

ORDINANCE NO. 47

TRAPPING ORDINANCE

The Town Board of the Town of Geneva, Walworth County, Wisconsin, finds that the Town of Geneva has become increasingly populous and that the setting of traps in the Town has been endangering residents of the Town and their pets and therefore, in order to promote the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the Town of Geneva, the Town Board does hereby ordain Ordinance No. 47 as follows:

Section 1. Purpose.

The purpose of this Ordinance is to regulate and restrict the setting of animal traps in the Town of Geneva.

Section 2. Definitions.

- A. "Animal Traps". Any device, mechanism, or contraption that is designed or made to close upon and kill an animal including, without enumeration, cinnabar traps and snares.
- B. "Nuisance Animals". Animals causing damage to a landowner's property or presenting a danger to its inhabitants.

Section 3. Setting of Animal Traps Regulated.

- A. It is unlawful to set or operate an animal trap within the Town of Geneva without first obtaining written permission to do so from the landowner of the premises on which said animal trap is set and operated. When setting or operating said traps, every trapper shall have said written permission in his or her immediate possession and shall display same upon demand to any officer of the law.
- B. No person shall set or operate any trap as defined in this Ordinance in any of the following designated areas:
 - 1. Within 50 feet of the hard surface of any roads within the Town of Geneva.
 - 2. Within 100 yards of any structure devoted to human occupancy without specific written permission to do so from the owner and occupants of said structure.
 - 3. Within 50 feet from the center of the footpath known as Warbler Walkway Nature Trail (also known as Como Lake Nature Trail), which was the former Chicago and Northwestern Railroad track bed running from Schofield Road to Highway 50.

Section 4. Nuisance Animals.

Landowners within the Town of Geneva may make application to the Town of Geneva Police Department for a special permit to trap nuisance animals within the Township. The Town Board may, upon said application, authorize in writing the trapping of such nuisance animals in a designated area and for a designated period of time.

Section 5. Box Traps.

Nothing in this Ordinance shall prevent the live trapping of animals with box traps.

Section 6. Penalty.

Any person who violates any provision of this Ordinance shall, upon conviction thereof, forfeit not less than One Hundred (\$100.00) Dollars nor more than Five Hundred (\$500.00) Dollars and costs of prosecution for each violation, and in default of payment of such forfeiture and costs, shall be imprisoned in the County Jail until payment thereof, but not exceeding thirty (30) days.

Section 7. Severability.

If any Section, Subsection, Sentence, Clause or Phrase of this Ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional by reason of any decision of any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of any other Section, Subsection, Sentence, Clause, or Phrase hereof. The Town Chairman and Town Board of the Town of Geneva hereby declare that they would have passed this Ordinance and each Section, Subsection, Sentence, Clause, Phrase, or Portion thereof irrespective of the fact that any one or more Sections, Subsections, Sentences, Clauses, Phrases, or Portions thereof may be declared invalid or unconstitutional.

Section 8. Effective Date.

This Ordinance shall be effective from and after its adoption by the Town Board and its posting or publication thereof as provided by the Statutes of the State of Wisconsin.

Adopted the 8th day of September, 1992.

THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF GENEVA,
WALWORTH COUNTY, WISCONSIN

Richard Ploch, Chairman (Signature on File)

Kenneth W. Piantino, Supervisor (Signature on File)

Richard P. Behof, Supervisor (Signature on File)

ATTEST:

Phyllis Schinke, Clerk (Signature on File)