

October 6, 2022

RE: Revising Borough Code Proposal

Submitted by Lemoyne Borough Resident, Daniel VanLenten, through Ms. Trisha Rafferty and Ms. Cindy Foster

Borough Council Members and Borough Council workshop attendees,

Thank you for taking the time to listen to my proposal to revise a Lemoyne Borough Code regarding roaming, domesticated, cats, or house cats (not feral cats). The proposal is simple: as a community that lives and works together and wants the best for one another and our families, it has come to my attention that there is a problem with many, not all, house cat owners allowing their cats to run free throughout our Borough with no consequences or recourse and that should be changed.

As you are already aware, there is already a Code for domesticated animals, Chapter 146:

### **Article I - Keeping of Animals**

**[Adopted 2-1-1990 by Ord. No. 589 (Ch. 2, Part 1, of the 1984 Code of Ordinances)]**

Within this chapter, for example, I cannot just allow any of my dogs to run free in the community without a leash, run through my neighbor's yards, cause damage to another's property, defecate or urinate on other's private property or the Borough's public property, etc. as laid out in Chapter 146, Sections 4 and 5. So, why shouldn't a cat owner be held to the same standards? I personally know residents that have called the Borough Office because of roaming cat issues, and they were turned away and were told nothing could be done because there is no enforceable code for the situation.

I have seen, as many as you may have, through social media, and personally talking with members of the community who do not own cats, residents having problems with roaming, domesticated cats on their property, such as defecation, urination, killing wild animals and leaving the carcasses for the non-cat owner to clean up. Also, it appears some owners are not caring for their cats because they are always outside, whether in the hottest part of summer, or the coldest part of winter. My proposal is to add explicit language within Chapter 146 to include ALL DOMESTICATED ANIMALS, which includes domesticated cats, in the same manner that domesticated dogs and other pets and their owners are referenced and codes are enforced. I propose the same enforcement from the Codes Enforcement Officers and/or West Shore Regional Police Department that they already do for all other domesticated animals if they find an owner violating a law and/or code.

At the end of the day, we all want to live at peace with our neighbors, our neighbors' families and their family pets. But we also want to be able to know the Borough Codes will be enforced and laws will be followed so we can all live in that peace we all seek. Please contact me at [danvanlenten16@gmail.com](mailto:danvanlenten16@gmail.com) if you have any follow-up questions or if there are any follow-up actions I or others need to take to help make this happen. Thank you again for your time and your cooperation.