

TOWN OF CONCORD
MASSACHUSETTS
DOG BYLAW

Section 1. No owner of a dog shall permit such dog to be outside the confines of the property of the owner unless the dog is held firmly on a leash or is under the control of its owner.

Section 2. No owner of a dog shall permit such dog:

- a. to disturb the peace or quiet of any neighborhood or endanger the safety of any person, by biting, barking, howling, or in any other manner;
- b. to run at large or unmuzzled in violation of an order of the Selectmen or the Dog Officer;
- c. to worry, kill, maim or otherwise injure another's fowl, livestock or domesticated animal;
- d. to chase a vehicle on any way open to the public travel;
- e. to be unlicensed or untagged in violation of state law;
- f. to be in a school or municipal building;
- g. to run at large unless said dog shall have been vaccinated against rabies during the preceding thirty-six months; or
- h. to be on a Town playground or on School property unless the dog is held firmly on a leash or is under the control of its owner.
- i. to be within the boundaries of Town cemetery property unless the dog is held firmly on a leash at all times. Furthermore, it shall be the duty of each person who owns, possesses or controls a dog to remove and dispose of any feces left by his or her dog on any Town cemetery property.

Section 3. The Dog Officer may impound any dog found to be involved in a violation of Section 2 hereof, and on doing so shall immediately notify the owner, if ascertainable from some device on the dog, of such impoundment and of the owner's right to redeem the dog on reimbursing the Dog Officer for maintenance and on licensing the dog if it then be unlicensed. Any dog so impounded and unredeemed after ten days may be disposed of as provided in Chapter 140, §151A of the M.G.L.

The Dog Officer may restrain or muzzle, or issue an interim order to restrain or muzzle, for a period not to exceed fourteen days, any dog which is in violation of Section 2 hereof.

Upon restraining or muzzling or issuing an interim order to restrain or muzzle, the Dog officer shall submit in writing to the Selectmen a report of the action and the reasons therefor.

Upon receipt of such report, the Selectmen may take such action as may be deemed necessary. If the Selectmen fail to act on the report during the period in which the dog is

restrained or muzzled, upon expiration of the period, the interim order shall be automatically vacated.

The owner of any dog which has been ordered to be restrained or muzzled under the provisions of this section may request the Selectmen in writing to vacate such order.

Section 4. The owner of a dog who violates any section of this bylaw shall be subject to a fine for each offense as specified in Appendix A of the Regulations for the Enforcement of Town Bylaws under M.G.L. Chapter 40, §21D and the Bylaw for Non-Criminal Disposition of Violations adopted under Article 47 of the 1984 Town Meeting, as amended. The Dog Officer may issue a separate and additional fine each day for a continuing or recurring violation.

Section 5. As used herein the word “owner” includes the owner of the dog, a person who has the care and custody of a dog, and the agent of the owner.

Article 9, Special Town Meeting, June 1971
Article 10, Special Town Meeting, October 1975 (Amended 1971 bylaw)
Article 40, Annual Town Meeting, April 1980 (This repealed the 1971 bylaw)
Article 44, Annual Town Meeting, April/May 1998 (Amended 1980 bylaw)
Article 52, Annual Town Meeting, April/May 1999 (Amended 1980 bylaw)
Article 64, Annual Town Meeting, April 2006 (Amended Section 4)
Article 42, Annual Town Meeting, April 2007 (Amended Section 4)