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Dog Control Ordinance

Town of Warwick Code Book

§ 77-3. Title.

The title of this article shall be the “Dog Control Ordinance of the Town of Warwick.”

§ 77-4. Definitions.

As used in this article, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

AT LARGE -- Any dog that is unleashed and on property open to the public or is on private property not owned or leased by the owner of the dog unless permission for such presence has been obtained. No dog shall be deemed to be at large if it is;

- A. Accompanied by and under the immediate supervision and control of the owner or other responsible person;
- B. A police work dog in use for police work; or
- C. Accompanied by its owner or other responsible person and is actively engaged in hunting or training for hunting on unposted land or on posted land with the permission of the owner of the land.

HARBOR -- To provide food or shelter to any dog.

OWNER -- Any person who harbors or keeps any dog. In the event any dog found in violation of this article shall be owned by a person under 18 years of age, the owner shall be deemed to be the parent or guardian of such person (or the head of the household in which said person resides).

§ 77-5. Restrictions.

It shall be unlawful for any owner of any dog to permit or allow such dog, in the Town of Warwick, to:

- A. Be at large.
- B. Engage in loud howling, barking, crying or whining or conduct itself in such manner as to unreasonably or habitually annoy any person.
- C. Cause damage or destruction to property or commit a nuisance by defecating or urinating upon the premises of a person other than the owner of such dog.
- D. Chase or otherwise harass any person in such manner as reasonably to cause intimidation or to put such person in reasonable apprehension of bodily harm or injury.
- E. Habitually chase, run alongside of, or bark at, motor vehicles or bicycles.

§ 77-6. Enforcement.

This article shall be enforced by any dog control officer, peace officer, when acting pursuant to his special duties, or police officer in the employ of, or under contract to, the Town of Warwick.

§ 77-7. Seizure; impoundment; redemption; adoption.

- A. Any dog found in violation of the provisions of § 77-5 may be seized pursuant to the provisions of § 11.8 of the Agriculture and Markets Law.
- B. Every dog seized shall be properly cared for, sheltered, fed and watered for the redemption periods set forth in § 118 of the Agriculture and Markets Law.
- C. Seized dogs may be redeemed by producing proof of licensing and identification pursuant to the provisions of Article 7 of the Agriculture and Markets Law and by paying the impoundment fees set forth in § 118 of said article.
- D. If the owner of any unredeemed dog is known, such owner shall be required to pay impoundment fees set forth in Subsection C whether or not such owner chooses to redeem his or her dog.
- E. Any dog unredeemed at the expiration of the appropriate redemption period shall be made available for adoption or euthanized pursuant to the provisions of § 118 of the Agriculture and Markets Law.

§ 77-8. Complaints.

Any person who observes a dog in violation of this article may file a complaint under oath with a Justice of the Town of Warwick, specifying the nature of the violation, the date thereof, a description of the dog and the name and residence, if known, of the owner of such dog. Such complaint may serve as the basis for enforcing the provisions of this article.

§ 77-9. Appearance tickets.

Any dog control officer, peace officer, when acting pursuant to his special duties, or police officer in the employ of, or under contract to, the Town of Warwick, having reasonable cause to believe that a person has violated this article, shall issue and serve upon such person an appearance ticket for such violation.

§ 77-10. Penalties for offenses. [Amended 6-23-1988 by L.L. No. 1-1988]

Any person convicted of a violation of this article shall be liable to a civil penalty as provided for in Article II, § 77-14.

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Owner Handbook, Dog Control Ordinance, Summer 2005