

TOWN OF LAFONTAINE

ORDINANCE NO. 2, 2025

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A REVISED ANIMAL CONTROL ORDINANCE

WHEREAS, on May 1, 2000, the Town Council of the Town of LaFontaine, Indiana passed General Ordinance No. 2, 2000, Animal Control Ordinance of the Town of LaFontaine; and

WHEREAS, the current Town Council of the Town of LaFontaine, Indiana desires to make certain amendments to said ordinance, and has therefore elected to repeal said ordinance and replace it with this Ordinance No. 2, 2025; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Town Council of the Town of LaFontaine, Indiana, as follows:

1. Definitions.

- a. **Animal** means any horse, mule, donkey, cow, sheep, goat, swine, dog, cat, rabbit, chicken, good, duck, turkey, or other animal or fowl.
- b. **Owner** means any person or entity owning, harboring or keeping an animal. The occupant of any premises on which a domesticated or tamed animal remains, or to which it customarily returns, for a period of ten (10) days or more, is deemed to be harboring or keeping the animal.
- c. An animal shall be deemed **at large** when it is off the property of its owner and not under the control of a competent person.
- d. An animal is deemed to be under **restraint** if it is controlled by a leash, at "heel" beside a competent person and obedient to that person's commands, on or within a vehicle being driven or parked, or tied/confined within the boundaries of the owner's property.

2. Certain Animals Prohibited.

- a. No swine shall be kept within the Town limits except temporarily in a stockyard awaiting transportation.
- b. It shall be unlawful for any person to keep or maintain, or allow to be kept or maintained, any cow, horse, donkey, mule, pig, goat, sheep, goose, rooster, duck, turkey, guinea, or more than one (1) rabbit upon any property or premises within the corporate limits of the Town of LaFontaine.

3. Public Nuisances Declared.

- a. It shall be unlawful for any person to own, harbor, keep, or bring into the corporate limits of the Town of LaFontaine an animal which:
 - i. Interferes with passersby or passing vehicles;
 - ii. Attacks other animals or persons;
 - iii. Trespasses on school grounds;
 - iv. Is repeatedly at large or not under restraint;
 - v. Damages private or public property; or

- vi. Barks, whines, howls, or makes other sounds common to its species to a degree that it disturbs the peace and quiet of another person or persons.

4. Rabid Animals.

- a. Any dog or other animal suspected of being rabid or having been bitten by a rabid animal may be confined by order of the Town Marshal or Deputy Town Marshal and in the manner and for the time ordered by him or her, in order to determine whether or not the animal is rabid.
- b. If any dog or other animal is reasonably suspected to be rabid, the Town Marshal or Deputy Town Marshal may take action to have the animal put down in a humane manner, and/or to have it examined by medical authorities to determine whether or not it actually carried rabies.

5. Animal Building Regulations.

- a. Every building in which any animal is kept within the corporate limits of the Town of LaFontaine shall be kept in a clean and sanitary condition at all times.

6. Animal Welfare.

- a. No person shall shoot, hunt, or possess or disturb any game animals or game birds within the corporate limits of the Town of LaFontaine except where written permission to do so is obtained from the Town Marshal or Deputy Town Marshal for the disposal of animals which are a nuisance or menace to the person applying for said permission.
- b. When a permit is issued under this section, it shall state substantially as follows:

“[Name]” is hereby authorized by the Town Marshal, pursuant to Ordinance No. 2, 2025 of the Town of LaFontaine, Indiana, to discharge a weapon or weapons within the Town of LaFontaine from the ___ day of _____, 20__ to the ___ day of _____, 20__, during the hours of _____ to _____. This permit is issued for the sole purpose of _____.

The aforementioned individual shall be responsible for exercising this privilege in a careful and safe manner, shall be solely responsible for the safety of other persons, and shall indemnify and hold the Town of LaFontaine harmless against any liability that may result from the exercise of this privilege.

7. Penalties.

- a. Any person who violates any provision of this Ordinance shall be guilty of a class B infraction.
- b. Each violation, and each day that a violation continues, shall constitute a separate violation.
- c. In addition to penalties provided for class B infractions, the Town Council of the Town of LaFontaine may declare a violation of any provision of this Ordinance to be a public nuisance and initiate civil proceedings for the abatement of the nuisance.

1. Barks which howl or make other sounds common to its species to a degree that it disturbs the peace and quiet of another person or persons.

Animal Antennae

a. Any dog or other animal suspected of being rabid or having been bitten by a rabid animal may be confined by order of the Town Marshal or Deputy Town Marshal and in the interim and for the time ordered by him or her in order to determine a better way for the animal's health.

b. If any dog or other animal is or is thought to be rabid, the Town Marshal or Deputy Town Marshal may take action to have the animal put down to a humane means, which in fact is arranged by medical authorities to determine whether or not it actually carried rabies.

Animal Fighting Provisions

a. Every building in which any animal is kept within the corporate limits of the Town of Litchfield shall be kept in a clean and sanitary condition at all times.

Animal Welfare

a. No person shall shoot, hunt or possess or have in his possession or under his control any animal within the corporate limits of the Town of Litchfield except where a license or permit has been obtained from the Town Marshal or Deputy Town Marshal for the disposal of animals which are nuisances or menace to the person applying for said permission.

b. When a person is found under this section, a shall state substantially as follows:

"I hereby certify that I am a resident of the Town of Litchfield, Vermont, and that I am the owner of a dog of the breed of _____, which I have taken from the _____ day of _____, 19____, to the _____ day of _____, 19____, during the hours of _____ to _____, for the purpose of _____."

The above-named individual shall be responsible for exercising this privilege in a careful and safe manner, and shall be solely responsible for the safety of other persons, and shall indemnify and hold the Town of Litchfield harmless against any liability that may result from the exercise of this privilege.

Enforcement

a. Any person who violates any provision of this Ordinance shall be guilty of a class B infraction.

b. Each violation and each day that a violation continues shall constitute a separate violation.

In addition to the civil penalties provided herein, any person who violates any provision of this Ordinance may be liable for the payment of the reasonable and necessary costs of the enforcement of this Ordinance.

d. Any person found to be in violation of this Ordinance shall be responsible for all costs, expenses, and attorney's fees incurred by the Town of LaFontaine in the enforcement of the Ordinance.

8. General Ordinance No. 2, 2000 is hereby repealed in its entirety. The terms of any other previous Town ordinances that are inconsistent with those herein are also hereby repealed.

This ordinance shall become effective upon adoption this 10th day of February, 2025.

TOWN COUNCIL

John Krhin, President

Lori Brane

Nikki Brubaker

ATTEST:

Pamela Whitener, LaFontaine Clerk-Treasurer

Any person found to be in violation of the Ordinance shall be responsible for all costs, expenses, and attorney's fees incurred by the Town of Litchfield in its enforcement of the Ordinance.

Further Ordinance No. 2, 2000 is hereby repealed in its entirety. The text of any other previous Town Ordinance that are inconsistent with this Ordinance are also hereby repealed.

This Ordinance shall become effective upon adoption on the 10th day of February, 2002.

TOWN COUNCIL

John K. ...

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ATTEST

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