

TOWN OF WALPOLE

New Hampshire

NOTICE TO DOG OWNERS

Dogs: shall mean any animal of the canine specie including wolf-hybrids

1. License and Vaccination

In accordance with RSA 466: 1, all dogs four months or older shall be licensed with the Office of the Town Clerk. The license will state the name of the town, the year of issue of the license and its registered number. Licenses will be effective from May 1- April 30 of the subsequent year. The license will be worn by the animal around its neck attached to a collar.

Before a license is issued, the dog must have a rabies certificate from a veterinarian. If the rabies certificate is on file with the Town Clerk, the owner will not have to produce verification at the time of licensing.

2. Restraining Dogs

Any owner or person having custody of any dog shall have said dog on a leash in Walpole, North Walpole or Drewsville, and shall not permit said dog to run at large as defined in RSA 466:30-a except when in the company of its owner or custodian, when used for hunting, guarding, working or herding livestock as defined in RSA 21:34-a, II(a)(4), for supervised competition and exhibition, or for training for such.

3. Dogs, a Menace, a Nuisance or Vicious

In accordance with RSA 466: 31, any person who considers a dog a nuisance, a menace, or vicious to persons, to property or to other animals may make a complaint in writing to any law enforcement officer, NH conservation officer or selectboard member of the town or city in which dog is kept. Such officers or selectboard members shall, within 3 days after the receipt of such complaint, investigate the facts and circumstances of this case and order the owner to abate the nuisance, subject to review in the district court. A dog is considered a nuisance, a menace, or vicious to persons or property under any or all but not limited the following conditions:

- a. a dog at large, which means it is off premises of the owner(s) or keeper's property and not under the control of any by means of personal presence and attention as will reasonably control the conduct of the dog, unless accompanied by the owner or custodian
- b. barks for sustained periods or a night so as to disturb the neighborhood;
- c. causes waste or garbage to be scattered on neighbors' property;
- d. a female in heat if permitted to run at large;
- e. growls or snaps at or chases people;
- f. habitually runs after vehicles, bicycles, etc;
- g. bites or attacks animals, birds, or people.

If the skin of a person has been punctured by a dog and the incident reported to the Police Department or to the Town Clerk, the officer or clerk will notify the injured person or parents if a minor is involved, within 24 hours of the incident whether the dog has been appropriately immunized against rabies.

If any person fails by appropriate action including but not limited to restraining an animal from running at large or effectively abating a nuisance found under the provisions of this section or fails to comply with the provisions above after being ordered to do so, may cause the person's dog being taken into custody by the Police Department or another other person authorized by the Town and such disposition made of the dog as the district court may order.

4. Penalties

Any person who violates any provision of these provisions of RSA 466 regarding licensing, rabies vaccines, restraining dogs or dogs who are considered a menace, a nuisance or are vicious shall be guilty of a violation and subject to fines to be paid to the Office of the Selectboard in Walpole Town Hall. Anyone who pays this fine which shall be required within 96 hours of the citation, shall forfeit their right to have the case heard in district court. Any person who does not pay the civil fine shall have the case disposed of in district court.

Penalties shall be assessed as follows:

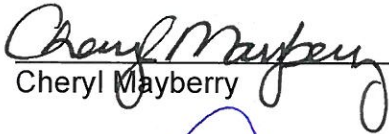
- Failure to license a dog shall result in a fine of \$25.00 plus expenses (Police officer travel to an animal shelter in Swanzey).
- The first offense for a nuisance violation of 3-a, 3-b, 3-c and 3-d shall be \$25.00; the second offense shall be \$100.00.
- The first offense for a menace violation of 3-e or 3-f shall result in a fine of \$50.00; a second offence shall be \$200.00.
- The first offense for a violation of 3-g shall result in a fine of \$100.00; the second offense shall be \$400.00.
- Any person who fails to control an animal at large or abate an animal creating a nuisance or a menace or exhibit vicious behavior may have the animal taken into custody by the police or other person authorized by the Town and such disposition made of the dog as the court may order.

This order shall be effective immediately and shall continue in effect until rescinded by the Walpole Selectboard.

Adopted this day: 10/8/2020

By the Walpole Selectboard


Peggy L. Pschirrer, Chair


Cheryl Mayberry


Steven Dalessio