

DOG CONTROL ORDINANCE OF THE  
TOWN OF LITCHFIELD, MAINE

Section 1. PURPOSE                      012889

The purpose of the Ordinance is to control dogs in the Town of Litchfield in the interest of health, safety and general welfare of its residents. Nothing in this Ordinance shall be construed to prevent the legal hunting of raccoons, rabbit or other game animals with a dog or dogs.

Section 2. DEFINITIONS

As used in this Ordinance, unless the context otherwise indicates:

- A. "Dog" shall be intended to mean both male and female.
- B. "Owner" shall be intended to mean any person or persons, firm, association or corporation owning, keeping or harboring a dog.
- C. "At large" shall be intended to mean off the premises of the owner and not controlled by a leash, cord or chain not more than eight feet (8') in length, or otherwise controlled by the owner or an agent of the owner, unless on other premises by permission of the owner or occupant thereof.
- D. "License", record and tag requirements shall be as prescribed and required by Maine Statutes Annotated, and all rules and regulations duly promulgated thereunder.

Section 3. DANGEROUS DOGS

"A dangerous dog" is hereby defined to be a dog which has caused bodily injury. The owner of any dangerous dog shall keep same confined in a secure enclosure or on a chain or leash controlled by the owner or his agent at all times. No person shall own, keep or harbor any dog which has caused harm off the premises of its owner to any person or persons two or more times.

Section 4. BARKING DOGS

No person shall own, keep or harbor any dog which by loud, frequent or habitual barking, howling, yelping or other loud or unusual noises shall disturb the peace of any person or persons.

Section V. IMPOUNDMENT

Any dangerous dog, barking dog which disturbs the peace, whether or not licensed, or any unlicensed dog, may, with or without complaint, be taken up and impounded by a police officer or dog control officer in a shelter designated by the Town as the Town Animal Shelter and there confined in a humane manner for a period of not more than fourteen (14) days.

- A. Any owner may regain possession of an impounded dog upon compliance with provisions of Section 7 of this Ordinance, and upon payment of the impoundment and boarding fees set forth herein. Any dog impounded under the provisions of this Ordinance and not reclaimed by the owner within said fourteen (14) days, shall be considered to be abandoned by the owner and the property of the Town Animal Shelter and may, after consultation with the Humane Society and/or the Animal Refuge League, be humanely destroyed or given to the Humane Society and/or the Animal Refuge League, or any person deemed to be responsible and a suitable owner.
- B. Where the ownership of any such dog is known, or can be reasonably ascertained by a police officer or dog control officer, such officer shall, if possible, notify the owner within three (3) days of such impoundment, but failure to give such notice shall in no way impose any liability upon the Town for the destruction or transfer to another of any dog so impounded and not reclaimed within said period of fourteen (14) days.
- C. Any dog impounded hereunder may be reclaimed by the owner or his agent during regular shelter hours only upon payment of the following fees:

1. Upon payment to the Town at the town office an impoundment fee of \$20.00, except upon the second impoundment of the same dog, the fee shall be \$30.00, and upon the third and all subsequent impoundments of the same dog, the fee shall be \$100.00; and upon presentation of the payment to the animal shelter, currently designated by the Town of Litchfield, Maine to receive impounded dogs, receipt showing evidence of payment to the Town of Litchfield, Maine of the above fees.
2. Upon payment to that animal shelter of a board fee in accordance with the current fee schedule of the Animal Shelter, but in no case less than \$10.00 per day.
3. Cost of any shots which the dog may have received while impounded, to be paid to the shelter operator.
4. License fee, if the dog is not currently licensed, to be paid the municipal clerk of the municipality where the owner or his agent resides.

Section 6. PENALTY

Any person who fails to comply with the provisions of this Ordinance shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$75.00, nor more than \$400.00, plus reasonable attorney's fees and costs incurred by the Town of Litchfield, Maine, recoverable in a civil action in Maine District Court. The Town of Litchfield or any appropriate officer may institute proceedings to enjoin violations of this Ordinance. Any fines imposed under this Ordinance shall revert to the Town of Litchfield, Maine.

Section 7. INTERFERENCE FORBIDDEN

No person shall interfere with, hinder or molest any police officer or dog control officer in the performance of any duty of such officer, or seek release of any dog in the custody of a police officer or dog control officer, except as herein provided.

Section 8. RECORDS

It shall be the duty of a police officer or dog control officer to keep, or cause to be kept, an accurate and detailed record of the licensing, impoundment and disposition of all dogs coming into his custody.

Section 9. ENFORCEMENT


The Litchfield Animal Control Officer and the Litchfield Police Department is hereby directed and empowered to enforce the provisions of this Ordinance.

Section 10. SEVERABILITY

If any portion of this Ordinance is held to be unconstitutional or invalid, such portion shall be deemed a separate, distinct and independent provision and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining provisions thereof.


Approved 6/18/94  
Amended : 6/10/95

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:

  
Elaine McFee, Town Clerk

RECEIVED KENNEBEC SS.

95 JUN 28 AM 9:00

ATTEST:   
REGISTER OF DEEDS