

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-7-5

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING REGULATIONS FOR THE KEEPING AND CONTROL OF ANIMALS WITHIN THE VILLAGE OF RINGWOOD, McHENRY COUNTY, ILLINOIS

WHEREAS, the Village of Ringwood, McHenry County, Illinois ("Village"), is a duly organized and existing municipality operating under the provisions of the Illinois Municipal Code, 65 ILCS 5/1-1-1 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, the Village has the authority to regulate dogs, cats, and other animals within the Village pursuant to the Illinois Animal Control Act, 510 ILCS 5/1 et seq., the Illinois Municipal Code, and the general police powers of the Village; and

WHEREAS, the President and Board of Trustees of the Village have determined that reasonable regulations concerning the keeping, harboring, and control of animals are necessary and appropriate to protect the public health, safety, and welfare of Village residents; and

WHEREAS, the President and Board of Trustees recognize that the keeping of household pets is an ordinary and customary residential activity, but find that reasonable regulations concerning the number, care, sanitation, restraint, and control of animals are appropriate to protect residents, neighboring properties, and the animals themselves; and

WHEREAS, the President and Board of Trustees desire to establish comprehensive and uniform standards governing the keeping and control of animals within the Village; and

WHEREAS, the President and Board of Trustees have determined that it is in the best interests of the Village and its residents to adopt the regulations set forth herein.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the President and Board of Trustees of the Village of Ringwood, McHenry County, Illinois, as follows:

SECTION 1: RECITALS.

The foregoing recitals are incorporated into and made a part of this Ordinance as if fully set forth herein.

SECTION 2: ANIMAL CONTROL REGULATIONS ADOPTED.

The Code of Ordinances of the Village of Ringwood is hereby amended by adding a new Chapter entitled "Animal Control," which shall read as follows:

CHAPTER 302.15 ANIMAL CONTROL

SECTION 302.15-1. PURPOSE AND APPLICABILITY.

The purpose of this Chapter is to establish reasonable regulations for the keeping, harboring, maintenance, and control of animals within the Village of Ringwood.
The provisions of this Chapter are supplemental to all applicable federal and State

laws concerning animals, including, without limitation, the Illinois Animal Control Act, 510 ILCS 5/1 et seq., as amended.

SECTION 302.15-2. DEFINITIONS.

For purposes of this Chapter, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings set forth below:

ANIMAL. Any living creature, other than a human being, capable of voluntary movement.

CAT. Any member of the domestic feline species, regardless of sex, breed, or reproductive status.

DOG. Any member of the canine species, regardless of sex, breed, or reproductive status.

KEEP or HARBOR. To own, possess, house, shelter, maintain, feed, care for, exercise custody or control over, or knowingly permit an animal to remain upon premises occupied or controlled by a person. The temporary presence of an animal for a period of less than twenty-four (24) hours shall not, standing alone, constitute keeping or harboring the animal.

OWNER. Any person having a right of property in an animal; who keeps or harbors an animal; who has an animal in his or her care; who acts as the animal's custodian; or who knowingly permits a dog to remain on premises occupied by such person.

PERSON. Any individual, firm, corporation, partnership, association, organization, or other legal entity.

RESIDENTIAL PREMISES. Any lot, parcel, dwelling, dwelling unit, or other premises located within the Village and used, in whole or in part, for residential purposes. For purposes of determining the number of dogs kept or harbored upon residential premises, all portions of a single lot or parcel and all buildings and structures located thereon shall constitute a single residential premises.

RESTRAINT. The control of an animal by means of a leash, lead, fence, enclosure, or other physical means reasonably sufficient to prevent the animal from leaving the property of its owner or approaching another person or animal without authorization. An animal under the immediate and effective control of a responsible person by means of a leash or lead shall be deemed restrained.

RUNNING AT LARGE. The presence of a dog at any place other than upon the premises of its owner while the dog is not under restraint.

SECTION 302.15-3. RESPONSIBILITY OF OWNER.

A. It shall be unlawful for any owner to keep, harbor, maintain, or permit any animal under the owner's care, custody, or control to be kept, harbored, maintained, or controlled in violation of this Chapter.

B. The duties and obligations imposed upon an owner by this Chapter shall apply regardless of whether the owner holds legal title to the animal.

C. More than one person may be deemed an owner of the same animal for purposes of enforcement of this Chapter.

SECTION 302.15-4. LIMITATION ON NUMBER OF ANIMALS.

A. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this Section, no person shall keep, harbor, maintain, or permit to be kept, harbored, or maintained any combination of dogs or cats totaling more than four (4) animals over six (6) months of age upon any residential premises within the Village.

B. The limitation established by this Section applies to the residential premises as a whole and shall not be multiplied by the number of owners, occupants, dwelling units, families, or persons residing upon or having an interest in the premises.

C. For purposes of this Section, a dog or cat shall be counted toward the maximum number of dogs or cats permitted upon residential premises if the dog or cat is regularly kept, housed, sheltered, fed, or maintained upon the premises, regardless of the identity of the legal owner of the dog or cat.

D. The limitation established by this Section shall not apply to:

1. A veterinary hospital or veterinary clinic lawfully operating within the Village;

2. An animal control facility or animal shelter lawfully operating and licensed as required by State law;

3. A kennel, boarding facility, or other animal-related use expressly authorized at the premises pursuant to the Village's applicable zoning regulations and all other applicable laws;

4. Dogs temporarily present upon residential premises for less than twenty-four (24) consecutive hours, provided such temporary presence is occasional and is not undertaken for compensation or as part of a recurring arrangement intended to evade the requirements of this Section; or

5. A litter of puppies or kittens born upon the premises until the puppies reach six (6) months of age.

E. Nothing in this Section shall be construed to authorize any kennel, breeding operation, boarding facility, animal shelter, or commercial animal use otherwise

prohibited or restricted by the Village's zoning regulations or any applicable State law.

SECTION 302.15-5. SANITARY MAINTENANCE AND CARE.

A. Any premises upon which an animal is kept or harbored shall be maintained in a clean and sanitary condition.

B. An owner shall remove animal feces and other animal waste from the premises with sufficient frequency to prevent:

1. The excessive accumulation of animal waste;
2. Offensive or noxious odors extending beyond the premises;
3. The breeding or infestation of flies, insects, rodents, or other vermin;
4. The contamination of water, soil, or neighboring property; or
5. A condition detrimental to the health or safety of any person or animal.

C. Animal waste collected upon the premises shall be stored and disposed of in a sanitary manner and in compliance with all other applicable laws and regulations.

D. No person shall keep or harbor an animal in a manner that deprives the animal of adequate food, potable water, shelter, or care required by applicable State law.

E. Nothing in this Section shall limit or supersede the authority of any State or county agency having jurisdiction over animal welfare or cruelty matters.

SECTION 302.15-6. DOGS AND CATS RUNNING AT LARGE.

A. No owner shall cause, permit, or allow a dog or cat to run at large within the Village.

B. A dog or cat located upon property other than the premises of its owner shall be kept under restraint and under the immediate control of a responsible person.

C. The fact that a dog or cat escaped from the owner's premises shall not, standing alone, relieve the owner of responsibility under this Section.

D. This Section shall not apply to a dog or cat while lawfully participating in activities specifically authorized by law or while acting under the direction of a law enforcement agency or other governmental entity.

SECTION 302.15-7. ANIMAL NOISE.

A. No owner shall knowingly cause or permit a dog, cat or other animal to engage in frequent, repetitive, or prolonged barking, whining, howling, or other

vocalization that unreasonably disturbs the peace and quiet of neighboring property or persons of ordinary sensibilities.

B. In determining whether a violation of this Section has occurred, consideration may be given to the duration, frequency, time of day, or night, and character of the noise; the nature and character of the surrounding area; and whether the owner took reasonable and timely measures to control the animal.

C. Normal or occasional animal vocalization, standing alone, shall not constitute a violation of this Section.

D. Evidence of a violation may include, but is not limited to, the personal observations of a law enforcement officer or other authorized Village official, witness statements, audio or video recordings, or other competent evidence.

SECTION 302.15-8. COMMERCIAL ANIMAL ACTIVITIES AND KENNELS.

A. Nothing in this Chapter shall authorize the operation of a kennel, animal boarding facility, animal daycare facility, breeding operation, animal shelter, or other commercial animal activity upon any property within the Village.

B. The breeding, boarding, training, keeping, or harboring of animals for compensation or as a business or commercial enterprise shall be subject to the Village's applicable zoning regulations and all applicable State licensing requirements.

C. Compliance with the numerical limitation established by Section ____-4 shall not establish or create a right to conduct any commercial animal activity upon residential premises.

SECTION 302.15-9. INVESTIGATION AND ENFORCEMENT.

A. The Village, through its law enforcement officers, code enforcement personnel, or other authorized officers or employees, may investigate alleged violations of this Chapter.

B. A violation of this Chapter may be established by any competent evidence, including, without limitation, personal observations, photographs, audio or video recordings, admissions, public records, veterinary or licensing records lawfully obtained, and witness testimony or statements.

C. Nothing in this Chapter shall be construed to authorize entry into a dwelling or upon any area protected from warrantless governmental intrusion without consent, a warrant, or other lawful authority.

D. The Village may issue a notice of violation, ordinance citation, or other process authorized by law for any violation of this Chapter.

SECTION 302.15-10. PENALTIES AND CONTINUING VIOLATIONS.

A. Except as otherwise provided herein, any person violating any provision of this Chapter shall be subject to a fine of not less than One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) nor more than Seven Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$750.00) for each offense.

B. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this Chapter, each day upon which a violation occurs or continues, and each dog or cat in excess of four, shall constitute a separate offense.

C. In addition to any fine or penalty, the Village may seek injunctive or other equitable relief to prevent, restrain, correct, or abate a violation of this Chapter.

D. The remedies and penalties provided by this Chapter are cumulative and shall not preclude the Village or any other governmental entity from exercising any other authority or remedy available under applicable law.

SECTION 302.15-11. COMPLIANCE PERIOD FOR NUMBER OF ANIMALS

A. The limitation upon the number of dogs and cats permitted upon residential premises established by Section 302.15-4 shall become effective immediately upon the effective date of the ordinance adopting this Chapter.

B. Notwithstanding subsection A, no fine or penalty shall be imposed solely for a violation of Section 302.15-4 during the six (6) month period immediately following the effective date of the ordinance adopting this Chapter.

C. Any person keeping or harboring any combination of dogs or cats that exceeds a total of four (4) animals over six (6) months of age upon residential premises on the effective date of the ordinance adopting this Chapter shall bring the premises into full compliance with Section 302.15-4 on or before the expiration of the six (6) month compliance period.

D. The six (6) month compliance period established by this Section is a temporary period for achieving compliance and shall not create a lawful nonconforming use, vested right, grandfathered status, or other continuing right to keep or harbor more than a total of four (4) dogs or cats upon residential premises.

E. During the six (6) month compliance period, all other provisions of this Chapter shall be fully effective and enforceable. Nothing in this Section shall delay or limit enforcement of any provision concerning sanitation, animal care, restraint, dogs running at large, animal noise, commercial animal activity, or any other requirement of this Chapter.

F. Upon expiration of the six (6) month compliance period, Section 302.15-4 shall be subject to immediate enforcement and all penalties and remedies provided by this Chapter.

SECTION 302.15-12. CONSTRUCTION WITH STATE LAW.

A. This Chapter shall be construed consistently with the Illinois Animal Control Act and all other applicable State laws.

B. Nothing in this Chapter shall be interpreted or enforced as a breed-specific regulation or as prohibiting or restricting a dog solely on the basis of breed.

C. In the event of a direct conflict between this Chapter and a mandatory provision of State law, the State law shall control to the extent of the conflict.

SECTION 3: REPEAL OF ORDINANCE NO. 96-2-1.

Ordinance No. 96-2-1, entitled "Ordinance Prohibiting Loud and Repeated Barking, Whining & Howling by Dogs," is hereby repealed in its entirety, the subject matter thereof having been incorporated into the Animal Control regulations adopted by this Ordinance.

SECTION 4: SEVERABILITY.

If any section, paragraph, clause, or provision of this Ordinance is held invalid or unenforceable by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unenforceability shall not affect any other provision of this Ordinance, and the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 5: REPEALER.

All ordinances, resolutions, or parts thereof in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

SECTION 6: PUBLICATION.

The Village Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to publish this Ordinance in pamphlet form as provided by law.

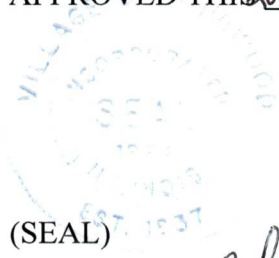
SECTION 7: EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect immediately upon its passage, approval, and publication in pamphlet form as provided by law. The six (6) month compliance period established in Section 302.15-11 shall affect only the imposition of fines and penalties for a violation of the numerical limitation established by Section 302.15-4 and shall not delay the effective date of this Ordinance or any provision thereof.

Passed this 20th day of July, 2026, by a roll call vote as follows:

	Ayes	Nays	Absent	Abstain
Trustee Missy Robel	☒	☐	☐	☐
Trustee Tim Meseck	☐	☐	☒	☐
Trustee Karen Morgan	☒	☐	☐	☐
Trustee Jason Meyer	☒	☐	☐	☐
Trustee Gary Reinwall	☒	☐	☐	☐
Trustee Katie Herdus	☒	☐	☐	☐
President Rick Mack	☐	☐	☐	☐

APPROVED THIS 24th DAY OF July, 2026



Richard E. Mack
Village President Rick Mack

(SEAL)
ATTEST: Elaine Fung
Village Clerk Elaine Fung

Published: 7-21-2026

CERTIFICATION

I, ELAINE FUNG, do hereby certify that I am the duly appointed, acting and qualified Clerk of the Village of Ringwood, McHenry County, Illinois, and that as such Clerk, I am the keeper of the records and minutes and proceedings of the President and Board of Trustees of said Village of Ringwood.

I do hereby further certify that at a regular meeting of the President and Board of Trustees of the Village of Ringwood, held on the 20th day of July, 2026, the foregoing Ordinance entitled ***AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING REGULATIONS FOR THE KEEPING AND CONTROL OF ANIMALS WITHIN THE VILLAGE OF RINGWOOD, McHENRY COUNTY, ILLINOIS***, was duly passed by the President and Board of Trustees of the Village of Ringwood.

The pamphlet form of Ordinance No. 2026-7-5 including the Ordinance and a cover sheet thereof, was prepared, and a copy of such Ordinance was available from the Village Clerk, commencing on the 21st day of July, 2026, and will continue for at least 10 days thereafter. Copies of such Ordinance are also available for public inspection upon request in the office of the Village Clerk.

I do further certify that the original, of which the attached is a true and correct copy, is entrusted to me as the Clerk of said Village for safekeeping, and that I am the lawful custodian and keeper of the same.

Given under my hand and the official seal of the Village of Ringwood this 21st day of July, 2026.



Elaine Fung

Elaine Fung, Village Clerk
Village of Ringwood,
McHenry County, Illinois

(SEAL)

ATTEST:

VILLAGE CLERK