

**BOROUGH OF CASTLE SHANNON**  
**ORDINANCE NUMBER 802**

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**AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF CASTLE SHANNON,  
ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, RELATING TO  
REGULATING, LICENSING AND VACCINATION OF CATS AND  
PRESCRIBING PENALTIES FOR THE VIOLATION THEREOF**

WHEREAS, residents of the Borough of Castle Shannon have reported to the Borough Council of the Borough of Castle Shannon problems relating to roaming of cats within the Borough and causing annoyance and property damage, and

WHEREAS, the Council of the Borough of Castle Shannon is desirous of implementing legislation attempting to regulate and provide for the licensing of cats within the Borough in order to promote the safety, health and general welfare of the community,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED AND ENACTED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Castle Shannon, in lawful session duly assembled, and it is hereby ORDAINED AND ENACTED as follows:

**Section 1: Purpose**

The purpose of this legislation is to protect and promote the safety, health and general welfare of the community and residents of the Borough of Castle Shannon; to establish the responsibility and liability of cat owners arising from the conduct of their pets; and to provide reasonable regulations for the control, care and maintenance of cats in the Borough.

It is recognized by the Council that cats are generally excellent pets but that they can become a nuisance if not properly controlled and this legislation is not intended to interfere with the relationship between owners and their pets.

**Section 2: Definitions**

As used in this Ordinance, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

**ABANDON** - A cat of any age which shall be left unattended, unclaimed, unlicensed or at large for a period of seventy-two (72) hours or more shall be considered to be abandoned.

**CAT** - Any animal of the felis catus species (domestic house cat) and not including any animal identified in Ordinance 666, adopted April 18, 1981.

**OWNER** - Every person having a property right in a cat and every person keeping, having custody of, or feeding a cat for more than forty-eight (48) hours, or who allows a cat to reside or remain about his premises, shall be considered a cat owner. This provision shall not include a person who keeps or feeds a cat on behalf of an owner at the owner's request to accommodate the owner's temporary needs.

**PERSON** - An individual, firm, partnership, corporation or association of persons.

**PUBLIC NUISANCE** - A cat that causes damage to public or private property or causes harm to any person.

**STRAY CAT** - A cat having no known owner or custodian.

### **Section 3: Restricted Acts**

It shall be unlawful for any owner or any person having custody of any cat(s) to allow or permit any cat to become a public nuisance. Acts of nuisance shall include, but are not limited to the following:

1. Noise disturbance
2. Viciousness
3. Digging into flower beds, lawns, sandboxes, gardens or damaging of shrubbery, trees, lawns, personal property not belonging to the owner or the depositing of feces.
4. Entering and running at large in public parks or playgrounds.
5. Not having current rabies vaccinations and current Borough license.

### **Section 4: Licensing and Vaccination Requirements**

A. License Requirements. Effective January 1, 1998, no person shall own, keep, harbor or maintain any cat over seven (7) months of age within the Borough of

**Castle Shannon unless such cat is licensed. The provisions of this section do not apply to cats held by any governmental facility, a veterinary establishment or a licensed animal shelter, pound, kennel or pet shop. No cat may be licensed without proof of vaccination as detailed below.**

- 1. All cat licenses shall be issued by the Office of the Borough Manager or such other person as may be designated by the Council of the Borough of Castle Shannon.**
- 2. All licenses shall be issued with a registration number and a record of such issuance shall be maintained.**
- 3. A license may only be issued after a completed application is received along with all required fees and a certificate of vaccination as required by subsection B. The license fee shall initially be \$2.00 annually and may be established or modified by Council from time to time.**
- 4. Each application shall be accompanied by a certificate signed by a duly licensed veterinarian in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania which certificate shall certify that the cat for whom a license has been applied was vaccinated against rabies and said vaccination will not expire or terminate during the coming license period.**
- 5. Upon application having been duly made as aforesaid, a registration tag shall be issued to the applicant together with a written license for the cat to be licensed. The registration tag shall be attached to a collar to be worn and maintained by the individual cat whenever such cat shall be outdoors.**
- 6. Annual license fees required by this section shall be due on or before the last day of January in each year. No license shall be granted for a period of more than one (1) year. Persons applying for a license or renewal after February 1 in each year shall pay the full license fee. No license shall be transferrable.**

**B. Vaccination. All cats shall be vaccinated against rabies by a licensed veterinarian in accordance with the recommendations for immunization published by the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians, provided that, any cat may be exempted from vaccination requirements for a specified period upon presentation of a veterinarian's certificate stating that because of an infirmity or other physical condition, the inoculation of such cat is not medically appropriate.**

**Section 5: Maintenance and Abandonment**

A. The areas where cats are kept shall be clean and sanitary and shall not create a disturbance by reason of noise, odor or other causes. No person shall abandon any cat or permit a cat in his custody to become a stray.

B. No person shall harbor, maintain or feed any unlicensed or stray

cat. **Section 6: Impoundment and Redemption**

Any stray cat, abandoned cat or cat found to be running at large within the limits of the Borough of Castle Shannon to the annoyance or inconvenience of the residents or pedestrians or operators of motor vehicles shall be taken and impounded in a place provided for that purpose. If the owner be known or can be ascertained from a registration tag, he or she shall be notified to reclaim said cat within a period of forty-eight (48) hours after receiving notice to do so. If the owner is not known or cannot be ascertained or if the cat is not reclaimed within forty-eight (48) hours, said cat shall be disposed of in a humane manner. The owner of any cat impounded shall pay all of the costs or charges of impoundment.

**Section 7: Violations and Penalties**

Any person who shall violate any provision of this Ordinance shall, upon conviction thereof, be sentenced to pay a fine not to exceed Six Hundred Dollars (\$600.00) plus costs and, in default of payment of said fine and costs, to a term of imprisonment not to exceed thirty (30) days.

**Section 8: Repealer**

Any ordinance or part of ordinance conflicting with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

**Section 9: Saving Clause**

A. Nothing in this Ordinance shall be construed to affect any suit or proceeding impending in any court, or any rights acquired, or liability incurred, or any cause or causes of action acquired or existing, under any act or ordinance hereby repealed as cited in Section 9 of this Ordinance; nor shall any just or legal right or remedy of any character be lost, impaired or affected by this Ordinance.

B. Nothing in this Ordinance is intended to repeal or restrict the applicability of Ordinance 666, adopted April 18, 1981.

**Section 10: Severability**

If any provision of this ordinance shall be determined to be unlawful, invalid, void or unenforceable, then that provision shall be considered severable from the remaining provisions which shall continue in full force and effect.

**Section 11: Effective date**

This Ordinance shall enter into effect ninety (90) days after final enactment hereof.

ORDAINED AND ENACTED into law this 9th day of 777,6a41-, 1998.

ATTEST

BOROUGH OF CASTLE SHANNON

Dawn R. Crabb

Dawn Crabb  
Borough Manager/Secretary

Regis J. Zezulawicz, Jr.  
President of Council

Examined and approved this  
\_\_\_ day of MA-4i, 1998.

Approved as to Form

Thomas P. O'Malley  
Thomas P. O'Malley, Mayor

Dennis R. Biondo  
Dennis R. Biondo, Solicitor

**BOROUGH OF CASTLE SHANNON**

**Cat License Application and License**

**APPLICATION**

Owner's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Owners Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Owner's Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Cat's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Cat's Breed: \_\_\_\_\_

Color of Cat: \_\_\_\_\_

Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female \_\_\_\_\_

Neutered/Spayed - Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Rabies Vaccination: \_\_\_\_\_

Vaccinated By: \_\_\_\_\_ (Certificate to be attached)

**LICENSE**

License No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Date issued: \_\_\_\_\_

Fee Paid: \_\_\_\_\_

issued By: \_\_\_\_\_