

# TOWN OF LANDGROVE - Dog Ordinance

## Section 1: Definitions

This ordinance outlines the laws affecting dogs in the State of Vermont and the associated Landgrove standards. Since dogs are significant and growing presence in our community, the number and breadth of dog laws reflect an emphasis on protecting people, property and other animals from harm. Dogs, like any other form of property in the legal system, are regulated to protect the health, safety, and welfare of people and property.

This ordinance is not intended to replace healthy community communication and good will between neighbors. Landgrove Town Officials believe that this ordinance is a good reminder of the considerate behavior all Landgrovers expect from each other and their dogs. Residents are encouraged to communicate and escalate issues only when required.

All parameters of this Ordinance are within the guidelines of *The Vermont Statutes, Title 20: Internal Security and Public Safety, Chapter 193: Domestic Pet or Wolf-hybrid Control*.

**Dog:** any animal of the canine species, or wolf hybrid

**Owner / keeper:** the person to whom the dog is registered, or any person or group of persons who own, or permit any dog to be or remain in or about buildings or premises owned or occupied by them.

**Vicious Dog:** a dog which causes reasonable fear, bodily injury or injury of livestock or destruction of property by attacking or threatening to attack by pursuit any person, pet, or livestock lawfully at the place of attack.

**Running at Large:** to move at will without control, restraint, or limitation to the property lines of owner or keeper's premises.

**Working farm dog:** means a dog that is bred or trained to herd or protect livestock or poultry or to protect crops and that is used for those purposes and that is registered as a working farm dog.

**Animal Control Official:** the individual to whom the knowledge and enforcement of the Dog Ordinance is awarded.

## Section 2: License Required

It shall be the duty of every person owning, keeping or harboring any dog over six (6) months of age, within the Town of Landgrove, to procure annually on or before April 1, a license within the Town of Landgrove. Every dog shall wear a collar with the license attached at all times.

## Section 3. Running at Large

Running at Large, as defined, shall be a violation of this ordinance.

A dog is considered Running at Large if it is:

Not clearly subject to the verbal or signaled command of its owner or keeper including repeated calling with noncompliance by the dog, if it bites or otherwise harms or intimidates other people or animals, or if trespasses on private property.

A dog is **not** considered Running at Large only if it is:

Securely held on a leash no longer than 10 feet, within a vehicle preventing escape, hunting or walking with its owner / keeper and clearly subject to the verbal or signaled command of such owner / keeper and within the sight of the owner / keeper and not trespassing upon or damaging the private property of others.

## Section 4. -Nuisances Prohibited

### Sub-Section 4A. – Barking or Howling Dogs

No person shall keep or harbor any dog which by frequent or habitual barking, howling, or yelping disturbs the peace and quiet of persons of ordinary sensibility, unless the dog resides on a property registered as a farm, and is licensed with the Town as a Working Farm Dog, in which case barking in the defense of livestock is allowed.

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### **Sub-Section 4C. – Dog waste**

The owner, keeper or person in control of any dog shall be responsible for the removal of any defecation deposited by such dog on regularly maintained public areas, or private residences other than where the dog is licensed and registered. The disposal of waste shall be in a sanitary manner.

### **Sub-Section 4D. - Other Nuisances**

Other nuisances include any dog that pursues or chases pedestrians or vehicles, or that attacks other dogs, livestock, poultry or other domestic animals while in violation of Section 3.

### **Section 5. – Vicious Dog**

In the event of a biting incident or purported biting incident, attack, or a threat of attack, the Animal Control Official may call a hearing before the Select Board to determine whether the alleged conduct makes the dog a "vicious dog".

Notwithstanding anything hereinabove stated, the Animal Control Official shall at all times have discretion to determine whether a dog shall be impounded by the owner, or as arranged by the Town, if he or she at any time determines that a dog is a threat to person or property.

### **Section 6. – Violation**

Any dog found in violation of this ordinance is liable to impoundment by the Animal Control Official in a designated facility and to be confined in a humane manner for a period of five (5) days. The Animal Control Official shall then notify the dog's owner.

Please see The Vermont Statutes, Title 20: Internal Security and Public Safety, Chapter 193: Domestic Pet Or Wolf-hybrid Control, section 3546 for further detail.

### **Sub Section 6A. – Dog Bites**

If a dog has bitten a person or another animal while Running at Large, such person or owner of the bitten animal may file a complaint describing the nature of the attack with the Select Board. Within seven (7) days of the complaint, the Select Board shall conduct an investigation and notify, when possible, the owner or keeper of the dog as to the date and time of the investigative hearing.

### **Section 7. - Penalties**

Any person who violates any licensing provision of this ordinance shall be fined \$10.00 if the dog is not licensed by April 1, but is subsequently licensed on or before May 30.

The owner of an unlicensed dog which is on the unlicensed dog list given to the Select Board by the Town Clerk after May 30 will be subject to a \$10. fine. The owner shall be given a two-week period following receipt of notification of violation to comply with the licensing requirements of this ordinance, or they will be subject to a fine of **\$25**.

### **Section 9. – Inconsistent Provisions**

Any prior Ordinance or Ordinances of the Town of Landgrove which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby expressly repealed.

### **Section 11. – Right of Authority**

The Landgrove Select Board reserves the right to modify enforcement of this ordinance on an individual or subjective basis dependent on circumstances, with fairness to all interested parties.