

TOWNSHIP OF MAPLEWOOD



ORDINANCE

2625-10

AN ORDINANCE
To
PROHIBIT THE FEEDING
Of
UNLICENSED CATS

"Interpretive Statement"

This ordinance will prohibit the feeding of stray unlicensed cats.

WHEREAS, the number of stray unlicensed cats within the Township of Maplewood ("Township") creates a hazard to the health of pets and humans, as the unlicensed cats are not vaccinated against rabies and rabies continues to be endemic in wild animals within the Township; and

WHEREAS, information from the Township Health Department indicates that in 2009, seventy-nine (79) dead cats were removed from yards and streets and fifty-nine (59) stray cats were taken to the animal shelter; and

WHEREAS, a report from the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services shows that in 2008 there were thirty thousand five hundred and thirty-six (30,536) cats euthanized at animal shelters in New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the feeding of stray cats is a major cause of the proliferation of stray cats; and

WHEREAS, the Code of the Township of Maplewood requires that pet cats be licensed annually and have a current rabies vaccination.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Maplewood, County of Essex, State of New Jersey, that:

FIRST: Definitions:

Cat: Any member of the domestic feline species, male, female or altered.

Feed: To give, place, expose, deposit, distribute or scatter any edible material with the intention of feeding, attracting or enticing.

Person: An individual, corporation, company, partnership, firm, association.

SECOND: Prohibition:

No person shall provide, permit or maintain to be permitted, food to stray unlicensed cats. No food for cats, licensed or unlicensed, shall be placed outside a residence where a stray unlicensed cat may have access to the food.

THIRD: Penalty:

Any person who is found in violation of this ordinance shall be subject to a fine of \$100.00 in the first instance and a fine of \$250.00 for each subsequent violation.

FOURTH: Severability:

If any section, paragraph, subparagraph, clause or provision of this Ordinance shall be adjudged invalid, such adjudication shall apply only to the specific section, paragraph, subparagraph, clause or provision so adjudged and the remainder of the Ordinance shall be deemed valid and effective.

FIFTH: Repeal of Prior Ordinances

Ordinances or parts of Ordinances inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance be and the same are hereby repealed to the extent of any such inconsistencies.

SIXTH: Effective Date

This Ordinance shall take effect after final passage and publication and as provided by law.

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that the foregoing proposed Ordinance was introduced and read by title for the first time at a meeting of the Township Committee of the

Township of Maplewood, held on April 6, 2010, and that Committee met again on April 20, 2010, at 7:30 p.m. at the Municipal Building, 574 Valley Street, Maplewood, New Jersey, at which time and place the Committee proceeded to consider the said Ordinance on second reading and final passage.

ELIZABETH J. FRITZEN, R.M.C.
Township Clerk