

## ORDINANCE #09-2026

### BOROUGH OF STRATFORD, COUNTY OF CAMDEN AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE BOROUGH CODE TO PROVIDE FOR THE REGISTRATION AND ISSUANCE OF A “POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS DOG” LICENSE

**BE IT ORDAINED** by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Stratford, County of Camden, State of New Jersey, as follows:

#### **Section 1. Add**

6.04.150 – Potentially Dangerous Dog License; Registration; Fees.

**A. Adoption of State Law.** The Borough hereby adopts and incorporates all provisions of N.J.S.A. 4:19-23 et seq., as amended and supplemented, governing the identification, regulation, and licensing of dogs declared *potentially dangerous* by order of the Municipal Court.

**B. Court Order Required.** No potentially dangerous dog license shall be issued unless and until the Borough Clerk receives a certified copy of a Potentially Dangerous Dog Order issued by the Stratford Municipal Court pursuant to N.J.S.A. 4:19-23.

**C. Compliance Prerequisites.** Prior to issuance or renewal of a potentially dangerous dog license, the owner shall submit documentation demonstrating compliance with all requirements of N.J.S.A. 4:19-24 through 4:19-30, including but not limited to:

1. Construction of a secure, locked enclosure approved by the Animal Control Officer; and a zoning permit for the same;
2. Posting of required warning signage on the premises;
3. Proof of liability insurance or surety bond in the minimum amount required by State law;
4. Permanent identification of the dog by tattoo or microchip;
5. Any additional conditions imposed by the Municipal Court.

**D. Annual License Fee.** The owner of a potentially dangerous dog shall pay an annual license fee of one hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00), which is the maximum fee permitted under N.J.S.A. 4:19-31. This fee is in addition to any other fees required under N.J.S.A. 4:19-15.2 for general dog licensing including late fees to the Borough of Stratford.

**E. Special Registration and Tag.** Upon payment of the fee and verification of compliance, the Borough Clerk shall issue:

1. A special potentially dangerous dog license with a unique registration number; and
2. A distinctive red identification tag, clearly marking the dog as licensed under N.J.S.A. 4:19-23 et seq. Such tags shall be provided at Borough expense and shall be affixed to the dog's collar or harness at all times.

**F. Recordkeeping.** The Borough Clerk shall maintain a separate permanent record of all potentially dangerous dog licenses issued, including:

1. Owner name and address;
2. Dog description (breed, color, sex, identifying marks);
3. Registration number;

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4. Date of issuance and renewal;
5. Compliance documentation.

**G. Renewal.** Potentially dangerous dog licenses shall be renewed annually, subject to continued compliance with all statutory and court-ordered conditions. Failure to renew shall be reported immediately to the Animal Control Officer.

**H. Revocation or Modification.** If the Municipal Court modifies or revokes a potentially dangerous dog designation, the Clerk shall update Borough records accordingly and notify the Animal Control Officer.

**I. Violations and Penalties.** Any owner who fails to comply with this section or any provision of N.J.S.A. 4:19-23 et seq. shall be subject to penalties as provided by State law and Section 6.04.130 of the Borough Code, in addition to any enforcement action authorized by the Municipal Court.

### Section 2. Severability.

If any portion of this Ordinance is determined invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such determination shall not affect the remaining provisions.

### Section 3. Effective Date.

This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon posting, publication, and final passage as required by law.

### ATTEST:

I certify that the foregoing Ordinance 09-2026 was approved for final adoption by the Governing Body of the Borough of Stratford, County of Camden, State of New Jersey at a meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2026.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Linda Hall, Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
September 9, 2026

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Michelle Hack, RMC

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| Record of Council Vote on Introduction | Aye | Nay | Abstain | Absent |
|----------------------------------------|-----|-----|---------|--------|
| Councilman Gilligan                    |     |     |         |        |
| Councilman Bove                        |     |     |         |        |
| Councilwoman Farrell                   |     |     |         |        |
| Councilman Gandy                       |     |     |         |        |
| Councilwoman Martin                    |     |     |         |        |
| Councilman Tolomeo                     |     |     |         |        |

| Record of Council Vote on Final Passage | Aye | Nay | Abstain | Absent |
|-----------------------------------------|-----|-----|---------|--------|
| Councilman Gilligan                     |     |     |         |        |
| Councilman Bove                         |     |     |         |        |
| Councilwoman Farrell                    |     |     |         |        |
| Councilman Gandy                        |     |     |         |        |
| Councilwoman Martin                     |     |     |         |        |
| Councilman Tolomeo                      |     |     |         |        |

## **ORDINANCE #09-2026**

### **NOTICE OF PENDING ORDINANCE**

The ordinance published herewith was introduced and passed upon first reading at the Regular Meeting of the Governing Body of the Borough of Stratford, in the County of Camden, State of New Jersey, held on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of August 14, 2026. It will be further considered for final passage after public hearing thereon, at the meeting of the Governing Body to be held in the Borough Hall, in the Borough of Stratford on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of September 2026 at 6:30 PM. Copies of the ordinance will be made available during the week prior to and up to and including the date of such meeting at the Clerk's Office in the Borough Hall to the members of the general public who shall request the same.

### **EXPLANATORY STATEMENT**

This amendment adds a new section to the Borough Code establishing a Potentially Dangerous Dog License consistent with N.J.S.A. 4:19-23 et seq. The change is required to ensure Stratford Borough has a clear, enforceable process for licensing any dog formally designated as potentially dangerous by the Municipal Court.

The amendment incorporates all statutory requirements, including mandatory compliance inspections, secure enclosure standards, warning signage, permanent identification, and liability insurance. It also establishes the state-authorized maximum annual license fee of \$150, as permitted under N.J.S.A. 4:19-31, in addition to administrative fees; and requires issuance of a distinctive red identification tag to differentiate these dogs from standard licensed pets.

This addition strengthens public safety, aligns Borough procedures with State law, and provides a clear administrative framework for the Clerk, Animal Control Officer, and Municipal Court when managing potentially dangerous dog cases.

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Michelle Hack, RMC, Borough Clerk