

Chapter 63

ANIMALS

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[HISTORY: Adopted by the Borough Council of the Borough of Bechtelsville 3-10-2010 by Ord. No. 303.¹ Amendments noted where applicable.]

GENERAL REFERENCES

Parks and recreation — See Ch. 147.

Property maintenance — See Ch. 157.

§ 63-1. Title.

This chapter shall be the Borough of Bechtelsville Pet Ordinance.

§ 63-2. Definitions.

The following words shall have the following meanings:

BOROUGH — The Borough of Bechtelsville, Berks County, Pennsylvania.

EXOTIC PET — Any animal or insect, other than a domestic cat, dog, rabbit, bird, gerbil, hamster or fish, harbored inside or outside an owner's residence for purposes of long-term maintenance and care, including feeding and/or veterinary care.

OWNER — For purposes of this chapter, when applied to the proprietorship of a pet, includes every person having a right of property in such pet, and every person who keeps or harbors such pet or has it in his or her care, and every person who permits such pet to remain on or about any premises occupied by him or her.

PET — Any animal, including but not limited to dogs, cats, domesticated livestock, ferrets, rabbits, or birds, harbored inside or outside an owner's residence for purposes of companionship or long-term maintenance and care, including feeding and/or veterinary care.

1. Editor's Note: This chapter also repealed former Ch. 63, Animals, Art. I, Animal Control Officer, adopted 3-3-1986 by Ord. No. 156, as amended; Art. II, Animals Causing Noise Disturbances, adopted 3-3-1986 by Ord. No. 158, as amended; and Art. III, Animal Defecation, adopted 8-8-1994 by Ord. No. 216.

§ 63-3. Noise disturbance.

It shall be unlawful within the Borough for any pet owner to possess, harbor, or control any pet which barks, howls, screeches, yelps, bays, or makes any noise continuously for a period of 15 minutes, or makes such noise intermittently for 30 minutes or more to the disturbance of any person of reasonable sensibilities any time of the day or night, regardless of whether the pet is physically situated on private property.

§ 63-4. Public annoyance.

It shall be unlawful within the Borough for any pet owner to possess, harbor, or control any pet which annoys, alarms, frightens, bites, or otherwise harasses any person on public property or on private property which is open to the public after that pet owner has been asked to restrain or remove that pet from such public property or private property open to the public and that pet owner refuses to restrain or remove that pet.

§ 63-5. Animal defecation on public and private property restricted.

No person having possession, custody, or control of any pet shall knowingly or negligently permit that pet to defecate upon any gutter, street, driveway, alley, curb, or sidewalk in the Borough, or upon the floors or stairways of any building or place frequented by the public or used in common by tenants, or upon the outside walls, walkways, driveways, alleys, curbs, or stairways of any building abutting on a public street or park, or upon the grounds of any public park, or upon any private property other than the property of the owner of such animal.

§ 63-6. Disposal of animal feces.

- A. Public property. Any person having possession, custody, or control of any pet which defecates in any area other than the private property of the owner of such animal shall be required to immediately remove any feces from such area and either carry the same away for disposal or place the same in a nonleaking container for deposit in a trash or litter receptacle.
- B. Private property. Any person having possession, custody, or control of any pet which defecates on such person's private property shall be required to remove the feces from such property as frequently as necessary to prevent any odor from depriving such person's neighbors of the peaceful, quiet enjoyment of their own property. In any event, the person having possession, custody, and control of such pet shall remove the feces from his or her property no less than twice each week.

§ 63-7. Exceptions.

The provisions of §§ 63-5 and 63-6A, above, shall not apply to a guide dog accompanying any blind person(s) or to a dog used to assist any other physically handicapped person.

§ 63-8. Registration of exotic pets.

Any owner of an exotic pet must register such exotic pet with the Borough by completing a registration form obtained from the Borough Secretary. Such registration must occur within one week of acquiring such pet or, in the event an owner already has such an exotic pet upon the enactment of this chapter, within one week of enactment of this chapter.

§ 63-9. Enforcement.

The requirements set forth in this chapter shall be enforced by the police department that is providing police coverage in the Borough of Bechtelsville.

§ 63-10. Violations and penalties.

Any violations of this chapter that would also violate any law of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania shall be prosecuted under that state law and not under this chapter. Any person who shall violate any provision of this chapter shall, upon conviction thereof, be sentenced to pay a fine of not more than \$300, plus costs of prosecution, and, in default of payment of such fine and costs, to imprisonment for a term not to exceed 30 days. Each day that a violation of this chapter continues shall constitute a separate offense.

