

Chapter 71
ANIMALS

ARTICLE I
Dog Control

§ 71-1. Prohibited acts.

§ 71-2. Enforcement.

§ 71-3. Violations and penalties; seizure and redemption.

§ 71-4. Relation of ordinance to state law.

[HISTORY: Adopted by the Board of Supervisors of the Township of Pennsbury as indicated in article histories. Amendments noted where applicable.]

ARTICLE I
Dog Control
[Adopted 10-3-1977]

§ 71-1. Prohibited acts.

It shall be unlawful for the owner or keeper of any dog to fail to keep at all times such dog either: confined within the premises of the owner; or firmly secured by means of a collar and chain or other device so that it can not stray beyond the premises on which it is secured; or under the reasonable control of some person, including when engaged in lawful hunting or field training accompanied by an owner or handler; or to willfully permit any dog to urinate or defecate upon the property of another.

§ 71-2. Enforcement.

For purposes of enforcement of this article, this Township Supervisors shall appoint a Township Animal Control Officer. The Animal Control Officer shall be paid such compensation and reimbursed for such costs as shall be agreed upon between himself and the Township Supervisors. The Animal Control Officer shall be authorized to enter upon the premises within the township of any person for the purpose of investigating alleged violations of this article.

§ 71-3. Violations and penalties; seizure and redemption.

- A. Any person who violates or permits a violation of this chapter shall, upon conviction in a summary proceeding brought before a District Justice under the Pennsylvania Rules of Criminal Procedure, be guilty of a summary offense and shall be punishable by a fine of not more than \$1,000, plus costs of prosecution. In default of payment thereof, the defendant may be sentenced to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 90 days. Each day or portion thereof that such violation continues or is permitted to continue shall constitute a

separate offense, and each section of this chapter that is violated shall also constitute a separate offense.¹

- B. In addition to prosecution for violations of this article, the Township Animal Control Officer, upon his own initiative or upon receipt of a proper complaint, may seize and detain any dog which is found running at large, either upon the public streets or highways in the township, or upon the property of persons other than the owner of such dog, and unaccompanied by the owner or keeper. The Township Animal Control Officer shall cause any dog so seized and detained to be properly kept and fed. Where the dog bears a proper license tag, duly issued by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, or where the Township Animal Control Officer is able, after a reasonable investigation, to ascertain the ownership of said dog, he shall cause immediate notice, either personal or by registered mail, to be given to the owner of said dog to claim such dog within 10 days. The owner of a dog so detained shall pay a fee of \$10 to Pennsbury Township and all reasonable expenses incurred by reason of its detention to the detaining parties before the dog is returned. If, after 10 days from the giving of such notice, such dog has not been claimed, the Township Animal Control Officer shall deliver said dog to an agency designated by the Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture for disposition of unclaimed dogs. Any dog seized and detained by the Township Animal Control Officer which does not bear a proper license tag, or where the owner of said dog can not be ascertained by the Township Animal Control Officer, after reasonable investigation, shall, if unclaimed for a period of five days, be delivered to an agency designated by the Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture for disposition of unclaimed dogs.

§ 71-4. Relation of ordinance to state law.

This article is not intended to conflict or interfere with enforcement of any applicable state laws, such as the Pennsylvania Dog Law of 1965,² or amendments thereto, or other municipal ordinances. Any prosecution for violation of this article shall be in addition to and separate from any prosecutions for violations of said state laws or municipal ordinances.

¹ Editor's Note: Amended at time of adoption of Code (see Ch. 1, General Provisions, Art. I).

² Editor's Note: See now 3 P.S. § 459-101 et seq.