

Article XXXXIII: DOG BY-LAW:

Dog licenses are issued for a one-year period. Said licensing period is from July to June 30 each year. All dogs six months of age and older shall be licensed and have a current rabies inoculation. Rabies shots must be current as required under MA General Laws, Chapter 140, Section 137 and 145B as amended.

CHARGES FOR LICENSES

Male/Female	Neutered/Spayed	Late Fee
\$15.00	\$10.00	\$25.00

KENNEL LICENSES

Kennel License \$45.00	(Kennel – one pack or collection of four or more dogs over the age six months kept on a single premise not to exceed six dogs.)
Hobby License \$90.00	(Hobby Kennel – a kennel maintained for a collection of six or more dogs or for breeding dogs for show or sport, or which sells dogs from less than four litters per year, not to exceed ten dogs on the premises over the age of six months.)
Commercial Kennel \$225.00	(Commercial Kennel – a kennel maintained as a business for the boarding or grooming of dogs, or which sells dogs born and raised on the premises from more than four litters per year).

Any owner or keeper of four or more dogs six months of age or over shall obtain a kennel license. Applications are available in the Office of the Town Clerk. No kennel license shall be granted until the following procedures have been adhered to:

- an opinion in writing from the Building Inspector that its issuance would not violate any Zoning By-law, Rule or Regulation.
- an opinion in writing from Health Officer/Agent that the maintenance of a kennel will not result in a health hazard or be injurious to the health of the neighbors by reason of prospective noise or otherwise

A two-part dog license form is completed with the following information:

Type of Dog – Male, female, neutered, spayed
Date of Spaying/Neutering
Fee Paid
Tag Number
Date of Issue/Date of Expiration of License
Breed of Dog
Color of Dog
Age of Dog
Weight of Dog

Name of Dog
Dog Owner/Keeper
Address of Owner/Keeper
Telephone Number of Owner/Keeper
Date of Expiration of Rabies Inoculation

License is in two parts, original top copy to the Owner/Keeper; second copy kept in the office of the Town Clerk to be retained until the next audit.

SECTION 1 – No owner or keeper of a dog shall permit the dog to go beyond the confines of the property of the owner or keeper unless the dog is held firmly on a leash or attended by a person exercising control of such dog.

SECTION 2 – The Dog Officer may apprehend and impound any dog, which he determines to be in violation of Section 1.

SECTION 3 – The Dog Officer, upon apprehending any dog, shall make a complete registry, entering the breed, color and sex of such dog, its license number, and the name and address of the owner if known.

SECTION 4 – If the owner of an impounded dog is known, such owner shall be given notice of the impounding within three days thereof. Such owner may reclaim the dog upon payment of a fee determined by the Dog Officer with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, together with any unpaid license fees, late fees, fines and reasonable costs incurred by the Town for impounding and maintaining the dog.

SECTION 5 – A late fee of \$25.00 shall be assessed if a dog is not licensed on or before September 1 each year. Late fee will be noted on license copy. Letters will be sent to delinquent dog owner/keeper during August each year, notifying them that the dog has not been licensed and a late fee will be charged if not licensed on or before September 1.

SECTION 6 – No person shall keep within the Town any dog which by biting, barking, howling or in any other manner disturbs the peace and quiet of any neighborhood or endangers the safety of any person, domesticated animal including dogs and cats, and farm animals. No owner or keeper of a dog shall permit the dog to perform its natural body functions on property other than that of the dog owner or keeper without approval of said property owner.

SECTION 7 – The Dog Officer is hereby authorized to seek a complaint against the owner or keeper of a dog who is found to have violated Section 1 or 6 of this By-law and impose fines and reclaiming fees with the approval of the Board of Selectmen.

SECTION 8 – In addition to the foregoing fines and reclaiming fees, the Dog Officer is also authorized and empowered to muzzle, restrain or 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 Dog Officer finds that-

- a. a dog has bitten or threatened any person, domesticated animal including dogs and cats, and farm animals,

- b. a dog has chased any vehicle upon any way open to public travel in the Town, or,
- c. The owner or keeper has violated any provisions of this By-law more than three times in any calendar year.

SECTION 9 – The owner or keeper of any dog that has been ordered muzzled or restrained under the provisions of Section 8 may request the Dog Officer in writing to vacate such order. If such order is not vacated, the owner of such dog may bring a petition in the District Court praying that the order of restraint be reviewed by the court as provided in Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 140, Section 157, as amended.

SECTION 10 – In addition to any other statutory authority contained in Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 140, the Dog Officer may enter a complaint with the Board of Selectmen to the control or disposition of any dog found to be uncontrollable or whose owner or keeper is unresponsive to any other penalties contained in this By-law.

SECTION 11 – Fees, Fines and Reasonable Costs

- a. The Dog Officer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen is authorized to change or increase reclaiming fees from time to time and take such action as may be required in order to enforce this provision. License and late fees shall be changed by town meeting action.
- b. 1. Violations of Dog Restraining Order

1 st Offense	\$25.00
2 nd Offense	\$35.00
3 rd Offense	\$50.00
4 th Offense	\$100.00

If there has been no subsequent violation within one calendar year, the violation schedule shall begin again with the 1st Offense upon another violation.

- 2. Dog Bite

1 st Offense	\$25.00
2 nd Offense	\$35.00
3 rd Offense	\$50.00

If there has been no subsequent violation within one calendar year, the violation schedule shall begin again with the 1st Offense upon another violation.

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| 3. Dog found in schoolyard | \$15.00 |
| 4. Failure to comply with order of restraint | \$35.00 |
| 5. Failure to comply with notice to kill or Confine | \$50.00 |
| 6. Failure to vaccinate dogs against rabies | \$50.00 |

c. Whoever violates any provision of this By-law or any order of the Dog Officer issued pursuant to this By-law shall be subject to a fine determined by the Dog Officer with the approval of the Board of Selectmen except for licensing and late fees which will be voted at a town meeting. Each day on which any such violation continues shall be considered a separate violation of this section. All fees fines and receipts shall be paid into the general fund.