

# Local Law Filing

(Use this form to file a local law with the Secretary of State.)

Text of law should be given as amended. Do not include matter being eliminated and do not use italics or underlining to indicate new matter.

County  City  Town  Village  
(Select one.)

of Deerfield

FILED  
STATE RECORDS  
JUN 18 2024

Local Law No. 4 of the year 2024

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

A local law Town of Deerfield Cat Control Law  
(Insert Title)

Be it enacted by the The Town Board members of the  
(Name of Legislative Body)

County  City  Town  Village  
(Select one.)

of Deerfield

as follows:

See attached

(If additional space is needed, attach pages the same size as this sheet, and number each.)

**(Complete the certification in the paragraph that applies to the filing of this local law and strike out that which is not applicable.)**

**1. (Final adoption by local legislative body only.)**

I hereby certify that the local law annexed hereto, designated as local law No. 4 of 2024 of the (County)(City)(Town)(Village) of Deerfield was duly passed by the Town Board members on June 10th 2024, in accordance with the applicable provisions of law.  
*(Name of Legislative Body)*

**2. (Passage by local legislative body with approval, no disapproval or repassage after disapproval by the Elective Chief Executive Officer\*.)**

I hereby certify that the local law annexed hereto, designated as local law No. \_\_\_\_\_ of 20\_\_\_\_ of the (County)(City)(Town)(Village) of \_\_\_\_\_ was duly passed by the \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_, and was (approved)(not approved) (repassed after disapproval) by the \_\_\_\_\_ and was deemed duly adopted on \_\_\_\_\_ 2024, in accordance with the applicable provisions of law.  
*(Name of Legislative Body)*  
*(Elective Chief Executive Officer\*)*

**3. (Final adoption by referendum.)**

I hereby certify that the local law annexed hereto, designated as local law No. \_\_\_\_\_ of 20\_\_\_\_ of the (County)(City)(Town)(Village) of \_\_\_\_\_ was duly passed by the \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_, and was (approved)(not approved) (repassed after disapproval) by the \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_.  
*(Name of Legislative Body)*  
*(Elective Chief Executive Officer\*)*

Such local law was submitted to the people by reason of a (mandatory)(permissive) referendum, and received the affirmative vote of a majority of the qualified electors voting thereon at the (general)(special)(annual) election held on \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_, in accordance with the applicable provisions of law.

**4. (Subject to permissive referendum and final adoption because no valid petition was filed requesting referendum.)**

I hereby certify that the local law annexed hereto, designated as local law No. \_\_\_\_\_ of 20\_\_\_\_ of the (County)(City)(Town)(Village) of \_\_\_\_\_ was duly passed by the \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_, and was (approved)(not approved) (repassed after disapproval) by the \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_. Such local law was subject to permissive referendum and no valid petition requesting such referendum was filed as of \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_, in accordance with the applicable provisions of law.  
*(Name of Legislative Body)*  
*(Elective Chief Executive Officer\*)*

\* Elective Chief Executive Officer means or includes the chief executive officer of a county elected on a county-wide basis or, if there be none, the chairperson of the county legislative body, the mayor of a city or village, or the supervisor of a town where such officer is vested with the power to approve or veto local laws or ordinances.

**5. (City local law concerning Charter revision proposed by petition.)**

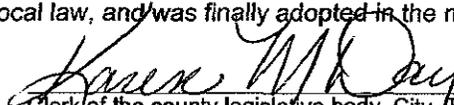
I hereby certify that the local law annexed hereto, designated as local law No. \_\_\_\_\_ of 20\_\_\_\_ of the City of \_\_\_\_\_ having been submitted to referendum pursuant to the provisions of section (36)(37) of the Municipal Home Rule Law, and having received the affirmative vote of a majority of the qualified electors of such city voting thereon at the (special)(general) election held on \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_, became operative.

**6. (County local law concerning adoption of Charter.)**

I hereby certify that the local law annexed hereto, designated as local law No. \_\_\_\_\_ of 20\_\_\_\_ of the County of \_\_\_\_\_ State of New York, having been submitted to the electors at the General Election of November \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_, pursuant to subdivisions 5 and 7 of section 33 of the Municipal Home Rule Law, and having received the affirmative vote of a majority of the qualified electors of the cities of said county as a unit and a majority of the qualified electors of the towns of said county considered as a unit voting at said general election, became operative.

**(If any other authorized form of final adoption has been followed, please provide an appropriate certification.)**

I further certify that I have compared the preceding local law with the original on file in this office and that the same is a correct transcript therefrom and of the whole of such original local law, and was finally adopted in the manner indicated in paragraph \_\_\_\_\_ above.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of the county legislative body, City, Town or Village Clerk or officer designated by local legislative body

Date: 06/13/2024

(Seal)

LOCAL LAW NO. 4 of 2024

REGULATION OF CATS

IN THE TOWN OF DEERFIELD

A Local Law entitled "Town of Deerfield Cat Control Law"

BE IT ENACTED BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF  
DEERFIELD, IN THE COUNTY OF ONEIDA, NEW YORK,  
AS FOLLOWS:

§ 1. Purpose.

Cats in the Town of Deerfield have in some instances been allowed to roam free on property of others and are causing annoyance and damage to the persons and properties of others; therefore, the Town Board of the Town of Deerfield enacts the following article to protect the health, safety and property of others from annoyance and damage caused by cats and to establish the responsibility and liability of cat owners arising from the conduct of their pats.

§ 2. Title.

The title of this article shall be the "Town of Deerfield Cat Control Law".

§ 3. Definitions.

As used in this article, the following words shall have the following respective meanings:

**CONTROL OFFICER** -- The person authorized by the Town Board, by resolution, to enforce the provisions of this article. The Control Officer shall have all the powers of a constable or other peace officer in the execution of the provisions of this article, including the service of a summons, the issuing and serving of an appearance ticket and the service and execution of any other order of process, notwithstanding any provision of the Uniform Justice Court Act.

**OWNER** -- Any person who is an owner of a cat or any person who keeps, harbors or feeds a cat. The owner need not be a resident of the Town of Deerfield, but for a violation to occur, the cat must be in the town limits of the Town of Deerfield.

**§ 4. Restricted acts.**

It shall be unlawful for any owner of or any person harboring any cat to permit or allow such cat in the Town of Deerfield to:

- A. Be vicious or to spray or to defecate in such a way as to cause annoyance to any person other than the owner or person harboring such cat;
- B. Cause damage or destruction to property or to commit a nuisance upon the premises of a person other than the owner or person harboring such cat; and
- C. Remain in the Town of Deerfield unless vaccinated currently against feline rabies.
- D. Defecate on property other than the owner's premises without removing or otherwise cleaning up the same.
- E. Allow a cat to be kept in premises that are in an unclean or unsanitary condition

**§ 5. Judicial jurisdiction.**

Any Town Justice of the Town of Deerfield shall have jurisdiction to hear all actions and proceedings hereunder and of all prosecutions for the violations of this article.

**§ 6. Complaints.**

All complaints concerning alleged violations of this article shall be communicated to the Town of Deerfield Control Officer. All such complaints shall be investigated, and it shall

be the duty of the Town of Deerfield Control Officer, in the appropriate case, to proceed with civil or criminal enforcement of the article or any provision of law pertaining hereto.

**§7. Appearance tickets.**

The Control Officer having reasonable cause to believe that a person has violated this article, shall issue and serve upon such person an appearance ticket for such violation. The appearance ticket shall be in the form as prescribed by the resolution of the Town of Deerfield in accordance with the provisions of this article.

**§8. Enforcement; seizure of cats at large.**

It shall be the duty of the Town of Deerfield Control Officer to enforce the provisions of this article and to seize all cats found at large in violation of the article or which are ordered seized by a Town Justice.

**§9. Notification and redemption procedures; fees.**

- A. For any cat seized pursuant to this article, the following notification and redemption procedures shall be followed:
- (1) Unidentified cats shall be held for a period of five days from the date of seizure, during which time the owner may redeem the cat.
  - (2) For identified cats, the owner shall be notified personally or by certified mail, return receipt requested, of the facts of the seizure and the redemption procedure. If notification is made personally, the cat shall be held for seven days after the day of notice. If notification is made by mail, the cat shall be held for a period of nine days. The owner may redeem the cat during the foregoing time periods.
- B. In either of the above cases, the owner must produce proof of current vaccination against feline rabies and pay seizure and impoundment fees in order to redeem the cat. The seizure and impoundment fees shall be as set, from time to time, by resolution of the Town Board.

**§10. Failure to redeem.**

If not so redeemed, the owner shall forfeit all title to the cat, and the cat shall be sold, gifted or destroyed by the Town of Deerfield Control Officer. In the case of sale, the purchaser must pay all accrued charges and have said cat vaccinated against feline rabies if proof of vaccination does not already exist. The Control Officer who destroys or has destroyed a cat shall make a written report of such destruction and disposition to the Town Clerk, who shall keep a record thereof.

**§11. Authorization.**

The Town of Deerfield Control Officer is hereby authorized to pick up unwanted cats that are owned by residents who are financially unable to properly care for their cats, including the cost of vaccination against feline rabies, when such owner requests the Town to dispose of these cats, in accordance with the following rules:

- A. The owner of the cat must execute a form relinquishing all claim of ownership to the cat and agreeing to its disposition according to the law and absolving the Town of Deerfield and the Town of Deerfield Control Officer of any liability.
- B. The owner of the cat is responsible to pay all costs related to the disposition of the cat.

**§12. Limitation of pickup; discontinuance.**

The Town of Deerfield reserves the right to pick up those unwanted cats as space is available and to discontinue the service by resolution of the Town Board, if necessary.

**§13. Penalties for offenses.**

The first violation of this chapter and article shall be punishable by a fine of not less than Fifty Dollars (\$50.00), a second violation shall be punishable by a fine of not less than One Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$150.00) and third and any subsequent violations shall be punishable by a fine of not less than Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00). Restitution for the costs incurred by the Dog Control Officer should be considered.

**§14. Severability; Repealer.**

If any section, paragraph, subdivision, clause or provision of this local law shall be adjudged invalid, such adjudication shall apply only to the section, paragraph, subdivision, clause or provision so adjudged, and the remainder of this local law shall be deemed valid and effective. Any local law, ordinance or part thereof in conflict herewith is hereby repealed.

**§ 15. Effective Date.**

This Local Law shall become effective upon filing in the Office of the New York State Secretary of State.