

Pet Ordinance

This fact sheet is designed to answer frequently asked questions about ownership of dogs, cats, and other pets in Ferguson Township



OWNER

An owner is any person having a right of property in any dog, cat or other pet, having custody of that animal, or any person who harbors or permits any animal or pet to remain on or around his or her property.

RUNNING AT LARGE

Any dog, cat or other pet being upon any public highway, street, park, or any other public land, or upon property of another person other than the owner, and not being accompanied by or under control of the owner or any other person having custody of said animal, is defined as running at large.

CURBING OF ANIMALS AND REMOVAL OF FECES

No person owning, harboring, or in charge of any pet, will allow this pet to soil, defile, or defecate on any common thoroughfare, sidewalk, park, or any place where people congregate or walk. The owner of any pet may curb the animal in the area between the street and the sidewalk; however, all feces must be removed immediately by a sanitary method and disposed of properly. On private property, the owner must also remove and dispose of feces in a sanitary manner.

Failure to remove and dispose of feces in a sanitary manner may result in a fine of \$10.00 for the first offense. The fine amount increases with each individual offense. Any default of payment of any fines and costs could result in commitment to the County jail for a period of thirty days.

RABIES LAW

Rabies vaccinations are required under the Pennsylvania Rabies Vaccination Law. This law was enacted in February 1987 and requires dogs and cats to be vaccinated against rabies when the animal reaches three months of age.

3147 Research Drive
State College, PA 16801
814-238-4651
www.twp.ferguson.pa.us



Township of
FERGUSON
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RABIES LAW (continued)

This law aims to protect both humans and animals. Dogs and cats often have contact with wild animals that could be infected with rabies. Unvaccinated dogs and cats could spread the disease to humans. The fine for violation of the rabies law can add up to \$300.00 per day for each day of the violation.

Anyone who has a concern about possible rabies in an animal, or who may have been exposed to a rabid animal, should contact the Department of Health at **(814) 865-0932**. Testing of a possibly rabid animal is offered free of charge through the State Veterinary laboratory in Harrisburg.

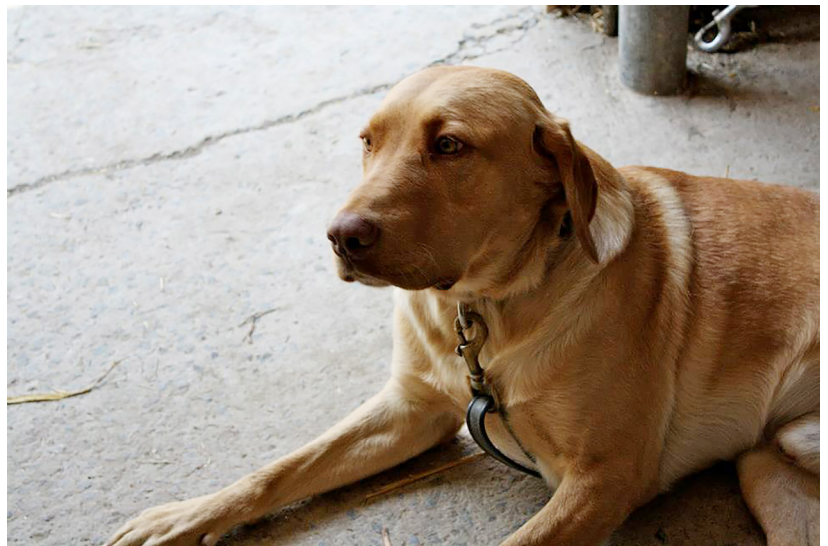
SEIZING OF DOGS AND CATS OR OTHER PETS

In Ferguson Township, it is unlawful for the owner of any dog, cat or other pet to allow or permit the animal to run at large. The first time a dog, cat or other pet is seized, the owner shall pay a fine of \$15.00 to the Township, as well as fees for keeping the animal in a kennel.

Any person allowing a dog, cat or other pet to run at large a third time could be sentenced to pay a fine of not more than \$300.00, and/or to imprisonment for a term not to exceed 90 days.

LICENSES

The owner of any dog that has reached three months of age or older must obtain a dog license on or before January 1 of each year. Dog licenses may be obtained through the Centre County Treasurer's Office at **420 Holmes Street in the Willowbank Building, Bellefonte, PA 16823**. Office hours are **8:30 am – 5:00 pm Monday through Friday**.



FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT PET LAWS

Contact the Township's Ordinance Officer at **(814) 238-4651, extension 3737**, or send an email to: **ordinance@twp.ferguson.pa.us**

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