



**BOROUGH OF NORTHVALE  
County of Bergen  
State of New Jersey**

**ORDINANCE #25-11**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 209 “ANIMALS”, ARTICLE 1  
“GENERAL PROVISIONS”, OF THE BOROUGH CODE TO PERMIT CHICKENS AT  
THE NORTHVALE PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education of the Borough of Northvale houses chickens for educational purposes in the enclosed courtyard at the Northvale Public School; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough Code does not presently allow for the keeping of chickens in the Borough but the Borough wishes to create an exception for the above purpose.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED**, by the Governing Body of the Borough of Northvale, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, that Chapter 209, Article 1 of the Borough Code is hereby amended as follows.

**Section 1:**

**§ 209-1 Keeping of certain animals restricted.**

No person, firm or corporation shall keep or allow to be kept in any building or enclosure or any premises in the Borough of Northvale of which he or they may be the owner, lessee, tenant or occupant any live fowl or other livestock or any hoofed animal or animals as described under § 209-3, Classifications.

**§ 209-2 Findings.**

It shall be in the interest of the residents of the borough to regulate and control the keeping of animals in the borough for the following reasons:

**A.**

The keeping of animals may foster the breeding of insects and rodents and the germination of bacteria and other infectious microbes, all of which may cause diseases.

**B.**

The keeping of animals may create foul and noxious odors as well as disturbing noises.

**C.**

The keeping of animals may otherwise affect the public health, welfare and safety.



§ 209-3 **Classifications.**

The following shall apply:

**A.**

Class I -- Includes a lion, tiger, bear or any other animal of large size belonging to the biological order of Carnivora, or any other undomesticated mammal or reptile of large size, except as provided in Class II and Class III below.

**B.**

Class II -- Includes a horse, pony or any other species of animal belonging to the biological order of Perissodactyla, or a cow or any other species of animal belonging to the biological order of Artiodactyla, provided that Class II is constituted only of animals of which the average weight for an adult of this species is greater than 600 pounds, except for ponies.

**C.**

Class III -- Includes a sheep or goat or any other species of animal belonging to the biological order of Artiodactyla or any species of animal belonging to the biological order of Perissodactyla, provided that Class III is constituted only of animals which the average weight for an adult of the species is less than 600 pounds.

**D.**

Class IV -- Any other exotic animal, bird, fowl, reptile or poultry, including pigeons.

§ 209-4 **Exceptions.**

**A.**

Domestic cats and dogs. Domestic cats and domestic dogs are specifically excluded from the classifications of animals herein.

**B.**

Definitions. As used in this section, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

**DOMESTIC CAT**

A member of the Felidae family long kept by man as a pet, but not including members of the Felidae family that usually live in a wild state.

**DOMESTIC DOG**

A member of the Canidae family long kept by man as a pet, but not including members of the Canidae family usually living in a wild state.

**C. For Educational purposes, chickens may be kept by the Northvale Board of Education at the Northvale Public School in the enclosed courtyard.**

§ 209-5 **Restricted animals.**

The following shall apply:

**A.**

**Except as set forth above, no** animal of Classes I, II, III and IV shall be kept or maintained in the Borough of Northvale.



**§ 209-6 Declaration of nuisance.**

In accordance with the purposes set forth, any violation of any section of this article will be deemed to constitute a condition that will endanger the health, safety and welfare of the public and is hereby declared to be a public nuisance. Such nuisance is subject to abatement at the expense of the property owner.

**§ 209-7 Violations and penalties.**

Any person who violates or refuses to comply with any section of this article shall be liable to a fine of not less than \$5 nor more than \$500, plus cost of court for each offense.

Section 2. This Ordinance shall take effect upon passage and publication as provided by Law.

*Joseph E. McGuire*

Joseph E. McGuire, Mayor

Attest:

*Frances M. Weston*

Frances Weston  
Municipal Clerk

Introduced: July 9, 2025

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: August 13, 2025

Effective: August 20, 2025

