



11/15/2016

PRINCETON BOARD OF HEALTH
RESOLUTION 2016-04
Companion Animal Management Pledge

RECOGNIZING that cats and dogs are an integral and valuable part of all communities and contribute to the well-being of humans, whether as companions or service animals.

UNDERSTANDING that municipalities play an important role in ensuring the well-being of animals while balancing the needs of pet-owners and non-pet owners.

WHEREAS there are approximately 2.2 million owned dogs and 2.5 million owned cats in New Jersey; and

WHEREAS New Jersey was the first state in the nation to develop an innovative statewide spay/neuter program and all proceeds from the sale of “Animal Friendly” license plates are used to reimburse participating veterinarians for spaying and neutering surgeries; and

WHEREAS state responsibility for promoting responsible pet care and ensuring that pets do not suffer due to abuse, neglect, or lack of proper care in kennels, pet shops, shelters, and pounds is vested in the Office of Animal Welfare within the New Jersey Department of Health; and

WHEREAS the New Jersey Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (NJSPCA) and municipal Animal Cruelty Investigator (ACI’s) are responsible for investigating and acting as officers for the detection, apprehension, and arrest of offenders against the animal cruelty laws of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS New Jersey mandates training requirements for Animal Control Officers and Animal Cruelty Investigators; and

WHEREAS over 100,000 are impounded in New Jersey shelters and pounds each year; and

WHEREAS approximately 37% of the animals that enter New Jersey’s impoundment facilities are euthanized, at a rate of over 3,000 every month; and

WHEREAS free roaming unvaccinated cat and dogs present a potential threat to humans through the spread of zoonotic diseases such as rabies or by damaging the natural environment; and

WHEREAS stray and unwanted pets place an enormous financial burden on municipalities and nonprofit humane agencies who care for these animals; and

WHEREAS it is more humane and cost effective to reduce the number of unwanted animals than it is to impound and euthanize unwanted or unclaimed dogs and cats; and

WHEREAS all dogs are required to be licensed in the municipality where they are housed and the majority of municipalities also require licensure of cats and the prerequisite to obtaining a license is a current rabies vaccine; and

WHEREAS conducting a canvass to locate unlicensed dogs or cats is the most effective way to ensure compliance with pet license and vaccination requirements; and



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It is our intent to do our utmost, within the borders and bounds of our jurisdiction, to ensure that companion animals are treated humanely, respectfully, and responsibly through public education and through the exercise of the powers vested within New Jersey Municipalities as follows:

Pursuant to New Jersey Statutes, all municipalities must appoint a certified animal control officer who shall be responsible for animal control within the jurisdiction of the municipality, including providing emergency veterinary care for sick and injured stray animals and coverage outside of normal working hours;

The municipality in which an animal facility is located is responsible for inspecting and issuing the license for that facility to operate;

The New Jersey Vicious and Potentially Dangerous Dog Law establishes statewide standard for municipalities to effectively address situation of vicious or potentially dangerous dogs, regardless of breed;

The animal population control program provides for low cost spaying and neutering for pet owners adopting dogs and cats from New Jersey shelters, pounds, and animal adoption referral agencies and pet owners participating in one of several public assistance programs.

The Municipality of Princeton pledges to:

- Enforce all animal and rabies control statutes and regulation, including the requirement to pick up and impound stray dogs and cats, excepting stray and feral cats in managed TNR programs.
- Work to improve enforcement of animal cruelty statutes.
- Educate the community, including school children about their responsibilities towards the pet animals they choose to keep.
- Institute where appropriate, a cat licensing ordinance and increase the percentage of licensed dogs and cats through ease of licensing and licensing enforcement and compliance measures.
- Identify and work to implement best practices to prevent unwanted animal breeding through effective animal control and availability of low cost pet spaying and neutering services.
- Identify and implement alternatives to euthanasia of adoptable animals including utilizing foster homes, adoption networks, and referral to behavior training services for existing pet owner
- Identify resources to improve the treatment and adoption rate of impounded animals and increase the capacity to shelter impounded animals and improve animal control services through the use of the animal control trust fund.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the **Princeton Board of Health, on Tuesday, November 15, 2016** resolve to take the aforementioned steps with regard to our municipal responsibilities with the intent of making the Municipality of Princeton a truly sustainable community.

Jeffrey C. Grosser, MHS, HO, REHS
Health Officer