

**TOWNSHIP OF CHESTERFIELD  
ORDINANCE 2020-1**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CHESTERFIELD BY THE ADDITION OF CHAPTER 105, ENTITLED “CATS”**

**WHEREAS**, unlicensed cats, without a permanent home, pose a threat to public health and property; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Committee of the Township of Chesterfield desires to address this public health concern by requiring cat owners to vaccinate and register their pets; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED AND ENACTED**, by the Township Committee of the Township of Chesterfield, County of Burlington, State of New Jersey that:

**ARTICLE I. NEW CHAPTER:**

- A. The Township Code of the Township of Chesterfield is hereby amended by the addition of a new chapter to the municipal code at Chapter 105, entitled: “Cats” that shall read as follows:

Chapter 105 “Cats”

105-1: Definitions

- a. Cats—Any member of the domestic feline species, male, female, or altered.
- b. Cat of Licensing Age—Any cat which has attained the age of seven months or which possesses a full set of permanent teeth.
- c. Owner—When applied to the possession or control of a cat, shall include every person having a right of property in such cat and every person who has such cat in his or her keeping or who harbors or maintains a cat or knowingly permits a cat to remain on or about any premises occupied by that person.

105-2: License Required

- a. No person shall own, keep, harbor or maintain any cat over seven months of age within Chesterfield Township unless such cat is vaccinated against rabies and has a current cat license.
- b. The provisions of this section do not apply to cats held at licensed kennels, qualified farms, or in a veterinary establishment where cats are received or kept for diagnostic, medical, surgical or other treatments.
- c. Any cat may be exempted from the requirements of such vaccination for a specified period of time upon presentation of a veterinarian’s certificate stating that, because of an

infirmity or other physical condition or regimen of therapy, the inoculation of such cat shall be deemed inadvisable.

- d. Any person who shall own, keep or harbor a cat of licensing age shall, in the month of March of each year, apply for and procure from the Township Clerk or other person designated, a license and official registration tag with license number and shall place upon such cat a collar or other device with the license number securely fastened.
- e. Any person who shall fail to procure a license for any cat of licensing age by March 31 of each year shall pay a late fee in addition to the license fee in accordance with the fee schedule contained in Chapter 110. Said license and renewal thereof shall expire on the last day of March of each year.

#### 105-3 Public Nuisance

Within the purview of this chapter, a cat shall be considered a public nuisance if it has no known owner or custodian, or if it has no known place of care or shelter, or if it habitually trespasses upon or damages either private or public property, or annoys, bites, scratches or harms lawful users or occupants thereof.

#### 105-4 Duties of Owners or Custodians

Any person who owns, keeps or harbors any cat at any place within the township or who permits any cat to enter the limits of the township shall exercise sufficient and property care of and control over such animal at all times so as to prevent the same from becoming a public nuisance, as defined in section 105-3.

#### 105-5 Violations and Penalties

Except as otherwise provided in N.J.S.A. 4:19-1 et seq., any person who shall violate any of the provisions of this article shall, upon conviction thereof, be subject to a fine of \$50 per offense. Any person convicted of violating any provisions of this article within one year of the date of a previous violation of this article and who has been fined for the previous violation shall be sentenced by the court to an additional fine as a repeat offender. The additional fine imposed by the court upon said person for a repeated offense shall be set by the Municipal Magistrate at a fine between \$100 and \$200; and for a third offense, the fine shall be between \$200 and \$500, again subject to the discretion of the Municipal Magistrate. The fine for the first offense may be payable with the submission of a guilty plea through the Violations Bureau and without necessity for a court appearance. Any subsequent violations shall require a court appearance.

### **ARTICLE II. AMENDED SECTIONS**

- A. Chapter 110 of the Township Code of the Township of Chesterfield is amended by the addition of a new section, 110-105 entitled "Cats" which shall read as follows:

#### 110-105 Cats

- A. Persons applying for a cat license and registration tag shall pay the following fees:
  - 1. Annual license fees and renewals

	Neutered	Non-Neutered
Chesterfield Township License Fee	\$10.80	\$10.80
New Jersey Registration Fee	\$ 1.00	\$ 1.00
New Jersey Pilot Clinic Fund	\$ 0.20	\$ 0.20
State Animal Population Control Fund	\$ -0-	\$ 3.00
Total	\$12.00	\$15.00

2. In addition, fees paid after March 31 of each calendar year shall incur a late fee of \$5 per month or portion thereof for each neutered and non-neutered animal.
3. In the event that a replacement registration tag is requested, a fee of \$2 per tag shall be charged.

**ARTICLE III. REPEALER, SEVERABILITY AND EFFECTIVE DATE.**

- A. Repealer. Any and all Ordinances inconsistent with the terms of this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of any such inconsistencies.
- B. Severability. In the event that any clause, section, paragraph or sentence of this Ordinance is deemed to be invalid or unenforceable for any reason, then the Township Committee hereby declares its intent that the balance of the Ordinance not affected by said invalidity shall remain in full force and effect to the extent that it allows the Township to meet the goals of the Ordinance.
- C. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall take effect upon proper passage in accordance with the law.

RECORD OF VOTE													
INTRODUCTION - January 23, 2020							ADOPTION – February 27 , 2020						
TWP COMMITTEE	AYE	NAY	NV	AB	ORD	SEC	TWP COMMITTEE	AYE	NAY	NV	AB	ORD	SEC
S Dhopte	X				X		S Dhopte	X					X
D Koetas-Dale	X						D Koetas-Dale	X					
J Liedtka	X						J Liedtka	X					
L Panfili	X					X	L Panfili	X				X	
M Russo	X						M Russo	X					
X – Indicates Vote    NV – Not Voting    AB – Absent    ORD – Motion    SEC - Seconded													