

TOWNSHIPS ACT  
(Cap. 40:02)

**SOWA TOWNSHIP (CONTROL OF DOGS) BYE-LAWS, 1993**  
(Published on 19th February, 1993)

ARRANGEMENT OF BYE-LAWS

BYE-LAW

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Citation                    1. These Bye-laws may be cited as the Sowa Township (Dogs) Bye-laws, 1993.

Interpretation            2. In these Bye-laws, unless the context otherwise requires —  
“authority” means the township authority for Sowa Township;  
“dog” includes a bitch;  
“public place” includes any road, street, thoroughfare, bridge, foot pavement, open space or park and any enclosed space to which the public is admitted within Sowa Township;  
“rabies certificate” means a certificate signed by a veterinary officer within a period of three years prior to its production, stating that the dog has been vaccinated against rabies and that it was six months or more in age at the time of vaccination.

Barking, etc of dogs, and bitches in season            3. (1) No person shall permit the continual barking or whining of a dog owned by him or in his custody, so as to disturb the comfort of any inhabitants of Sowa Township.  
(2) No person shall allow any bitch owned by him or in his custody to be at large at such times as she is on heat or in season.

Troublesome, dangerous or infected dogs            4. (1) No person shall allow any troublesome, ferocious or dangerous dog owned by him or in his custody, or any dog owned by him or in his custody which is suffering from a contagious or infectious disease, to be at large off the premises on which such animal is normally kept.  
(2) Any person who keeps any dog of the nature described in sub-bye-law (1) shall display at the principal entrance of the property where the dog is kept, a legible sign reading “BEWARE OF THE DOG” or “TSHABA NTSA”.

Detention and destruction of abandoned or diseased dogs            5. (1) An employee of the authority authorized thereto by the Chief Executive Officer may detain and remove to kennels or other premises owned by the authority any dog which is at large, or not under the control of any person in a public place.  
(2) Where any dog detained under the provisions of sub-bye-law (1) is not claimed by or on behalf of its owner within a period of two weeks of such detention, it shall be deemed to be abandoned and, in such event it may be destroyed or otherwise disposed of as the authority may decide:

Provided that the authority may authorize the destruction of a dog before the expiration of the aforesaid period of two weeks where it has reason to believe it is suffering from any infectious or contagious disease of a serious nature and that the destruction of the dog is necessary for the purpose of controlling the spread of such disease.

(3) The owner of any dog detained under the provisions of this bye-law may reclaim such dog, so long as it remains in the custody of the authority, and its destruction is not required in accordance with the provisions of sub-bye-law (2), on payment of a fee of P2 for each day during which it has been so detained.

6. (1) No person shall keep a dog over the age of six months in Sowa Township unless it is licensed in terms of this bye-law:

Licensing  
of dogs

Provided that:

(a) a dog shall be required to be licensed within four weeks of its attaining the age of six months.

(b) a dog brought into Sowa Township during the course of a calendar year shall be required to be licensed within a period of four weeks from the date when it was so brought in.

(2) The licensing officer for the authority shall issue a dog licence on application, and on production of a rabies certificate, and on payment of a fee of P5, and such licence shall be issued in respect of the 12 month period commencing on 1st January in any year and terminating on 31st December of that year:

Provided that —

(a) the fee payable shall be half the amount prescribed if the dog is brought into the township area, or attains the age of six months, on or after 1st July in that year, as the case may be; and

(b) a person shall not be guilty of an offence under this bye-law if the dog licence issued in respect of the preceding calendar year is renewed before the 31st January of the next succeeding year.

(4) A licence issued under the provisions of this bye-law shall be in the form of a metal or plastic badge.

(5) No person shall permit any dog which is required to be licensed under the provisions of this bye-law to be at large unless it is wearing a dog collar to which a current licence issued under the provisions of this bye-law is affixed, and any dog at large in the township which is not wearing such a collar or licence may be detained and dealt with under and in accordance with the provisions of bye-law 5.

(6) Where a dog licence issued under the provisions of this bye-law has been lost, the licensing officer may issue a duplicate thereof on payment of a fee of P1.

7. Any person contravening any provision of these Bye-Laws, or not complying with any provision with which he is required to comply, shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable to a fine of P15 or, in default of payment, to imprisonment for two months.

Offences  
and  
penalties

MADE this 21st day of September, 1992.

*Chief Executive Officer  
for Sowa Township Authority.*

APPROVED this 21st day of September, 1992.

*C.J. BUTALE,  
Minister of Local Government,  
Land and Housing.*