

TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE
Sussex County, New Jersey

ORDINANCE No. 04-2025

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND SUPPLEMENT
CHAPTER 3, POLICE REGULATIONS
IN THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE TO
ADD YARD WASTE, PET WASTE, AND WILDLIFE FEEDING**

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection requires that all Tier A municipalities take measures in keeping wastes from entering municipal stormwater systems. In order to comply with the requirements of the Township of Wantage’s Municipal Stormwater General Permit, the Township Committee wishes to amend the revised general ordinances.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Wantage Township Committee that Chapter 3, Police Regulations of the Code of the Township of Wantage be amended as follows:

SECTION 1. Chapter 3, Section 3-11, *Yard Waste* is created to include the following:

§3-11 YARD WASTE

§3-11.1 Purpose

An ordinance establishing proper management of residential yard waste in Wantage Township to protect the environment, public health, safety, and welfare, and to prescribe penalties for failure to comply.

§3-11.2 Definitions:

For this section, the following terms, phrases, words, and their derivations shall have the meanings stated herein unless their use in the text of this section clearly demonstrates a different meaning. When consistent with the context, words used in the present tense includes the future, words used in the plural number include the singular number, and words used in the singular number include the plural number. The word "shall" is always mandatory and not merely directory.

Containerized - Shall mean the placement of yard waste in a trash can, bucket, bag, or other container to prevent yard waste from spilling or blowing out into the street and contaminating stormwater.

Person - Shall mean any individual, corporation, company, partnership, firm, association, or political subdivision of this State subject to municipal jurisdiction.

Street - Shall mean an improved or unimproved public road in a city or town which includes driving lanes, shoulders, gutters, curbs, sidewalks, and parking areas.

Yard Waste - Shall mean loose leaves and grass clippings.

§3-11.3 Regulated Activities:

- a. No person shall sweep, rake, blow, or otherwise place yard waste into the street unless it is for a scheduled collection.
- b. For non-containerized (loose) yard waste collection: Placement of loose yard waste must be at least 10 feet away from any storm drain inlet and no sooner than 7 days prior to a scheduled and announced collection.
- c. For containerized yard waste collection: Yard waste shall be placed in an appropriate container at the curb or along the street for collection. Placement of such yard waste on the street at any other time or in any other manner is a violation of this ordinance. If such placement of yard waste occurs, the person responsible for placement of the yard waste shall be in violation of this ordinance and must remove the yard waste immediately.

§3-11.4 Enforcement:

The Township Administrator, through the Road Department Superintendent and/or Zoning Officer, shall enforce the provisions of this section. It shall be unlawful for any reason to violate any part of this section adopted by the Township of Wantage Committee.

SECTION 2. Chapter 3, Section 3-12, *Pet Waste* is created to include the following:

§3-12 PET WASTE

§3-12.1 Purpose

An ordinance to establish requirements for the proper disposal of pet solid waste in Wantage Township to protect the environment, public health, safety and welfare, and to prescribe penalties for failure to comply.

§3-12.2 Definitions

For the purpose of this ordinance, the following terms, phrases, words, and their derivations, shall have the meanings stated herein unless their use in the text of this Chapter clearly demonstrates a different meaning. When consistent with the context, words used in the present tense include the future, words used in the plural number include the singular number, and words used in the singular number include the plural number. The word “shall” is always mandatory and not merely directory.

Owner/Keeper - Shall mean any person who shall possess, maintain, house or harbor any pet or otherwise have custody of any pet, whether or not the owner of such pet.

Person - Shall mean any individual, corporation, company, partnership, firm, association, or political subdivision of this State subject to municipal jurisdiction.

Pet - Shall mean any domesticated animal kept for companionship.

Pet Solid Waste - Shall mean feces from any domesticated animal.

Proper Disposal - Shall mean placement in a designated waste receptacle, or other suitable container which is regularly emptied by the municipality or some other refuse collector; or disposal into a system designed to convey domestic sewage for proper treatment and disposal.

§3-12.3 **Regulated Activities**

All pet owners and keepers are required to immediately and properly dispose of their pet's solid waste deposited on any property, public or private, not owned or possessed by that person.

§3-12.4 **Exemptions**

Any owner or keeper who requires the use of a disability assistance animal for disabilities such as vision or hearing loss, or other physical disabilities, shall be exempt from the provisions of this section while such animal is being used for that purpose. This exemption is not applicable to pets that are exclusively emotional support animals.

§3-12.5 **Enforcement:**

The Township Administrator, through the Road Department Superintendent and/or Zoning Officer, shall enforce the provisions of this section. It shall be unlawful for any reason to violate any part of this section adopted by the Township of Wantage Committee.

SECTION 3. Chapter 3, Section 3-13, *Wildlife Feeding* is created to include the following:

§3-13, **Wildlife Feeding**

§3-13.1 **Purpose**

An ordinance to prohibit the feeding of unconfined wildlife in any public park or on any other property owned or operated by Wantage Township to protect the environment, public health, safety and welfare, and to prescribe penalties for failure to comply.

§3-13.2 **Definitions**

For the purpose of this ordinance, the following terms, phrases, words and their derivations shall have the meanings stated herein unless their use in the text of this Chapter clearly demonstrates a different meaning. When consistent with the context, words used in the present tense include the future, words used in the plural number include the singular number, and words used in the singular number include the plural number. The word "shall" is always mandatory and not merely directory.

Feed - Shall mean to distribute or scatter any edible material with the intention of feeding or attracting wildlife. Feeding does not include baiting in the legal taking of fish and/or game.

Person - Shall mean any individual, corporation, company, partnership, firm, association, or political subdivision of this State subject to municipal jurisdiction.

Wildlife - Shall mean any undomesticated animal and includes all organisms that live wild in an area.

§3-13.3 Regulated Activities

No person shall feed, in any public park or on any other property owned or operated by Wantage Township, any wildlife.

§3-13.4 Exemptions

Exemptions include unconfined wildlife at environmental education centers and feral cats as part of an approved Trap-Neuter-Release program.

§3-13.5 Enforcement:

The Township Administrator, through the Road Department Superintendent and/or Zoning Officer, shall enforce the provisions of this section. It shall be unlawful for any reason to violate any part of this section adopted by the Township of Wantage Committee.

SECTION 4. Severability:

Each section, subsection, sentence, clause and phrase of this Ordinance is declared to be an independent section, subsection, sentence, clause and phrase, and the finding or holding of any such portion of this Ordinance to be unconstitutional, void, or ineffective for any cause, or reason, shall not affect any other portion of this Ordinance.

SECTION 5. Effective Date:

This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its adoption and any publication as may be required by law.

Ron Bassani, Mayor
Township of Wantage

ATTEST:

Melissa Morales, Municipal Clerk
Township of Wantage

NOTICE is hereby given that the above ordinance was introduced and passed upon first reading at a meeting of the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Wantage, in the County of Sussex, New Jersey, held on the 23rd day of January, 2025. It will be further considered for final passage after public hearing at a meeting of the Mayor and Committee to be held in the Municipal Building, 888 Route 23 South, in the Township of Wantage, on February 13th, 2025 at 7:00 P.M., and during the preceding week copies of the ordinance will be made available at the Clerk's office in the Municipal Building to members of the general public.

Melissa Morales, Municipal Clerk