

**Borough of Longport**  
**R2016- 49**  
**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, service animals, or therapy pets, and

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

WHEREAS legislators and municipal officials report that the number of calls from citizens about animal related issues rival any other issue(s);

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

WHEREAS New Jersey was the first state in the nation to develop an innovative state-wide 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;

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 (animal facilities) is vested in the Office of Animal Welfare within the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services;

WHEREAS The New Jersey Society to Prevent Cruelty to Animals (NJSPCA) and municipal Animal Cruelty Investigators (ACIs) are responsible for investigating and acting as officers for the detection, apprehension, and arrest of offenders against the animal cruelty laws;

WHEREAS New Jersey mandates training requirements for animal control officers and Animal Cruelty Investigators;

WHEREAS New Jersey impounds over 100,000 animals per year in animal shelters and impoundment facilities;

WHEREAS approximately 37% of the animals that enter New Jersey's impoundment facilities are euthanized, at a rate of around 3000 every month;

WHEREAS free-roaming unvaccinated cats and dogs present a potential health threat to humans through the spread of such zoonotic diseases as rabies, leptospirosis, toxoplasmosis, roundworms, animal bites, and environmental contamination from animal feces;

WHEREAS stray and unwanted pets place an enormous financial burden on municipalities and non-profit humane agencies organized to care for these animals;

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;

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. (Current vaccination against rabies is a pre-requisite to licensure);

WHEREAS all municipalities are required to canvass their residents to locate unlicensed dogs;

NOW THEREFORE, we the municipality of the Borough of Longport, resolve to take the following steps with regard to our municipal responsibilities with the intent of making Longport a truly sustainable community.

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

The Municipality pledges to:

- Enforce all animal and rabies control statutes and regulations, including the requirement to pick up and impound all stray dogs and cats, excepting stray and feral cats in managed TNR programs.
- Work to improve the enforcement of animal cruelty statutes.
- Educate our community, including school children, about their responsibilities towards the pet animals they chose to keep.
- Institute, as appropriate, cat licensing ordinances and increase the percentage of licensed dogs and cats through ease of licensing and licensing enforcement measures.

RECORD OF GOVERNING BODY VOTE ON FINAL PASSAGE						
COMMISSION	AYE	NAY	N.V	A.B.	MOT.	SEC.
RUSSO	xx					
LEEDS	xx				xx	
LAWLER	xx					xx
X-Indicates Vote    NV-Not Voting    AB-Absent    MOT-Motion    SEC-Second						

This is a Certified True copy of the Original Resolution on file in the Municipal Clerk's Office.

DATE OF ADOPTION:            April 20, 2016

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Emilia R. Strawder/RMC