

**ORDINANCE # 617**  
**CONEMAUGH TOWNSHIP, SOMERSET COUNTY**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CONEMAUGH TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS PRESCRIBING STANDARDS OF CONDUCT AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE OWNERS OF DOGS AND ANIMALS, PROHIBITING INTERFERENCE WITH A POLICE DOG, PROHIBITING PERSONS FROM HARMING DOGS AND OTHER DOMESTIC ANIMALS AND ESTABLISHING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION

ADOPTED pursuant to the powers and responsibilities set forth in the Pennsylvania Second Class Township Code.

**SECTION 1 - DEFINITIONS:**

a) Police Dog - An animal owned by the Conemaugh Township Police Department, or other police agency having jurisdiction in the vicinity of Conemaugh Township, which has received training for police work.

b) Animal shall mean any animal or fowl kept by a person for a domestic purpose including livestock, pets, and companion animals.

**SECTION 2 - POLICE DOGS:**

a) No person shall intentionally, willfully or maliciously torment, tease, kick, beat, strike, injure, disable or kill any police dog owned and or used by the Conemaugh Township Police Department or by an enforcement agency having jurisdiction within Conemaugh Township or by any Police Department assisting the Conemaugh Township Police Department.

b) No person shall intentionally, willfully or maliciously interfere with any police dog used by the Conemaugh Township Police Department or of a Police Department assisting the Conemaugh Township Police Department.

c) No person shall attempt to cause an act prohibited by subsections a) and b) above.

**SECTION 3 - RESPONSIBILITIES OF OWNERS OF DOGS, CATS AND OTHER ANIMALS:**

a) All animals shall be kept under restraint. No dog or cat, whether licensed or unlicensed shall be upon any street or public way or in any public park, or in any other public place in the Township, whether day or night, without being held in leash and under the control of the owner or attendant of such dog or cat.

b) No person being the owner or having control of a dog or a cat shall allow such dog or cat to urinate or defecate on any property other than that of such person.

c) Any owner or person having control of a dog or cat which defecates or urinates on property other than his own shall immediately remove the same and return the property to its condition before the defecation or urination.

#### **SECTION 4 - DOGS AND ANIMALS RUNNING AT LARGE:**

a) No dog or other animal shall be upon any street or other public way or in any public park or other public place in the Township, whether during the day or at night, without being held in leash or otherwise under the control of the owner or attendant of such animal. Any animal so found may be seized by the designated animal control officer, an agent of the County Humane Society or member of the Conemaugh Township Police Department.

b) Animals running at large which have been seized shall in the case of dogs and cats be turned over to the Humane Society animal shelter and disposed of according to law. In the case of other animals, the Police Chief is authorized to make arrangements for the care and custody of animals until they can be returned to their proper owner or destroyed. Any animal seized and held pursuant to this Section shall not be destroyed for a period of 10 days during which time the owner may redeem the animal upon payment of regular poundage or care fees.

#### **SECTION 5- ANIMALS MAKING LOUD NOISES:**

1. Owners of animals must keep such animals under control so that they do not cause loud or unreasonable noises which are disturbing to people in their homes and in the normal use of their property. A dog barking for 15 minutes shall be deemed to be unreasonable noise for the purposes of this Ordinance.

2. Written Complaint - No Township Police Official, Animal Enforcement Officer or other responsible Codes Enforcement Official shall issue a citation under this Section unless the Township is in receipt of a written complaint signed by a property owner or occupant prior to the incident forming the basis for the citation. Written complaints shall be deemed confidential records of the Township, unless the matter is considered at hearing before a court or magistrate.

3. Written Warning - No Township Police Official, Animal Enforcement Officer or other responsible Codes Enforcement Official shall issue a citation under this Section unless a written warning has first been mailed by first class mail to the owner of the property on which the animal is kept.

#### **SECTION 6 - PENALTIES:**

a) Whoever violates Section 2 of this Ordinance shall be liable to a penalty of up to \$600.00 for each such offense, in addition to the cost of any care, retraining or replacement of the police dog together with costs of prosecution.

b) Whoever violates Section 3, 4, or 5 of this Ordinance shall be liable to pay a fine of up

to \$100.00 for the first incident and \$200.00 per incident for any other incidents after the first, together with the costs of prosecution.

c) Remedies in this Ordinance are intended to be cumulative and the use of one remedy shall not act as a bar to also proceeding with other remedies set out herein.

Adopted at a public meeting of the Conemaugh Township Supervisors held the 18 day of MARCH, 1998.

CONEMAUGHTOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS

By: *Robert M. Brown*  
Supervisor

By: *Mark Grant Thomas*  
Supervisor

ATTEST:

*Albert C. Giacalone*  
Secretary

By: *Albert C. Giacalone*  
Supervisor

(Seal)