

**TOWNSHIP OF UPPER PAXTON  
DAUPHIN COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA  
ORDINANCE NO.: 5-9-2023**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF UPPER PAXTON, DAUPHIN COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, REGULATING STRAY CATS AND THE FEEDING OF STRAY AND FERAL CATS AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION OF SAID ORDINANCE.

WHEREAS, in response to citizen comments and complaints, and having reviewed and discussed those comments and complaints with members of the community, the Board of Supervisors of the Township has determined that the population of stray and feral cats in the Township poses a danger to the health, safety and welfare of the community, particularly in the residential areas of the Township, and that the regulation of stray cats and feral cats in the Township will promote the health, safety and welfare of the community.

WHEREAS, the members of the Board of Supervisors have concluded the feeding of feral cats constitutes an attempt to domesticate and take ownership of the animal, thus imposing full responsibility for the ownership and care of the cat onto the person feeding such cat.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ENACTED AND ORDAINED by the Board of Supervisors in and for the Township of Upper Paxton, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania as follows:

Part 1 – Stray and Feral Cats

Section 1. Definitions. As used in this Part, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

FERAL CAT: any homeless, wild or untamed cat.

STRAY CAT: any cat whose owner or keeper from time to time allows the cat to run free outdoors and off the property of the owner or keeper.

Section 2. Responsibilities of Cat Owners and Keepers Regarding Cats in Any Area of the Township Zoned R-S (Residential Suburban), R-M (Residential Multifamily) and R-MP (Residential Mobile Home Park) Under Chapter 27 (Zoning) of the Township Code of Ordinances.

2-1. Stray Cats. It shall be unlawful for any owner or keeper of any cat to permit such cat to run free outside the residence and off the property of its owner or keeper in the R-S District, the R-M District and the R-MP District, as such districts are set forth under Chapter 27 (Zoning) and the Zoning Map for the Township (Chapter 27, Part 3, Section 27-302).

## 2-2. Feeding of Stray and Feral Cats.

- A. It shall be unlawful for any person to feed stray or feral cats in the R-S District, the R-M District, and the R-MP District, as such districts are defined and set forth under Chapter 27 (Zoning) and the Zoning Map for the Township, as set forth in Chapter 27 Part 3, Section 27-302.
- B. The Township does not encourage or discourage the use of any humane program such as “trap, neuter and release” to assist in controlling neighborhood cat problems. Such programs shall be citizen led efforts and should not anticipate township funding.
- C. The Township encourages all owners or keepers of cats in the Township to: (i) neuter or spay to prevent procreation; (ii) immunize against rabies in compliance with Pennsylvania law; (iii) appropriately “tip” the left ear to signify that the cat has been neutered/spayed and immunized.

## Section 3. Violations and Penalties.

3-1. Whenever the Township shall determine that a person is violating this ordinance, the Township shall give written notice to such person by personal service or US Mail and allow ninety days for the person to cease violation of the ordinance prior to filing a claim with the Magisterial District Judge, as set forth in subsection 3-2 below. The Township shall never be required to give more than one notice to the same person.

3-2. Any person violating any of the provisions of this Ordinance shall, upon summary conviction before a Magisterial District Judge, be subject to a fine of not less than \$500.00 and not more than \$1,000.00 and to imprisonment for not more than 30 days for each offense, together with all costs of enforcement and prosecution.

### Effective Date.

This ordinance shall be effective 5 days following its enactment.

### Codification.

This ordinance is intended to be codified at Chapter II (Animals) of the Township Code of Ordinances following the effective date.

DULY ENACTED AND ORDAINED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023, by the Board of Supervisors of the Township of Upper Paxton in public session duly assembled after advertisement and public hearing held thereon.

TOWNSHIP OF UPPER PAXTON

By: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Township Secretary  
(Township Seal)