

VILLAGE OF LAWRENCE
COUNTY OF VAN BUREN, STATE OF MICHIGAN

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-010

ADOPTED: JUNE 10, 2025

EFFECTIVE: OCTOBER 23, 2025

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND
THE CODE OF THE VILLAGE OF LAWRENCE, CHAPTER 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS,
SECTION 1-17; CHAPTER 4 ANIMALS, ARTICLES I,II AND III; CHAPTER 10
ENVIRONMENT, ARTICLE IV SECTION 10-88;

Said ORDINANCE amending THE CODE OF THE VILLAGE OF LAWRENCE, CHAPTER 1
GENERAL PROVISIONS, SECTION 1-17; CHAPTER 4 ANIMALS, ARTICLES I,II AND III;
CHAPTER 10 ENVIRONMENT, ARTICLE IV SECTION 10-88, is adopted at a REGULAR
meeting of the VILLAGE COUNCIL held on June 10, 2025 at 6:00 P.M., Village Hall, 157 N. Paw
Paw St Lawrence, Michigan 49064

WHEREAS, The Code of Ordinances of the Village of Lawrence includes Chapter 1
General Provisions, Section 1-17; Chapter 4 Animals, Articles I,II, and III; Chapter 10
Environment, Article IV Section 10-88; and

WHEREAS, It is necessary to amend Chapter 1 General Provisions Section 1-17; Chapter 4
Animals, Article 2 II, and III; Chapter 10 Environment, Article IV Section 10-88 in order to
promote the public health, safety, and general welfare of the residents of the Village of
Lawrence.

THE VILLAGE OF LAWRENCE
VAN BUREN COUNTY, MICHIGAN
ORDAINS:

SECTION I

AMENDMENT OF CHAPTER 1, GENERAL PROVISIONS, SECTION 1-17 REGARDING
General Penalty

Amend Chapter 1, Section 1-17

Chapter 1 Section 1-17 is hereby amended with: changing misdemeanor to municipal civil
infraction as follows:

Except as specifically provided otherwise by state law or village ordinance, all violations of this
Code are municipal civil infractions. Except as otherwise provided by law or ordinance, a person
convicted of a violation of this Code that is a municipal civil infraction shall be punished by a
fine not to exceed \$500.00 and costs of prosecution or by imprisonment for a period of not more
than 90 days, or by both such fine and imprisonment....

SECTION II

AMENDMENT OF CHAPTER 4, ARTICLE I

SECTION 4-1 REGARDING Definitions

Amend Chapter 4, Article I, Section 4-1 Kennel

Chapter 4, Article I, Section 4-2 (d) is hereby amended with: Kennel definition reference Section 8.16 in the Zoning Ordinance.

SECTION 4-2 REGARDING Permit to keep certain animals

Amend Chapter 4, Article I, Section 4-2

Chapter 4, Article I, Section 4-2 is hereby amended with: Reference to Chapter 32-Zoning

SECTION 4-3 REGARDING Number of cats permitted; exceptions

Amend Chapter 4, Article I, Section 4-3 (a)

Chapter 4, Article I, Section 4-3 (a) is hereby amended with: changing misdemeanor to municipal civil infraction as follows:

Whoever owns, harbors, possesses, or keeps more than four cats, six months old or older, upon his premises shall be guilty of a municipal civil infraction...

SECTION 4-4 REGARDING Animals running at large

Amend Chapter 4, Article I, Section 4-4

Chapter 4, Article I, Section 4-4 is hereby amended with: changing misdemeanor to municipal civil infraction and removing 'harboring' as follows:

An owner, keeper, possessor, or person in charge of any animal ... restrain it is guilty of a municipal civil infraction, subjecting persons found responsible for violations to the fines as indicated in the fee schedule adopted by a Resolution of the Village Council. These fees are subject to change from time to time by Village Council Resolution.

SECTION 4-5 REGARDING Injury to property

Amend Chapter 4, Article I, Section 4-5

Chapter 4, Article I, Section 4-5 is hereby amended with: changing misdemeanor to municipal civil infraction and removing 'harboring' as follows:

An owner, keeper, possessor or person in charge of any animal.... is guilty of a municipal civil infraction, subjecting persons found responsible for violations to the fines as indicated in the fee

schedule adopted by a Resolution of the Village Council. These fees are subject to change from time to time by Village Council Resolution.

SECTION 4-6 REGARDING Control and removal of animal excrement

Amend Chapter 4, Article I, Section 4-6 (a)

Chapter 4, Article I, Section 4-6 (a) is hereby amended with: changing misdemeanor to municipal civil infraction and removing 'harborer' as follows:

An owner, keeper, possessor or person in charge of any animal which discharges.... is guilty of a municipal civil infraction, subjecting persons found responsible for violations to the fines as indicated in the fee schedule adopted by a Resolution of the Village Council. These fees are subject to change from time to time by Village Council Resolution.

SECTION 4-7 REGARDING Cleanliness of yards, runs

Amend Chapter 4, Article I, Section 4-7

Chapter 4, Article I, Section 4-7 is hereby amended with: changing misdemeanor to municipal civil infraction as follows:

An owner who fails to comply...is guilty of a municipal civil infraction, subjecting persons found responsible for violations to the fines as indicated in the fee schedule adopted by a Resolution of the Village Council. These fees are subject to change from time to time by Village Council Resolution.

SECTION 4-8 REGARDING Cruelty to animals

Amend Chapter 4, Article I, Section 4-8 as follows:

Chapter 4, Article I, Section 4-8 (a) is hereby amended with: changing misdemeanor to municipal civil infraction as follows:

No person shall willfully or maliciously inflict unnecessary or needless cruelty... An owner who fails to comply with this section is guilty of a municipal civil infraction, subjecting persons found responsible for violations to the fines as indicated in the fee schedule adopted by a Resolution of the Village Council. These fees are subject to change from time to time by Village Council Resolution.

Chapter 4, Article I Section 4-8 (b) is hereby amended with: changing misdemeanor to municipal civil infraction and removing 'harborer' as follows:

No person owning, keeping, possessing or in charge of any animal shall fail... An owner who fails to comply with this section is guilty of a municipal civil infraction, subjecting persons found responsible for violations to the fines as indicated in the fee schedule adopted by a Resolution of the Village Council. These fees are subject to change from time to time by Village Council Resolution.

Chapter 4, Article I Section 4-8 (c) is hereby amended with: changing misdemeanor to municipal

civil infraction as follows:

A person who willfully, maliciously, and without just cause or excuse kills... is guilty of a municipal civil infraction, subjecting persons found responsible for violations to the fines as indicated in the fee schedule adopted by a Resolution of the Village Council. These fees are subject to change from time to time by Village Council Resolution.

SECTION 4-9 REGARDING Animal fighting

Amend Chapter 4, Article I, Section 4-9 (b) as follows:

Chapter 4, Article I, Section 4-9 (b) is hereby amended with: Reference MCL 750.49

Amend Chapter 4, Article I, Section 4-10 as follows:

Chapter 4, Article I, Section 4-10 (a) is hereby amended with: changing misdemeanor to municipal civil infraction and removing 'harborer' as follows:

(a) No person shall own, keep or possess any animal which by loud, frequent, or habitual barking, yelping, howling, growling, cackling, crying or any other noise causes an annoyance to the neighborhood. For the first violation of this subsection, the person shall be guilty of a municipal civil infraction. For all subsequent violations of this subsection, the person shall be guilty of a municipal civil infraction.

Chapter 4, Article I, Section 4-10 (b) is hereby amended with: changing misdemeanor to municipal civil infraction and removing 'harborer' as follows:

(b) No person shall own, keep or possess any animal which habitually barks, howls, yelps, growls, cackles, cries, or makes any other noise to the great discomfort of the peace and quiet of the neighborhood, or in such manner as to materially disturb or annoy persons in the neighborhood who are of ordinary sensibilities. Such animals are hereby declared to be a public nuisance.

SECTION III

AMENDMENT OF CHAPTER 4, ARTICLE 2, SECTION 4-32 REGARDING Dangerous Animals

Amend Chapter 4, Article II, Section 4-32

Chapter 4, Article II, Section 4-32 is hereby amended with: changing misdemeanor to municipal civil infraction and remove 'harborer' as follows:

No person shall own, keep or possess any dangerous animal in the village. An owner who fails to comply with this section is guilty of a municipal civil infraction, subjecting persons found responsible for violations to the fines as indicated in the fee schedule adopted by a Resolution of the Village Council. These fees are subject to change from time to time by Village Council Resolution.

AMENDMENT OF CHAPTER 4, ARTICLE 2, SECTION 4-33 REGARDING Notice of Keeping

Dangerous Animals

Amend Chapter 4, Article II, Section 4-33

Chapter 4, Article II, Section 4-33 is hereby amended with: changing Police Department to Law Enforcement and removing 'harborer' as follows:

Upon the written complaint of any person that another person owns or is keeping a dangerous animal in violation of this chapter in the village, Law Enforcement personnel or their authorized deputy shall cause the matter to be investigated; and if after investigation the facts indicate that such person named in the complaint is in fact the owner or is keeping any such dangerous animal in the village, they shall send written notice to the person requiring such person to safely remove the animal from the village within five days of the date of this notice. Notice as provided in this section shall not be required where such dangerous animal has previously caused serious physical harm or injury or death to any person or has escaped and is at large, in which case the police department shall cause the animal to be immediately seized and impounded, according to the provisions of section 4-34, or killed if seizure and impoundment are not possible without risk or serious physical harm or death to any person.

AMENDMENT OF CHAPTER 4, ARTICLE 2, SECTION 4-33 REGARDING Seizure or Impounding of Dangerous Animals

Amend Chapter 4, Article II, Section 4-34

Chapter 4, Article II, Section 4-34 (a) is hereby amended with: changing Police Department to Law Enforcement personnel and removing 'harborer' as follows:

(a) Law Enforcement personnel or their authorized deputy shall forthwith cause to be seized and impounded any dangerous animal, where the person owning or keeping such animal has failed to comply with the notice sent pursuant to section 4-33. Upon a seizure and impoundment, the animal shall be delivered to a place of confinement, which may be with any organization which is authorized by law to accept, own, keep or harbor such animals.

Chapter 4, Article II, Section 4-34 (b) is hereby amended with: changing Police Department to Law Enforcement personnel as follows:

(b) If, during the course of seizing and impounding any such animal, the animal poses a risk of serious physical harm or death to any person, persons authorized by Law Enforcement personnel may render the animal immobile by means of tranquilizers or other safe drugs, or if that is not safely possible, then the animal may be killed.

SECTION IV

AMENDMENT OF CHAPTER 4, ARTICLE III

SECTION 4-61 REGARDING Number of dogs permitted; exceptions

Amend Chapter 4, Article III, Section 4-61 (a)

Chapter 4, Article III, Section 4-61 (a) is hereby amended with: Reference MCL 287.262

SECTION 4-62 REGARDING License and tag required

Amend Chapter 4, Article III, Section 4-62

Chapter 4, Article III, Section 4-62 is hereby amended with: changing misdemeanor to municipal civil infraction as follows:

All dogs over the age of six months within the village ... An owner who fails to comply with this section is guilty of a municipal civil infraction, subjecting persons found responsible for violations to the fines as indicated in the fee schedule adopted by a Resolution of the Village Council. These fees are subject to change from time to time by Village Council Resolution.

SECTION 4-64 REGARDING Immunization required

Amend Chapter 4, Article III, Section 4-64

Chapter 4, Article III, Section 4-64 is hereby amended with: changing misdemeanor to municipal civil infraction as follows:

No dog shall be permitted within the village unless such dog has been immunized ... An owner who fails to comply with this section is guilty of a municipal civil infraction, subjecting persons found responsible for violations to the fines as indicated in the fee schedule adopted by a Resolution of the Village Council. These fees are subject to change from time to time by Village Council Resolution.

SECTION V

AMENDMENT OF CHAPTER 10, ARTICLE IV, SECTION 10-88 REGARDING Willful
destruction of tree; penalties

Amend Chapter 10, Article IV, Section 10-88

Chapter 10, Article IV, Section 10-88 is hereby amended with: changing misdemeanor to municipal civil infraction as follows:

Any person who shall willfully injure, deface, tear or destroy any tree ... shall be guilty of a municipal civil infraction, subjecting persons found responsible for violations to the fines as indicated in the fee schedule adopted by a Resolution of the Village Council. These fees are subject to change from time to time by Village Council Resolution.

SECTION VI
SEVERABILITY

The provisions of this Chapter are hereby declared to be severable, and should any provision, Section or part thereof be declared to be invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall only affect the particular provision, Section or part thereof involved in such decision and shall not affect or invalidate the remainder of this Chapter,

which shall continue in full force and effect.

SECTION VII
REPEAL

All other ordinances and parts of ordinances, or amendments thereto, of Lawrence Village in conflict with the provisions of this Chapter are hereby repealed. However, a prosecution that is pending on the effective date of this ordinance and that arose from a violation of an ordinance repealed or amended by this ordinance, or a prosecution that is started within 1 year after the effective date of this ordinance arising from a violation of an ordinance repealed or amended by this ordinance and that was committed before the effective date of this ordinance, shall be tried and determined exactly as if the ordinance had not been repealed or amended.

SECTION VIII
UNCHANGED

All other acts, Sections, and provisions of the Village's codification and ordinances shall remain in full force and effect except as changed by this Chapter.

SECTION IX
RECODIFICATION

The Code of Ordinances is hereby amended to recodify the numbering of chapters, articles, acts, Sections, and provisions to conform to a standard or model codification scheme established by Ordinance. The above repeal and replacement may be inserted into the respective chapter, article, Section, and other designations not necessarily contained herein.

SECTION X
EFFECTIVE DATE

This Ordinance shall take effect 7 days after publication.

Motion offered by Deloach and supported by Rowlee.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: Crandall, Gritter, Rowlee, Deloach, Glennie

No: None

Absent: Lorenzo

ORDINANCE DECLARED ADOPTED

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the above is a true copy of an ordinance adopted by the Lawrence Village Council at a regular meeting held on June 10, 2025, at 6 p.m., pursuant to the required statutory

notice and procedures. Publication occurred in the Courier Leader on October 16, 2025. No copy is on file with the County Clerk as the Village maintains regular hours during each business day.



Amy Cordes, Manager
Village of Lawrence
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