

ORDINANCE (enacted in May 2001)

FLORENCE TOWNSHIP

GOODHUE COUNTY, MINNESOTA

AN ORDINANCE REGULATING DOGS, CATS AND OTHER DOMESTIC ANIMALS IN PLATTED RESIDENTIAL AREAS

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF FLORENCE TOWNSHIP ORDAIN:

SECTION 1: *Ordinance area:* The provisions of this ordinance apply to all the platted residential areas of the Township.

SECTION 2: *Definitions:* Terms used in this ordinance have the following meanings:

“Animals” shall mean those animals commonly accepted as domesticated household pets. Unless otherwise defined, such animals shall include dogs, cats, caged birds, gerbils, hamsters, guinea pigs, domesticated rabbits, fish, nonpoisonous, non-venomous and non-constricting reptiles or amphibians or other such animals.

“Owner” means a person who owns, harbors, feeds, boards or keeps a dog, cat or other animal pet.

SECTION 3: *Maximum number of animals.* No owner or occupant of any premises shall knowingly allow more than three dogs and/or cats or any combination of cats and dogs over the age of four months to be kept on said premises.

SECTION 4: *Running at large prohibited.* It is unlawful for the owner of any dog to permit such animals to run at large. Any dog which is off the owner’s premises shall be deemed to be running at large with the permission of the owner unless it is on a durable leash or chain and/or under the control of an accompanying person of suitable age and discretion, confined within a motor vehicle or confined within a building or enclosure.

SECTION 5: *Litter cleanup.* The owner of any animal or person having custody or control of any animal shall be responsible for cleaning up any feces of the animal and disposing of such feces in a sanitary manner whether on their own property, on the property of others or on public property.

SECTION 6: *Habitual barking.* It shall be unlawful for any person to keep or harbor a dog which habitually barks or cries. Habitual barking shall be defined as barking for repeated intervals of at least three minutes with less than one minute of interruption. Such barking must be audible off the owner’s or caretaker’s premises.

SECTION 7: *Vaccination.*

- A. All dogs and cats kept, harbored or maintained within the Ordinance Area shall be vaccinated at least once every three years by a licensed veterinarian for rabies (with a live modified vaccine) and distemper.
- B. A certificate of vaccination must be kept on which is stated the date of vaccination, owner's name and address, the animal's name (if applicable), sex, description and weight, the type of vaccine, and the veterinarian's signature. Upon demand by the Town Clerk or a police officer, the owner shall present for examination the required certificate(s) for the animal(s). In cases where certificates are not presented, the owner or keeper of the animal(s) shall have seven days in which to present the certificate(s) to the Town Clerk or police officer. Failure to do so shall be deemed a violation of this ordinance.

SECTION 8: *Attack or attempted attack by an animal.* It shall be unlawful for any person's animal to inflict or attempt to inflict bodily injury to any person or other animal whether or not the owner is present. This section shall not apply to an attack by a dog under the control of an on-duty law enforcement officer or an attack upon an uninvited intruder who has entered the owner's home with criminal intent.

SECTION 9: *Violations and penalties.*

- A. Separate offenses. Each day a violation of this Ordinance is committed or permitted to continue shall constitute a separate offense and shall be punishable as such under this section.
- B. Misdemeanor. Violation of this ordinance shall constitute a petty misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to \$200.

SECTION 10: *Effective date.* This Ordinance shall be effective immediately upon its passage and publication.

Dated May 1, 2001

(Original copy, on file with Goodhue County Recorder's Office, is signed by Town Clerk David Martinson and Board Chairman John S. Wurst.)