

CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

ORDINANCE NO. 5377

Bill No. 9 of 2025

Introduced in Council December 10, 2025

Ordinance Introduced by Council Person:

ARNONE

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING LICENSING AND PERMITTING REQUIREMENTS, FEES, AND PENALTIES FOR ANIMAL BREEDING WITHIN THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN TO SUPPORT ANIMAL WELFARE INITIATIVES

WHEREAS, the City Council of Johnstown recognizes the importance of responsible pet breeding practices and the need to address and support animal welfare causes within the community; and

WHEREAS, the City Council seeks to regulate and manage animal breeding within city limits to prevent overpopulation, reduce instances of animal neglect, and ensure that all animals bred within the city are cared for in a humane manner; and

WHEREAS, the City Council seeks to incentive and encourage companion animal sterilization.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA, as follows:

Section 1: Definitions

For purposes of this ordinance:

1. **Animal Breeder:** Any person or entity that breeds animals for sale, adoption, or other transfer within the City of Johnstown. This includes but is not limited to any individual or entity who possesses animals that are incubating young, any of which that will be subject to sale, adoption, or other transfer. This also includes but is not limited to any individual or entity who holds a Pennsylvania Kennel License operating in the City of Johnstown.
2. **Permit:** A permit issued by the City of Johnstown authorizing the breeding of animals within city limits.

Section 2: Permit Requirements

1. All individuals or entities breeding animals and/or possessing animals that are incubating young within the City of Johnstown shall obtain an Animal Breeding Permit from the city. This permit shall be renewed annually.
2. Permit applicants must demonstrate compliance with all applicable state and local animal welfare laws and agree to regular inspections by animal welfare officers or other official representatives of the City of Johnstown to ensure humane breeding conditions.
3. A permit is specific to each breeding facility, location, or animal group. Additional permits will be required for each additional facility, location, or animal group.
4. A separate permit is required for each species or type of animal to be bred.
5. Allow an exception for 501c3 non-profits only, where they are not profiting on the adoption fees of a litter of animals, and where they have a mission of rescuing stray or neglected animals.

Section 3: Permit Fees

1. The permit fee shall be set at \$500 annually per breeder and \$300 for every additional facility or species, as stipulated in Section 2(3) and Section 2(4).
2. Collected fees shall be allocated exclusively to the City of Johnstown's animal welfare initiatives, including but not limited to shelters, rescues, and community outreach programs for animal health and safety.

Section 4: Breeder Facility and Animal Welfare Requirements

1. The standards of a permitted breeder facility for any animal shall be understood to be as or more rigorous than Pennsylvania's regulation for licensed dog kennel facilities. They shall be maintained in a manner that is sanitary and humane.
2. Facilities must follow a species-appropriate plan for the opportunity for animal rest and exercise.
3. Animals must be protected from weather, elements, and temperatures, consistent with Pennsylvania anti-cruelty law. That is, animals may not be unprotected outside for more than 30 minutes in temperatures above 90°F or below 32°F and must have access to water and shade.
4. If indoor or outdoor enclosures are used, they must be designed and constructed so that they are structurally sound and must be kept in good repair. They should be of safe construction with no sharp edges, protection from the elements, sufficient space, potable water, sanitation, safe and humane floor type consistent with the size and type of animal, and the ability of animals to turn around freely. Enclosures may not be shared unless the animals are compatible, and all animals within the enclosure have sufficient space to turn around freely.
5. The facility must have an active relationship with a veterinarian and ensure that all animals in their custody receive adequate veterinary care.

Section 5: Penalties for Non-Compliance

1. Unpermitted Breeding:

- Any individual or entity found breeding animals within city limits without a valid permit shall be subject to a fine of no less than \$1000 for each offense.
- Individual additional days of non-compliance shall incur additional penalties of no more than \$50 per day. Individual additional unpermitted facilities or groups may constitute separate offenses and therefore separate fines.

2. Facility and Animal Welfare Requirement Non-Compliance:

- Any individual or entity with an inadequate facility used for breeding animals shall be subject to a fine of no less than \$1000 for each inadequate facility.
- Individual additional days of non-compliance shall incur additional penalties of not more than \$50 per day. Separate requirement violations may constitute separate offenses and therefore separate fines.

3. Revocation of License and Permit:

- Repeated violations may result in the revocation of the breeding license and permit. Individuals or entities with a revoked license may not reapply for a minimum period of one year.

Section 6: Enforcement

- The City of Johnstown shall enforce this ordinance and have the authority to inspect breeding facilities to ensure compliance with humane standards and proper licensing and permitting. The City Manager may delegate

responsibility and authority to any internal resource or external contractor for enforcement and inspection, but the Department of Community and Economic Development shall have primary responsibility for issuing permits and processing renewals.

- City law enforcement and codes enforcement, and/or their delegates or assignees, are authorized to issue citations and enforce fines as provided for in this ordinance.

Section 7: Allocation of Funds

All revenue collected from licensing fees, permit fees, and penalties shall be directed toward:

- Supporting animal welfare organizations within the City of Johnstown.
- Funding city animal control initiatives aimed at promoting responsible pet ownership, reducing animal overpopulation, and enhancing community awareness on animal welfare.

Section 8: Severability

If any section, clause, or provision of this ordinance is declared unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance.

Section 9: Effective Date

This ordinance shall take effect on January 14, 2026 following its adoption and publication as required by law.

Ordinance Seconded by Councilperson BARBER

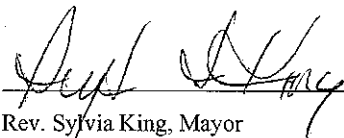
PASSED FAILED TABLED FINALLY IN COUNCIL: January 14, 2026

First Read

Mock			King			Clark			Janakovic			Britt			Arnone			Huchel		
Y	N	A	Y	N	A	Y	N	A	Y	N	A	Y	N	A	Y	N	A	Y	N	A
x			x			x			x			x			x			x		

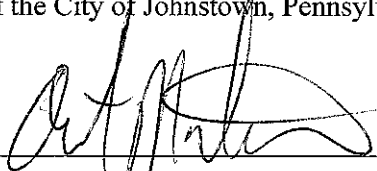
Second Read

King			Brandon-Taylor			Spinelli			Clark			Barber			Arnone								
Y	N	A	Y	N	A	Y	N	A	Y	N	A	Y	N	A	Y	N	A	Y	N	A	Y	N	A
✓			✓			✓			✓			✓			✓			✓					


 Rev. Sylvia King, Mayor
 Charles Arnone, Deputy Mayor

ATTEST:

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of Ordinance No. 5377 as the same was passed finally by City Council and signed by the Mayor and/or Deputy Mayor of the City of Johnstown, Pennsylvania.


 Arturo Martynuska, City Manager