

BOROUGH OF RIDGEFIELD
Bergen County, New Jersey

Meeting June 23, 1997

ORDINANCE #1598

Presented by Councilman Rathgeber

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Ridgefield, that an Ordinance entitled,

"AN ORDINANCE GOVERNING THE HARBORING AND MAINTENANCE OF
VICIOUS DOGS IN THE BOROUGH OF RIDGEFIELD, COUNTY OF BERGEN
STATE OF NEW JERSEY"

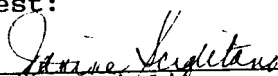
introduced on the 9th day of June, 1997, do now pass a final reading and be adopted, and that the Borough Clerk be and she is hereby authorized and directed to publish once, the title of the aforesaid Ordinance, together with a notice of the date of its passage on final reading and approval thereof in the Sun Bulletin, a newspaper circulating in the Borough of Ridgefield.

Approved:



Stewart V. Veale, Mayor

Attest:



Jeanine Sciglitano,
Borough Clerk

BOROUGH OF RIDGEFIELD
BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

Meeting June 9, 1997

ORDINANCE NO. 1598

Presented by Councilman Asfar

AN ORDINANCE GOVERNING THE HARBORING AND MAINTENANCE OF
VICIOUS DOGS IN THE BOROUGH OF RIDGEFIELD, COUNTY OF BERGEN,
STATE OF NEW JERSEY

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Ridgefield, County of Bergen and State of New Jersey, find that the harboring and maintenance of vicious dogs within the Borough of Ridgefield presents a threat to the health and safety of the citizens of the Borough,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Borough Council of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Ridgefield as follows:

SECTION I: DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

PIT BULL DOG:

- A. The Pit Bull Terrier breed of dog.
- B. The Staffordshire Bull Terrier breed of dog.
- C. The American Pit Bull Terrier breed of dog.
- D. The American Staffordshire Terrier breed of dog.
- E. Dogs of mixed breed or of other breeds than listed under Subsections A through D above whose breed or mixed breed is commonly known as "pit bulls", "pit bull dogs" or "pit bull terriers."

VICIOUS DOG:

- A Any dog with propensity, tendency or disposition to attack, cause injury or otherwise endanger the safety of human beings or other domestic animals as evidenced by its habitual or repeated chasing, snapping or barking.
- B. Any dog which attacks a human being or other domestic animal without provocation.
- C. Any dog owned or harbored primarily or in part for the purpose of dog fighting or any dog trained for dog fighting.
- D. Any pit bull dog

SECTION II: LEASH OR MUZZLE REQUIRED

No person owning, harboring or having the care of a vicious dog may suffer or permit such dog to go outside its kennel or pen unless the dog is securely leashed with a leash no longer than four (4) feet in length. No person may permit a vicious dog to be kept on a chain, rope or other type of leash outside its kennel or pen unless a person is in physical control of the leash. The dog may not be leashed to inanimate objects such as trees, posts and buildings. A vicious dog on a leash outside the dog's kennel shall be muzzled by a muzzling device sufficient to prevent the dog from biting persons or other animals. A vicious dog shall not be required to be muzzled when

prior approval of the Board of Health.

SECTION III: CONFINEMENT

All vicious dogs shall be securely confined indoors or in a securely enclosed and locked pen or kennel except when leashed and muzzled as provided above. The pen, kennel or structure shall have secure sides and a secure top attached to all sides. A structure used to confine a vicious dog shall be locked with a key or combination lock when the dog is within the structure. The structure shall have a secure bottom or floor attached to the sides of the pen or the sides of the pen must be embedded in the ground no less than two (2) feet. All structures erected to house vicious dogs shall comply with all zoning and building regulations of the borough. All structures shall be adequately lighted and ventilated and kept in a clean and sanitary condition.

SECTION IV.: CONFINEMENT INDOORS

No vicious dog may be kept on a porch, patio or in any part of a house or structure that would allow the dog to exit the building on its volition. No vicious dog may be kept in a house or structure when the windows are open or when screen windows or screen doors are the only obstacle preventing the dog from exiting the structure. No vicious dog may be kept within any portion of any multiple dwelling.

SECTION V: SIGNS

All owners, keepers or harborers of vicious dogs shall within fifteen (15) days of the effective date of this Article display in a prominent place on their premises a sign easily readable by the public using the words "beware of dog". a similar sign is required to be posted on the kennel or pen of the dog.

SECTION VI: INSURANCE

All owners, keepers or harborers of vicious dogs shall within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this Ordinance provide proof to the Borough Clerk of public liability insurance in a single incident amount of two hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000.00) for bodily injury to or death of any person or for the damage to property owned by any person which may result from the ownership, keeping or maintenance of vicious dogs. The insurance policy shall provide that no cancellation of the policy will be made unless a ten-day written notice is first given to the Borough Clerk. The owner or custodian of the dog shall produce evidence of the required insurance upon request of a law enforcement officer, Animal Control or Public Health Officer. This subsection does not apply to dogs kept by law enforcement agencies.

SECTION VII: REBUTTABLE PRESUMPTION

There shall be a rebuttable presumption that a pit dog is a vicious dog.

SECTION VIII. DISPOSITION OF VICIOUS DOGS

Any vicious dog which attacks a human being or domestic animal may be ordered destroyed by a police officer or humane officer when, in the judgment of a court of competent jurisdiction, the dog represents a continuing threat of serious harm to human beings or domestic animals.


SECTION IX: PENALTIES

Any person, firm, association or corporation violating any of the provisions of this Ordinance shall be subject to the maximum fine or imprisonment as may be authorized to be imposed by a Municipal Court in the State of New Jersey, for each and every day in which said violation exists and each and every act in violation shall constitute a separate offense.

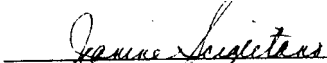
SECTION X: EFFECTIVE DATE

This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon final passage and publication in the manner provided by law.

Approved:


Stewart V. Veale, Mayor

Attest:


Jeanine Sciglitano,