

**KNOWLTON TOWNSHIP
COUNTY OF WARREN
ORDINANCE 2023-10**

**AN ORDINANCE TO PROHIBIT THE FEEDING OF UNCONFINED WILDLIFE
IN ANY PUBLIC PARK OR ON ANY OTHER PROPERTY OWNED OR
OPERATED BY KNOWLTON TOWNSHIP**

WHEREAS, in order to prevent pollutants from being transported to local water bodies from Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s), federal stormwater regulations require MS4 operators to obtain a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit and implement a stormwater management program; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to NJPDES Master General Permit No. NJ0141852, as of January 1, 2023, all 101 New Jersey municipalities previously assigned to Tier B, such as Knowlton Township, have now been assigned to Tier A, in order to help better manage stormwater discharges and resulting pollutant and nutrient impacts to waterways.

WHEREAS, this reassignment requires Knowlton (and all former Tier B municipalities) to update their ordinances to be consistent with Tier A standards.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Knowlton, in the County of Warren and State of New Jersey, as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 134-27.2 of the Code of the Township of Knowlton, entitled “Feeding of Wildlife” is hereby added as follows:

A. Purpose.

This section prohibits the feeding of unconfined wildlife in any public park or on any other property owned or operated by Knowlton Township, so as to protect public health, safety and welfare, and to prescribe penalties for failure to comply.

B. Definitions.

For the purpose of this section, the following terms, phrases, words and their derivations shall have the meanings stated herein unless their use in the text of this Chapter clearly demonstrates a different meaning. When not inconsistent with the context, words used in the present tense include the future, words used in the plural number include the singular number, and words used in the singular number include the plural number. The word "shall" is always mandatory and not merely directory.

Feed – to give, place, expose, deposit, distribute or scatter any edible material with the intention of feeding, attracting or enticing wildlife. Feeding does not include baiting in the legal taking of fish and/or game.

Person – any individual, corporation, company, partnership, firm, association, or political subdivision of this State subject to municipal jurisdiction.

Wildlife – all animals that are neither human nor domesticated.

C. Prohibited Conduct:

No person shall feed, in any public park or on any other property owned or operated by Knowlton Township, any wildlife, excluding confined wildlife (for example, wildlife confined in zoos, parks or rehabilitation centers, or unconfined wildlife at environmental education centers, or feral cats as part of an approved Trap-Neuter-Release program).

D. Enforcement:

- a. This ordinance shall be enforced by the Knowlton Township Zoning Officer, County Health Department, or New Jersey State Police.
- b. Any person found to be in violation of this ordinance shall be ordered to cease the feeding immediately.

E. Violations and Penalties:

Any person(s) who is found to be in violation of the provisions of this ordinance shall be subject to a fine of not less than \$50 nor more than \$500 for each offense.

SECTION 2. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict or inconsistent with any part of this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent that they are in conflict or inconsistent.

SECTION 3. If any section, provision, or part of provision of this Ordinance shall be held to be unenforceable or invalid by any court, such holding shall not affect the validity of this Ordinance, or any part thereof, other than the part so held unenforceable or invalid.

SECTION 4. This Ordinance shall take effect after passage and publication in the manner provided by 1

SECTION VI. Severability:

Each section, subsection, sentence, clause and phrase of this Ordinance is declared to be an independent section, subsection, sentence, clause and phrase, and the finding or holding of any such portion of this Ordinance to be unconstitutional, void, or ineffective for any cause, or reason, shall not affect any other portion of this Ordinance.

SECTION VII. Effective date:

This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its adoption and any publication as may be required by law.

Introduction: July 10, 2023

Motion: Shipps

Second: Van Horn

AIF: Bates- yes, Cuntala- yes, Mazza- yes, Shipps- yes, Van Horn- yes

Adoption: August 24, 2023

Motion: Cuntala

Second: Shipps

Roll Call: Bates-yes, Cuntala-yes, Mazza-yes, Shipps-yes, Van Horn-yes

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