, as follows:

WHEREAS, the Township finds it to be in its best interests to regulate the keeping of domestic and feral cats within the Township; and

WHEREAS, This article is adopted pursuant to the provisions of the Second Class Township Code, § 101 et seq., as amended (53 P.S. § 65101 et seq., as amended), the power to prohibit nuisances as per § 1529, Nuisances, as amended (53 P.S. § 66529, as amended), and the general powers of the Township to make or adopt ordinances necessary for the proper management, care and control of the Township and the maintenance of peace, good government, health and welfare of the Township and of its citizens per Section 1506 of the Second Class Township Code, as amended, (53 P.S. § 66506, as amended) and otherwise per law.

Section 1. Short Title.

This Ordinance shall be known as the "Pittston Township Cat Control Ordinance".

Section 2. Purpose of Ordinance.

The regulations in this Ordinance have been promulgated with the purpose of promoting the public health, safety and general welfare by regulating and restricting the activities of cats and cat owners.

Section 3. Definitions:

The following words and terms as used in this Ordinance, shall have the meanings hereby respectively ascribed thereto, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER means the person or company appointed by the Township or under contract with the Township charged with carrying out the provisions of this Ordinance. This person shall include any Township Code Enforcement Officer.

CAT means a domestic cat (*Felis catus*) commonly kept as a house pet or farm cat. The term does not include feral cats.

CAREGIVER means a person who feeds, provides water to, or provides shelter to a feral or stray cat.

COMMUNITY CAT means a feral, stray or abandoned cat,

COMMUNITY CAT CAREGIVER means a person who in good faith conducts TNVR to

community cats and in the process thereof provides food, shelter or medical care to a community cat.

FERAL CAT means a cat born and raised in the wild or born to other feral cats. They are entirely unsocialized, will generally avoid or run from humans, and are not adoptable.

EARTIPPING means a humane procedure that surgically removes the top quarter-inch of a cat's ear. Performed by a veterinarian while the cat is already anesthetized for a spay or neuter surgery, it serves as the universal, permanent visual indicator that a feral or community cat has been sterilized and vaccinated.

KITTEN means a cat less than six months of age.

OWNER means any person having a right of property or custody in a cat, and any person who has custody of or knowingly allows a cat to remain on or about any premises or property owned or occupied by that person. If the owner of a cat is a minor, the owner of the cat shall be deemed to be the parent or guardian of the minor. Owner does not include community cat caregivers.

PERSON means any person, firm, partnership, association, or corporation.

STRAY CAT means a domestic cat that was once someone's pet but has been lost or abandoned. A stray cat can often be re-homed. A stray cat is not a feral cat.

TOWNSHIP means the Township of Pittston, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania.

TRAP-NEUTER-VACCINATE-RELEASE (“TNVR”) means a nonlethal approach to feral cat population control where feral cats are humanely trapped, sterilized and vaccinated, ear tipped and then returned to the location where they were originally trapped.

Section 4. Restrictions and Responsibilities of Cat Owners

- A. All owners shall keep the place where cats are kept clean and sanitary so as not to create a health or safety hazard or nuisance.
- B. Owners shall be responsible for their abandoned cat found on property other than their own or roaming within the Township unrestrained.
- C. An owner of a cat shall not permit the cat to defecate, urinate or commit a nuisance on private property, other than the owner's property, or to defecate, urinate or cause a nuisance on public property unless such feces are immediately removed and disposed of sanitarily.
- D. An owner of a cat shall be liable for the costs of any damage caused or any cleanup required to private or public property.
- E. The owner of a cat must have the cat immunized against rabies.
- F. If an owner of a cat permits the cat to run free outside the residence of the owner, the cat must be:
 - i. Neutered or spayed to prevent it from procreating;
 - ii. Immunized against rabies in compliance with Pennsylvania law; and

- iii. Appropriately "tipped" on the left ear to signify that it has been neutered/spayed and immunized.

Section 5. Feeding of Stray or Feral Cats

- A. It shall be unlawful for any person to feed feral cats, if such feeding causes a nuisance to neighbors or creates a condition contrary to the health, safety and welfare of the community.
- B. Any person feeding stray or feral cats may be required to cooperate with any humane program sponsored by the Township, or operating under the Township's auspices, that traps stray and feral cats for the purpose TNVR.

Section 6. Restrictions and Responsibilities of Community Cat Caregivers

- A. **Registration Required.** Any person who wished to be a Community Cat Caregiver must first register with the Township on a form to be provided by the Township.
- B. **Registration Fee.** There shall be no registration fee at the time of the adoption of this ordinance; however, the Township may adopt such a fee in the future by resolution.
- C. **TNVR Program.** Community Cat Caregivers must practice TVNR.
- D. Caregivers may not feed or give water to Community Cats before sunrise or after sunset.
- E. Caregivers may only feed or provide water to feral or stray cats on the Caregivers property. Any uneaten food or unused water must be disposed of each day and no food is permitted to be left out between sunset and sunrise.
- F. Feeding areas must be sanitarily maintained so as not to cause odors or attract bugs, insects or rodents. Covered litterboxes must be supplied by Caregivers and cleaned daily to prevent odors to the neighboring properties.

Section 7. Enforcement.

The Township Code Officers are charged with the enforcement of the provisions of this Ordinance. The Township may also designate an animal control officer to enforce the provisions of this Ordinance.

Section 8. Penalties.

Any person found guilty of violating this Ordinance in a summary offense proceeding shall be subject to a fine of not less than \$300.00 and not greater than \$500.00 per violation, plus all costs of enforcement including reasonable attorney fees. Each day that a violation continues or each section of this Ordinance that is found to be violated shall be considered a separate violation.

Section 9. Repealer

Any Ordinances, Resolutions or Laws in conflict with this Ordinance are hereby **REPEALED**.

The provisions of this Ordinance shall be severable, and if any of its provisions shall be held to be unconstitutional, invalid, unenforceable or beyond the power of the Township of Pittston, said provision or provisions shall not be construed to affect the validity of any of the remaining portions of this Ordinance. It is hereby declared as the intent of the Supervisors of the Township of Pittston that this Ordinance would have been adopted had such unconstitutional, invalid or unauthorized provision or provisions not been included therein.

This Ordinance shall be effective immediately upon passage and shall remain in force until modified, amended or rescinded by the Supervisors of the Township of Pittston.

Submitted by Mr. Taroli

Seconded by Mr. Hawk

Supervisors:

Yea Nay Abstain Absent

Mr. Joseph Hawk, *Chairman*
Ms. Deborah Taroli, *V.C.*
Mr. David Slezak

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By: Joseph Hawk
JOSEPH HAWK
Chairman, Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

SECRETARY
(SEAL)





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