

DOG ORDINANCE
TOWN OF WILTON

Amended
Article 42
June 22 1998

Amended Article 10
June 17, 2002

Section I: Authority:

- 1. This Ordinance is adopted pursuant to Home Rule powers as granted in Article VIII-A of the Maine Constitution and Title 30-A, M>R>S>A. Section 3001.
- 2. This Ordinance shall be known as the Town of Wilton, Maine Dog Ordinance adopted and effective by vote of the Town Meeting on June 22, 1998. It shall replace the "Regulations as to Dogs," which was adopted on March 13, 1972.

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

- 1. "Dog" shall be intended to mean both male and female.
- 2. "Owner" shall be intended to mean any person or persons, firm, association or corporation owning, keeping, or harboring a dog.
- 3. "At large" shall be intended to mean off the premises of the owner, and not under the control of the owner or a member of his immediate family either by leash, cord, chain or otherwise.

Section III: Running at Large: No person shall cause or permit any dog owned or kept by him to run at large within the Town limits. Dogs while on any public way or place shall be under restraint, within the meaning of this Ordinance, if he is controlled by a leash, or at "heel", beside a competent person and obedient to that person's commands or on or within a vehicle being driven or parked on the streets, or within the property limits of its owner or keeper. Nothing in this Ordinance shall be held to require the leashing of any dog while on private premises. A leash shall not be more than eight feet long.

Section IV: Impoundment: Dogs found running at large shall be taken up and impounded in a kennel designated by the Town and there confined in a humane manner for a period of not less than fourteen days; and may thereafter be disposed

of in a humane manner if not claimed by their owners.

The Town or its duly authorized agent may transfer title of all animals held by it after the legal detention period has expired and the animal has not been claimed by its owner.

When dogs are found running at large and their ownership is known, such dogs need not be impounded but the Town, through its duly authorized agents, may, at its discretion, cite the owners of such dogs to appear in court to answer charges of violation of this Ordinance.

The owner shall be entitled to resume possession of any impounded dog upon the payment of impoundment fees as set forth herein. Any other animal impounded under the provisions of this Ordinance may be reclaimed by its owner upon payment of the impoundment fees as set forth herein.

Any animal impounded under the provisions of this Ordinance and not reclaimed by its owner within fourteen days, may be humanely destroyed or placed in the custody of some person deemed to be a responsible and suitable owner, who will agree to comply with the provisions of this Ordinance.

Section V: Barking or Howling Dogs: No Person shall own, keep or harbor any dog which by loud, frequent or habitual barking, howling, or yelping shall disturb the peace of any person or persons.

Section VI: Disposal of Dog Feces: It is a violation of this section for any person who owns, possesses, or controls a dog to fail to properly remove and dispose of any feces left by his or her dog on any street sidewalk, or publicly owned property or property of another.

Section VII: When Dogs May Be Killed: If any dangerous, fierce or vicious dog cannot be safely taken up and impounded, such dog may be slain by any policeman or duly authorized animal control officer. In all cases where any dog which has bitten a person or caused an abrasion of the skin of any person, is slain by any policeman, whether by order of the court or otherwise, and a period of less than fifteen days has elapsed since the day on which such dog bit any person or caused an abrasion of the skin of any person, it shall be the duty of the policeman slaying such dog to forthwith deliver the carcass and brain to the Chief of Police who shall cause the brain to be forwarded intact to the Health Bureau.

Section VIII: Penalty: Whoever keeps a dog contrary to the provisions of this Ordinance shall be punished by a fine of \$50.00 for the first offense plus an additional \$50.00 for each subsequent offense, to be recovered by Complaint before any District Court in the County where such owner or keeper resides.

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