

CATS

Chapter 18

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[HISTORY: Adopted by the Mayor and Common Council of the City of Gloucester City as indicated in article histories. Amendments noted where applicable.]

GENERAL REFERENCES

Circuses and exhibitions — See Ch. 34.

Dogs — See Ch. 43.

Editor's Note: Ordinance No. O05-2014, adopted June 26, 2014, amended the title of Chapter 18 to be Cats.

ARTICLE I

Cats

[Adopted 2-6-1992 by Ord. No. 5-1992]

§ 18-1. Definitions.

As used in this ordinance, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

ANIMAL CONTROL AUTHORITY — Any person or agency designated or certified by the State of New Jersey to enforce the provisions of this ordinance.

CAT — Any member of the domestic feline species; male, female or altered.

CAT OF LICENSING AGE — Any cat which has attained the age of seven (7) months or which possesses a set of permanent teeth.

CATTERY — Any room or group of rooms, cage or exhibition pen, not part of a kennel, wherein cats for sale are kept or displayed.

LICENSING AUTHORITY — The agency or department of Gloucester City or any designated representative thereof charged with administering the issuance and/or revocation of permits and licenses under the provisions of this ordinance.

NEUTERED — Rendered permanently incapable of reproduction as certified by a licensed veterinarian.

OWNER — When applied to the proprietorship of a cat, shall include every person having a right of property (or custody) in such cat and every person who has such cat in his/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.

PERSON — Any individual, corporation, partnership, organization or institution commonly recognized by law as a unit.

§ 18-2. Rabies vaccination.

- A. Vaccination and license requirements. No person shall own, keep, harbor or maintain any cat over seven (7) months of age within Gloucester City unless such cat is vaccinated and licensed. The provisions of this section do not apply to cats held in a cattery, or those held by a state or federal licensed research facility, or a veterinary establishment where cats are received or kept for diagnostic, medical, surgical or other treatments or licensed animal shelters, pounds, kennels or pet shops.
- B. Vaccination. All cats shall be vaccinated against rabies by a licensed veterinarian in accordance with the latest Compendium of Animal Rabies Vaccines and Recommendations of Immunization published by the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians, except as provided for in Subsection D.
- C. Vaccination certificate. A certificate of vaccination shall be issued to the owner of each animal vaccinated on a form recommended by the state.
- D. Exemptions. Any cat may be exempted from the requirements of such vaccination for a specified period of time by the local Board of Health, 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.

§ 18-2.1. Limit of number of cats and/or dogs per residential unit. [Added 3-27-2008 by Ord. No. 006-2008]

No person shall own, keep, or harbor more than a total of three (3) cats and/or dogs of licensing age at any single-family or duplex-family residential unit. No person shall own, keep or harbor more than a total of two (2) cats and/or dogs at any multi-family residential unit.

§ 18-3. Licensing requirements.

- A. Cats must have license number displayed. Any person who shall own, keep or harbor a cat of licensing age shall annually apply for and procure from the City Clerk a license and official registration tag with license number, or a registration sleeve, for each cat so owned, kept or harbored and shall place upon such cat a collar or other device with the license number securely fastened or displayed thereto. The owner has the option of having the identification number tattooed on the animal at the owner's expense in lieu of display of a license tag. Acceptable methods of displaying the license number shall include but are not limited to breakaway or elastic collars. License tags or sleeves are not transferable.
- B. Time for applying for license. The owner of any newly acquired cat of licensing age or of any cat which attains licensing age shall make application for a license tag or sleeve for such cat within ten (10) days after such acquisition or age attainment.
- C. Cats brought into jurisdiction. Any person who shall bring or cause to be brought into Gloucester City any cat licensed in another state for the current year and bearing a registration tag or sleeve and who shall keep the same or permit the same to be kept within Gloucester City for a period of more than ninety (90) days shall immediately apply for a license and registration tag or sleeve for each such cat.
- D. Application contents; preservation of information. The application shall state the breed, sex, age, color and markings of the cat for which license and registration are sought, and whether it is of a long or short-haired variety; also the name, street and post office address of the owner and the person who shall keep or harbor such cat. The information on said application and the registration number issued for the cat shall be preserved for a period of three (3) years by the City Clerk.

- E. License forms and tags. License forms and official tags or sleeves shall be furnished by Gloucester City and shall be numbered serially and shall bear the year of issuance and the name of Gloucester City.
- F. Evidence of inoculation with rabies vaccine or certification of exemption; requirement for license. The City Clerk shall not grant any such license and official registration tag or sleeve for any cat unless the owner thereof provides evidence that the cat to be licensed and registered has been inoculated with rabies vaccine of a type approved by and administered in accordance with the recommendations of the United States Department of Agriculture and the United States Department of Human Services or has been certified exempt as provided by § 18-2 of this chapter. The rabies inoculation shall be administered by a duly licensed veterinarian, or by such other veterinarian permitted by law to do the same.
- G. License fee schedule. The person applying for the license and registration tag (or sleeve) or for an annual renewal thereof shall pay to the City Clerk an annual license fee of twelve dollars (\$12.) per neutered cat and fifteen dollars (\$15.) per unneutered cat for each cat. Fees for senior citizens (aged sixty-two (62) and up) will remain at seven dollars (\$7.) for spayed/neutered and ten dollars (\$10.) for nonspayed/nonneutered cats. **[Amended 7-1-1993 by Ord. No. 24-1993; 4-6-1995 by Ord. No. 7-1995; 12-20-2007 by Ord. No. O25-2007]**
- H. Fees; renewals; expiration date of license. License from another municipality shall be accepted. The person applying for the license and registration tag and/or sleeve shall pay the fee fixed or authorized. The fee for the renewal of a license and registration tag or sleeve shall be the same as for the original, and said license, registration tag or sleeve and renewal thereof shall expire on January 31 in the following year. Only one (1) license and registration tag or sleeve shall be required in Gloucester City. Any valid New Jersey license tag or

sleeve issued by a New Jersey municipality shall be accepted by this municipality as evidence of compliance.

- I. Loss of license. If a registration tag or sleeve has been misplaced or lost, the City Clerk may issue a duplicate registration/tag or sleeve for that particular cat at fee of one dollar (\$1.).
- J. Proof of licensing. Proof of licensing shall be produced by any person owning, keeping, maintaining or harboring a cat, upon the request of any health official, police officer, animal control officer or other authorized person.

§ 18-4. Running at large. [Amended 7-1-1993 by Ord. No. 24-1993]

- A. Any cat owner who shall permit his cat, whether licensed or not, to run at large, shall be guilty of a violation of this ordinance.
- B. Control of cats in public places. No person owning, keeping or harboring any unlicensed or licensed cat shall allow the same to be upon the public streets, sidewalks or in any other public place of the city unless said cat shall be on a leash not more than six (6) feet in length and in the custody and accompanied by a person of such age and such mental and physical capacity that he or she is able to control and restrain such cat from harming or injuring any person or property. [Amended 3-27-2008 by Ord. No. 006-2008]

§ 18-4.1. Abandonment. [Added 3-27-2008 by Ord. No. 006-2008]

It shall be a violation of this ordinance for any person to abandon any domestic animal and any violation of this section shall be subject to a fine of not less than \$500. per domestic animal.

§ 18-4.2. Trap, neuter, release. [Added 11-12-2009 by Ord. No. O33-2009]

Trap, neuter, release is permitted in the City of Gloucester City by the Gloucester City Feral Cat Committee. It has been found to be the most effective and humane way to decrease the over population of the feral cats in Gloucester City.

A feral cat is an unsocialized cat that is unable to live indoors and therefore the feral cat does not fall under any ownership laws or violations for any person, and does not fall under the lease laws of the City of Gloucester.

§ 18-5. Injury or damage to persons or property.

No person owning, keeping or harboring a cat shall permit it to do any unprovoked injury to persons or to do any damage to any lawn, shrubbery, flowers, grounds or property.

§ 18-6. Interference with enforcers.

No person shall hinder, molest or interfere with anyone authorized or empowered to perform any duty under this ordinance.

§ 18-7. Disposition of fees collected. [Amended 7-1-1993 by Ord. No. 24-1993]

License fees and other moneys collected or received under the provisions of this ordinance, shall be forwarded to the Treasurer of Gloucester City.

§ 18-7.1. Delinquent fees. [Added 7-1-1993 by Ord. No. 24-1993; amended. 11-5-1998 by Ord. No. 25-1998; 12-20-2007 by Ord. No. O25-2007]

Persons who fail to obtain a license as required within the time period specified in this ordinance shall be subject to a delinquent fee of \$20.

§ 18-8. Violations and penalties. [Amended 10-21-2002 by Ord. No. 25-2002]

Except as otherwise provided in this ordinance, every person convicted of a violation of the provisions of this ordinance shall, upon conviction thereof, forfeit and pay a fine of not less than \$100 and not more than \$1,000 for the first offense; for repeat offenses within a one-year period of the date of the first offense, there shall be an additional fine imposed which shall not be less than the minimum or exceed the maximum fine fixed for a violation of the ordinance, which shall be calculated separately from the fine imposed for the violation of the ordinance. For each repeat offense, the additional fine shall double until it reaches the maximum of \$1,000.

§ 18-9. Guilty plea and fine. [Added 6-3-1999 by Ord. No. 10-1999]

Any person who violates any of the following subsections: § 18-3, "Licensing requirements," § 18-4, "Running at large" or § 18-5, "Injury or damage to persons or property," may plead guilty to the violation without appearing before the Municipal Judge and, upon such pleading, shall be required to pay a municipal penalty of \$30, in addition to the State of New Jersey A.T.S. Surcharge, for each offense, provided that the violation has been abated.