

# TOWN OF BRADFORD DOG ORDINANCE

## SECTION 1: DEFINITIONS

Animal Quarters, "Animal Quarters" means any structure providing three walls and roof for protection from the elements and adequate room for exercise, to prevent the overcrowding of dogs.

At large, "At large" means off the premises of the owner and not under the control of any person whose personal presence and attention would reasonably control the conduct of the animal.

Keeper, "Keeper" means a person in possession or control of a dog or other animal.

Kennel, "Kennel" means one pack or collection of dogs or wolf hybrids kept in a single location under one ownership for breeding, hunting, show, training, field trials and exhibition purposes.

Owner, "Owner" means a person owning, keeping or harboring a dog or other animal.

## SECTION 2: LICENSE

All dogs and kennel licenses shall be in accordance with MRSA Title 7 Chapter 721.

## SECTION 3: RUNNING AT LARGE

No person shall cause or permit any dog owned or kept by him to run at large within the Town. Dogs while on the premises of those other than the owner or while on a public way or a public place shall be under restraint, within the meaning of this ordinance, if the dog is controlled by leash, or at 'heel', beside a competent person and obedient to that persons commands or on or within a vehicle being driven or parked on the streets, or within the property limits of the owner or keeper. Nothing in this ordinance shall be interpreted to require the leashing of any dog while on the premises of the owner. A leash shall me no more than 10 feet long.

## SECTION 4.1: IMPOUNDMENT

Unlicensed dogs or dogs found running at large, shall be taken impounded in the shelter designated by the Town as the Town Animal Shelter, and confined in a humane manner for a period not less than ten (10) days and my thereafter be disposed in a humane manner if not claimed by the owner.

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

Dogs found running at large and the owner of such dog is known, need not be impounded, but the town through its duly authorized agent 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 compliance with the license provisions of this Ordinance Section 2 and the payment of impound fees set forth herein. The owner upon payment of the impoundment fees as set forth herein may reclaim any other animal.

Any animal impounded under the provisions of this ordinance and not reclaimed by its owner within 10 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 4.2: FEES**

Any owner cited and summonsed to the district court for a dog at large is subject to a fine of \$25 per dog, payable by the owner.

Any animal impounded hereunder may be reclaimed as herein provided upon payment by the owner of the following fees: Impoundment fee of \$10 for each animal, except that upon the second and any following impoundments the fee shall be \$20, plus board of \$5 per day, and the price of any shot which the dog may have received while impounded.

#### **SECTION 5.1: NUMBER OF DOGS LIMITED**

An owner of dogs within the town shall keep no more than 4 dogs, over one year of age, on any one premise, house, barn, or other building without obtaining a permit from the Town Animal Control Officer by the 31<sup>st</sup> of January in the year of licensing.

#### **SECTION 5.2: PERMITTING**

Any owner or keeper dogs conforming to the state kennel laws (MRSA Chapter 721 Section 3923-c Kennel Licenses) is exempt from the permitting process. Any owner in possession of more than 4 dogs, not conforming to state kennel laws, shall be required to obtain a permit from the Town Animal Control Officer before the 31<sup>st</sup> of January

in the year of licensure. The permit requires a yearly fee of \$10 and inspection of the animals' quarters, as described herein, provide dog licenses for the year of inspection, and proof of rabies. Should the quarters fail an inspection the person shall have 30 days to conform and set up an appointment for a follow up inspection. Any person not in conformity with this section shall be liable of civil violation summons to the District Court for a fine of \$25 per dog until the inspection is approved.

#### **SECTION 6.1: BARKING OR HOWLING DOGS**

No person shall own, keep, or harbor any dog within the town limits of the Town of Bradford, which disturbs the peace by continued barking or other loud or unusual noises.

Upon a written complaint of any person, sworn and signed by such person, the town Animal Control Officer shall notify the owner of the complaint and may investigate the complaint for any continued annoyance or disturbance. The warning shall then become part of the complaint.

Upon investigation should the Animal Control Officer document further violation the owner shall be guilty of a civil violation and summons before the district court for a fine of \$25.00 for the first offense. A fine of \$50.00 shall punish all additional offenses after the first conviction.