

**SADSBURY TOWNSHIP  
CRAWFORD COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

**ORDINANCE #200 – 2012**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SADSBURY, CRAWFORD COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA TO REGULATE THE KEEPING OF DOGS, PROHIBITING CERTAIN ACTS OF DOGS WHICH CONSTITUTES A PUBLIC NUISANCE, PROVIDING FOR THE ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF THIS ORDINANCE, AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION OF THIS ORDINANCE.**

*WHEREAS*, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has adopted the Pennsylvania Crime Code Title 18 Sub-section 551 of the Pennsylvania Crimes Code and Act 225 of the 1982 entitled the “Dog Law” for regulating the keeping of dogs; and

*WHEREAS*, the Township of Sadsbury, Crawford County, Pennsylvania has authority to regulate the running at large of dogs under Section 1530 of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Township Code; and

*WHEREAS*, the Supervisors of the Township of Sadsbury, Crawford County, Pennsylvania desire to enact an ordinance to regulate the keeping of dogs in a manner consistent with and supplemental to the Pennsylvania Dog Law for purposes of protecting the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Sadsbury Township.

*NOW THEREFORE*, the Township of Sadsbury, Crawford County, Pennsylvania hereby enacts and ordains as follows:

**SECTION I. TITLE.**

This Ordinance shall be known and referred to as the Sadsbury Township Dog Ordinance.

**SECTION II. DEFINITIONS**

The following words and phrases as used in this Ordinance shall have, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the meanings given to them in this section:

**ABANDON** – to forsake entirely or to neglect or refuse to provide or perform the legal obligations for the care and support of a dog by its owner or his agent.

**ATTACK** – the deliberate action of a dog, whether or not in response to a command by its owner, to bite, to seize with its teeth or to pursue any human or domestic animal.

**DOG** – the genus and species known as *Canis Familiaris*.

**OWNER** – when applied to the proprietorship of a dog includes every person having a right of property in such dog and every person who keeps or harbors such dogs or has it in his care and every person who permits such dog to remain on or about any premises occupied by him.

**PERSONS** – includes individuals, corporations, partnerships, associations, employees, state and local officers. Singular words shall include the plural. Masculine words shall include the feminine and neuter.

**POLICE OFFICER** – any person employed or elected by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania or Township of Sadsbury, and whose duty it is to preserve peace or to make arrests or to enforce the law. The term includes constables, dog wardens and officers of the Conneaut Lake Regional Police Dept.

**PUBLIC NUISANCE:**

- (1) Any dog which:
  - (a) molests passersby or passing vehicles
  - (b) attacks other animals or persons
  - (c) is repeatedly not under restraint
  - (d) damages private or public property
  - (e) barks, cries, whines or howls in an excessive, continuous or untimely fashion
  
- (2) The maintenance of any dog in a manner which subjects others to offensive odors.

**RESTRAINT** – any dog confined within the premises of the owner or firmly secured by means of a collar and chain, leash, lead or other device so that it cannot stray beyond the premises on which it is secured; or under the reasonable control of some person, or when engaged in lawful hunting, exhibition or field training.

**VICIOUS DOG** - A dog determined to be a vicious dog as defined under Section VII of this ordinance.

**SECTION III.           DECLARATION OF PUBLIC NUISANCE**

- (A) The Township of Sadsbury hereby declares and ordains that any dog which:
  - (i) molests passersby or passing vehicles
  - (ii) attacks other animals or persons
  - (iii) is repeatedly not under restraint
  - (iv) damages private or public property
  - (v) barks, cries, whines or howls in an excessive, continuous or untimely fashionis and shall be considered a public nuisance.
  
- (B) The Township of Sadsbury hereby declares that the maintenance of any dog in a manner which subjects others to offensive odors is and shall be considered a public nuisance.

**SECTION IV.           RESTRAINT**

It shall be the duty and obligation of the owner of any dog to control the conduct of such dog as follows:

- (A) All dogs shall be kept under restraint at all times.
  
- (B) Owners shall be required to exercise proper care and control of their dogs to prevent them from becoming a public nuisance.

- (C) Every female dog in heat shall be confined in a building or a secure enclosure in such a manner that such female dog cannot come into contact with another dog except for planned breeding.

**SECTION V. DOG CARE**

- (A) Owners shall be required to provide sufficient good and wholesome food and water, proper shelter and protection from the weather, veterinary care when needed to prevent suffering, and humane care and treatment.
- (B) It shall be unlawful for any person to abandon or attempt to abandon any dog within the Township of Sadsbury.
- (C) Any person who, as the operator of a motor vehicle, strikes a dog shall stop at once and render such assistance as may be possible and shall immediately report such injury or death to the dog's owner; in the event the owner cannot be ascertained and located, such operator shall at once report the accident to the Conneaut Lake Regional Police Dept or to the Crawford County Humane Society.
- (D) It shall be unlawful for any person to place any poison or harmful substance of any description, whether mixed with food or not, in any place on his own premises, or elsewhere, where it may be easily found and consumed by dogs.
- (E) It shall be unlawful to confine a dog to any motor vehicle without adequate ventilation and temperature control sufficient to insure its comfort.
- (F) Dogs to be Personal Property. All dogs are hereby declared to be personal property in subjects of theft.

**SECTION VI. DOG WASTE**

The owner or keeper of any dog shall use reasonable care to avoid the deposit of excreta by his dog upon any property other than his own. The owner or keeper of any dog which deposits excreta upon any property not owned by the dog's owner (including, but not limited to, public right-of-ways, recreation areas and private property) shall immediately collect and remove all such excreta. Failure of any owner or keeper to collect and remove all excreta deposited by his dog upon the property of another within one (1) hour after receipt of notice of such deposit shall constitute a violation of this ordinance and punishable in accordance with the provisions of Section X of this ordinance.

**SECTION VII. VICIOUS DOGS**

The criteria that designates a dog as being as a vicious dog is as follows:

- (A) The dog has done one or more of the following:
  - (i) Inflicted severe injury on a human being without provocation on public or private property.
  - (ii) Killed or inflicted severe injury on a domestic animal without provocation while off the owner's property.
  - (iii) Attacked a human being without provocation.
  - (iv) Been used in the commission of a crime.

- (B) The dog has either or both of the following:
  - (i) A history of attacking human beings and/or domestic animals without provocation.
  - (ii) A propensity to attack human beings and/or domestic animals without provocation. A propensity to attack may be proven by a single incident of the conduct described in paragraphs (A)(i), (ii), (iii) or (iv).

An owner or keeper who harbors a vicious dog shall keep such dog confined in a proper enclosure, or when off the property of the owner or keeper, the dog shall be muzzled and on a leash. It is unlawful for an owner or keeper of a vicious dog to permit the dog to be outside the proper enclosure unless the dog is muzzled and restrained by a substantial chain or leash and under physical restraint of a responsible person. The muzzle shall be made in a manner that will not cause injury to the dog or interfere with its vision or respiration but shall prevent it from biting any person or animal or from destroying property with its teeth.

### **SECTION VIII. IMPOUNDMENT OF DOGS**

(A) Unrestrained dogs which constitute a public nuisance shall be taken by police officer or dog warden and impounded at the Crawford County Humane Society Shelter and there confined in a humane manner.

(B) Impounded stray dogs shall be kept for not less than three (3) working days, unless earlier released to the owner.

(C) If by a license tag or other means, the owner of an impounded dog can be identified, the police or Crawford County Humane Society shall immediately upon impoundment notify the owner by telephone or mail.

(D) An owner reclaiming an impounded dog shall pay to the Crawford County Humane Society such fee as the Crawford County Humane Society shall, from time to time, impose for the care and maintenance provided to the animal.

(E) The Crawford County Humane Society shall, in its discretion, dispose of any animal delivered to it which is diseased, maimed or unclaimed and undesirable.

### **SECTION IX. ENFORCEMENT**

The Board of Supervisors of the Township of Sadsbury hereby authorizes and appoints the Conneaut Lake Regional Police Department, or other authorized personnel of the Township of Sadsbury, for the enforcement of this Ordinance. It is the intent of the Township of Sadsbury that complaints for alleged violations of any provisions of this Ordinance shall be referred by citizens aggrieved to the Conneaut Lake Regional Police Department. The Board of Supervisors may at their discretion, authorize the institution of proceedings by the Conneaut Lake Regional Police for the enforcement of the provisions of this Ordinance when, in their opinion, any violation constitutes an imminent threat to the public health or safety, or to the health or safety of any dog.

**SECTION X. PENALTIES**

Any person who shall violate any provision of this Ordinance hereby constitutes a summary offense and shall upon conviction be sentenced to pay a fine of not less than Twenty-Five Dollars (\$25.00), nor more than Three Hundred Dollars (\$300.00), plus costs. Any person who violates any provision of this Ordinance shall, upon conviction of a second or subsequent offense, be sentenced to pay a fine of Three Hundred Dollars (\$300.00), plus costs. In default of payment of said fines and costs, persons shall be subject to a term of imprisonment not to exceed 90 days.

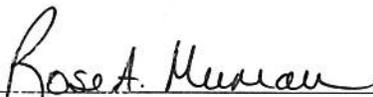
**SECTION XI. EFFECTIVE DATE**

This Ordinance shall become effective five (5) days after the adoption thereof and shall remain in force until modified, amended or rescinded by the Township of Sadsbury, Crawford County, Pennsylvania.

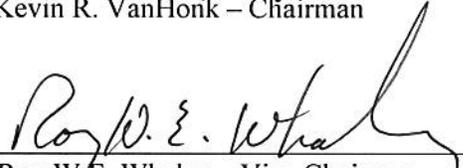
ENACTED AND ADOPTED by the Board this 11<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2012.

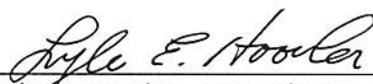
ATTEST:

SADSBURY TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Rose A. Mumau  
Secretary/Treasurer

By:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kevin R. VanHonk – Chairman

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Roy W.E. Whaley – Vice Chairman

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Lyle E. Hoovler – Supervisor