

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-22

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 23, "BOARD OF HEALTH REGULATIONS," TO ELIMINATE THE LICENSING REQUIREMENT FOR CATS OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF KEYPORT

WHEREAS, the Borough of Keyport, the County of Monmouth, State of New Jersey, (hereinafter the "Borough") is a public body corporate and politic of the State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40:48-2 authorizes the Township to make, amend, repeal and enforce ordinances it may deem necessary and proper for the good government, order and protection of persons and property, and for the preservation of the public health, safety and welfare of the municipality and its inhabitants; and

WHEREAS, upon the recommendation of the Board of Health, the existing cat licensing requirements impose administrative and enforcement obligations upon the Borough that are disproportionate to their regulatory benefit; and

WHEREAS, the Borough desires to amend Chapter 23, Board of Health Regulations, of the Borough Code to amend subsection 23-4.2, Licensing provisions; and

WHEREAS, the Borough desires to amend Chapter 23, Board of Health Regulations, of the Borough Code to amend subsection 23-4.6, Impounding and destruction of certain animals; and

WHEREAS, the Borough desires to amend Chapter 23, Board of Health Regulations, of the Borough Code to amend subsection 23-4.7, Registration tags and general regulations; and

WHEREAS, the Borough desires to amend the Code in accordance with the terms provided for herein; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Municipal Council of the Borough of Keyport, in the County of Monmouth, State of New Jersey, as follows:

Deletions are indicated by ~~strikethroughs~~

Additions are indicated in **bold underline**

Language that remains unchanged is not highlighted in anyway

SECTION I. Subsection 23-4.2 in Chapter XXIII, Board of Health Regulations, of the Code is hereby amended as follows:

§ 23-4.2 Licensing Provisions.

a. License Required. Licenses shall be required for the following dogs and cats of licensing age:

1. Any dog ~~and cat~~ owned or kept within the Borough by a resident of the Borough on January 1 of any calendar year.

2. Any dog ~~and cat~~ acquired by any person during the course of any calendar year and kept within the Borough for more than 10 days after acquisition.
 3. Any dog ~~or cat~~ of licensing age during the course of the calendar year.
 4. Any unlicensed dog ~~and cat~~ brought into the Borough by any person and kept within the Borough for more than 10 days.
 5. Any dog ~~and cat~~ licensed by another state brought into the Borough by any person and kept within the Borough for more than 90 days.
 6. Required Rabies Inoculation. All dogs ~~and cats~~ kept in the Borough are required to be inoculated against rabies by a licensed veterinarian every three years.
Proof of such inoculation shall be presented upon application for a new dog ~~or cat~~ license, or application for renewal of a dog ~~or cat~~ license.
- b. Application for License. Each application for a license under this section shall give the following information:
1. General description of the dog ~~and cat~~ sought to be licensed, including breed, sex, age, color and markings, and whether the dog and cat is of a long or short-haired variety.
 2. Name, street and post office address of the owner of and of the person who shall keep or harbor the dog ~~and cat~~.
Registration numbers shall be issued in the order in which applications are received.
- c. Application for License, When Made. Applications for licenses for dogs ~~and cats~~ which are required to be licensed by the provisions of subsection 23-4.2a,1 shall be made before February 1 of each calendar year. In all other cases, the application for a license shall be made at the time the dog ~~and cat~~ in question first become subject to the provisions of this section.
- d. License Record. The information on all applicants under this section and the registration number issued to each licensed dog ~~and cat~~ shall be preserved for a period of three years by the Secretary of the Board of Health. In addition, he shall forward similar information to the State Department of Health each month on forms furnished by the Department.
- e. Fees. The person applying for a dog ~~or cat~~ license shall pay a fee of \$7 for each dog ~~or cat~~, plus \$1 for the registration tag and \$0.20 for the State Pilot Clinic Fund or a three year fee of \$21, plus \$3 for the registration tag and \$0.20 for the State Pilot Clinic Fund. The same fees shall be charged for the annual renewal of each license and registration tag. The owner of any dog ~~or cat~~ may, if the license tag is mislaid, stolen or lost, procure a duplicate tag upon the payment of an additional \$1. There is an additional fee of \$3 per animal for any animal which is not spayed or neutered.
- f. Expiration Date. Each dog ~~and cat~~ license and registration tag shall expire on January 31 of the calendar year following the calendar year in which it was issued. A late fee of \$15 will be added to licenses which are applied for after February 15 of each year.

* * *

SECTION II. Subsection 23-4.6 in Chapter XXIII, Board of Health Regulations, of the Code is hereby amended as follows:

§ 23-4.6. Impounding and destruction of certain animals.

- a. Causes for Impounding. The Animal Control Officer shall take into custody and impound, or cause to be taken into custody and impounded, any of the following animals:
1. Any unlicensed dog or cat running at large in violation of the provisions of this section.
 2. Any dog or cat off the premises of the owner of or of the person keeping or harboring the dog or cat which the Animal Control Officer or his agent has reason to believe is a stray animal.
 3. Any dog ~~or cat~~ off the premises of the owner of or of the person keeping or harboring the dog ~~or cat~~ without a current registration tag on its collar.
 4. Any animal which has been determined to be a vicious animal as provided in subsection 23-4.5 or which in the judgment of the Animal Control Officer of the Borough is considered to be dangerous and a threat to humans or other animal life or property, and provided further that if such animal cannot be seized with safety, it may be killed. Any animal having a record of biting a person or any other animal, shall be deemed dangerous on the second offense, except when he is attacked or is properly confined in or upon the owner's property.

* * *

- d. Disposition of Unclaimed Dogs or Cats. The Animal Control Officer is authorized and empowered to cause the destruction of any unclaimed dog or cat, in as humane a manner as possible, under the following contingencies:
1. When any dog or cat so seized has not been claimed by the person owning, keeping or harboring the dog or cat within seven days after notice or within seven days of the dog or cat's detention when notice has not been or cannot be given, as set forth in the previous subsection.
 2. If the person owning, keeping or harboring any dog or cat so seized has not claimed the dog or cat and has not paid all expenses incurred by reason of its detention.
 3. If the seized dog ~~or cat~~ is unlicensed at the time of its seizure and the person owning, keeping or harboring the dog ~~or cat~~ has not produced a license and registration tag as provided in this section, the dog ~~or cat~~ shall not be released until proper licensing is established for that dog ~~or cat~~.

SECTION III. Subsection 23-4.7 in Chapter XXIII, Board of Health Regulations, of the Code is hereby amended as follows:

§ 23-4.7. Registration tags and general regulations.

- a. Wearing of Registration Tags. All dogs ~~and cats~~ which are required by the provisions of this section to be licensed shall wear a collar or harness with the registration tag for the dog ~~or cat~~ securely fastened thereto.
- b. Use of Registration Tags. No person, except an officer in the performance of his duties, shall remove a registration tag from the collar of any dog ~~or cat~~ without the consent of the owner, nor shall any person attach a registration tag to a dog ~~or cat~~ for which it was not issued.

* * *

- f. Leashing Dogs ~~and Cats~~. No person owning, keeping or harboring any dog ~~or cat~~ shall permit it to be upon the public streets or in any of the public places of the Borough unless such dog ~~or cat~~ is accompanied by a person capable of controlling such animal and it is securely confined and controlled by an adequate leash of not more than six feet long.

* * *

SECTION IV. It is the intent of the Municipal Council to incorporate the additions, amendments and/or supplements contained in this Ordinance in to the Code. All of the remaining provisions in Chapter XXIII of the Code shall remain unchanged and have full force and legal effect. All other resolutions and ordinances governing licensing of cats enacted and inconsistent herewith are hereby modified pursuant to the terms of this Ordinance.

SECTION V. The codifier is authorized to renumber, reletter, redesignate, and make such nonsubstantive formatting, cross-reference, and organizational changes as are necessary to give effect to the amendments adopted by this Ordinance. Any list, subsection, paragraph, subparagraph, table, or other provision whose numbering or lettering has been altered by the deletion, addition, or relocation of provisions shall be adjusted accordingly to maintain a logical and sequential order. Such renumbering, relettering, redesignation, and related editorial changes shall not be construed as substantive amendments to the Code.

SECTION VI. This Ordinance shall take effect after twenty (20) days of its final passage by the Municipal Council, upon approval by the Mayor and publication as required by law.

ORDINANCE INTRODUCED						
Councilmember	Offered	Seconded	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Brady		X	X			
Bergen			X			
Kyne			X			
McNamara	X		X			
Merla			X			
Pecora			X			

CERTIFICATION

I, Michele Clark, Borough Clerk, do hereby certify that this is a true copy of the ordinance introduced by the Governing Body of the Borough of Keyport on September 1, 2026.

/s Michele Clark

Michele Clark, RMC
Borough Clerk

ORDINANCE ADOPTED						
Councilmember	Offered	Seconded	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Brady						
Bergen						
Kyne						
McNamara						
Merla						
Pecora						

Introduced: September 1, 2026
Public Hearing: September 15, 2026
Adopted:

Michele Clark, RMC
Borough Clerk

Rose P. Araneo, Mayor
Borough of Keyport