

Proposed Dog Regulation and Dog License Changes
(Additions are underlined, deletions are ~~stricken~~)
Office of the Town Manager
10.21.2010

SECTION 3.7 DOG REGULATIONS

3.7.1 Use of Leashes. No person shall allow a dog owned or kept by her/him to go beyond the confines of the property of the owner or keeper unless the dog is held firmly on a leash. ~~the length of which shall not exceed six (6) feet. An owner or keeper may use a leash of a greater length to restrain a dog on the property, provided the dog is securely confined to the premises.~~

3.7.2 Disturbing the Peace. No person shall own or keep within the Town any dog which bites, barks, howls or in any other manner disturbs the peace and quiet of any neighborhood, or endangers the safety of any person, domesticated animal or farm animal. ~~No person shall permit a dog owned or kept by her/him to perform its natural body functions on any property other than that of the dog's owner or keeper without the approval of said property owner.~~

3.7.3 Complaints. The animal control officer is hereby authorized to seek a complaint against the owner or keeper of a dog who is found to have violated the provisions of sub-sections 3.7.1, 3.7.2, 3.7.4, 3.7.5, 3.7.6, 3.7.7, or 3.7.8 for which the following penalties shall be imposed:

1. First Offense – twenty-five dollars (\$25.00)
2. Each Subsequent Offense – fifty dollars (\$50.00)

3.7.4 Restraint of Dogs. In addition to the foregoing penalties, the animal control ~~dog~~ officer is also authorized and empowered to muzzle or restrain a dog, or to order the owner or keeper of a dog to muzzle or restrain a dog, pending a hearing before the Board of Selectmen as hereinafter provided, when the animal control ~~dog~~ officer finds that a dog has bitten or threatened any person or domesticated or farm animal, or has chased any vehicle upon any way open to public travel in the Town, or the owner had violated the provisions of sub-section 3.7.4 more than three times in any calendar year. The owner or keeper of any dog that has been ordered to be restrained or muzzled under the provisions of sub-section 3.7.4 may request in writing to the Board of Selectmen that the animal control ~~dog~~ officer vacate such order.

3.7.5 Uncontrollable Dogs. In addition to any other statutory authority contained in M.G.L. Chapter 140, the animal control ~~dog~~ officer may, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, enter a complaint before the Board of Selectmen to obtain an order to control or dispose of a dog found to be uncontrollable, or whose owner or keeper is unresponsive to any other penalties contained in Section 3.7.

3.7.6 Restricted Areas. No person shall allow a dog, other than a service dog, owned or kept by him or her, whether leashed or unleashed, to trespass on Memorial Park or DeFazio Park.

3.7.7 Removal of Pet Waste. No person owning or keeping a dog shall suffer, permit, or allow such a dog to leave feces in any public or private property of someone other than that of the dog's owner or keeper within the Town of Needham, without the approval of said property owner. Any person having custody and control of a dog in any such area shall carry with him or her proper equipment for the removal of feces. For purposes of this section, the means of removal shall be any tool, implement, or other device carried for the purpose of picking up and containing such feces. No person shall leave or dispose of said feces in any catch basin, drainage structure, waterway or on any public property or street except in a trash receptacle.

3.7.8 Off-Leash Areas. The Town may authorize an area or areas to be used as off-leash areas for dogs licensed in the Town of Needham for which a separate fee will be assessed and for which the Board of Selectmen may, from time to time, establish regulations for use. No person owning or keeping a dog shall suffer, permit or allow such dog to use the off leash area without the proper license or in violation of such regulations.

SECTION 4.1 DOG LICENSES

4.1.1 Licenses. Any owner or keeper of a dog which is six (6) months of age or older and is located in the Town of Needham shall obtain a license from the Town Clerk for that dog commencing on January 1st of each year, as required by M.G.L. Chapter 140. ~~The fee for every license shall be ten dollars (\$10.00) for all neutered male dogs and for all spayed female dogs and fifteen dollars (\$15.00) for all unneutered male dogs and unspayed female dogs. The fee for kennel licenses shall be twenty five dollars (\$25.00) if no more than four dogs over the age of three (3) months are kept in said kennel; fifty dollars (\$50.00) if more than four but not more than ten dogs over the age of three (3) months are kept herein, and one hundred dollars (\$100.00) if more than ten dogs over the age of three (3) months are kept therein.~~

4.1.2 Application. When applying for a license, the applicant must show proof that the dog has received a veterinarian certificate for rabies vaccination within the last three years, if the dog is six months of age or over, as required by M.G.L. Chapter 140, Section 145B. No fee shall be charged for a license for a dog specifically trained to lead or serve a blind person or a deaf person, provided that the Division of the Blind or Deaf certifies that such dog is so trained and actually in the service of a blind or deaf person.

4.1.3 Refund. No license fee or part thereof shall be refunded because of subsequent death, loss, spaying, neutering or removal from the Town of Needham or the Commonwealth or any other disposal of said dog.

4.1.4 Failure to License. In addition to the requirement that a dog shall be duly licensed as required by law, the owner of a dog not licensed on or before April 30th in any year shall be subject to a fine of fifty dollars (\$50.00), in addition to the license fee, upon the complaint of the dog officer. The owner of any unspayed and unleashed female dog found by the dog officer roaming in season (heat) off the premises of the owner or keeper shall be subject to a fine of fifty dollars (\$50.00). Each such occasion shall constitute separate violations.

4.1.5 Fees. The fees for registering and licensing dogs of all types in the Town shall be established from time to time by vote of the Selectmen.