

TOWN OF ST GEORGE

DOG CONTROL ORDINANCE

PURPOSE. The purpose of this ordinance is to require that all dogs in the Town of St George be kept under the control of their owners at all times so that they will not injure persons, damage property, cause unreasonable noise or otherwise create a nuisance.

1. **Dogs to be licensed in accordance with the statutes of the State of Maine.** No dog shall be kept within the limits of the Town of St George unless such dog shall have been licensed by its owner in accordance with the statutes of the State of Maine. "Owner" shall be intended to mean any person or persons, firm, association or corporation owning, keeping, or harboring a dog.

2. **Dogs not to be permitted to run at large.** It shall be unlawful for the owner of any dog, licensed or unlicensed, to permit such dog to run at large. "At Large" shall be intended to mean off the premise of the owner and not under the control of any person by means of a chain, rope or cord of sufficient strength to control the action of such dog or such other personal presence and attention as will reasonably control the conduct of such dog.

3. **Animals creating a nuisance by noise.** Any dog that barks, howls or makes other sounds continuously for twenty (20) minutes or intermittently for one (1) hour or more shall be deemed to constitute a nuisance. Dogs barking at trespassers on private property on which the dog is situated, dogs barking as part of an organized hunt, or dogs barking as a result of provocation shall not be deemed a nuisance.

4. **Duties of Law Enforcement Officers, Animal Control Officers and persons having control of impounding.** Any law enforcement officer, animal control officer or other duly authorized person within the Town of St George, shall seize, impound or restrain any dog kept in violation of this ordinance, and deliver such dog to the person who is duly authorized to have control of impounding. If the owner of such dog is known or can be located with reasonable diligence, then the person who has control of impounding shall personally notify the owner within three days of the receipt of such dog. If the owner of such dog is not known and cannot be located with reasonable diligence, then the person who has control of impounding shall post, within forty-eight hours of the time such person shall have taken such dog into his possession, written notices in three public places in the municipality, giving a description of the dog, stating where it is impounded and the conditions for its release. If the owner within seven days after receiving notice, or within seven days after notice has been posted, does not claim such dog, then the person having control of impounding shall dispose of the dog by sale or otherwise, in a proper and humane manner. The person having control of impounding shall keep a record of every dog disposed of by sale or otherwise.

5. **Conditions of release.** Before any impounded dog may be transferred or released to another person, (a) such dog shall be vaccinated with anti-rabies vaccine, or shall show proof of vaccination within the previous year, (b) such dog must be licensed in accordance with the statutes of the State of Maine, and (c) pay any fees incurred at the impounding facility.

6. **Penalties.** The penalty for violation of this ordinance shall be a fine of fifty dollars (\$50.00) for the first offense, and for a period of two years after the first offense, one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for any second offense, and two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250.00) for the third or any subsequent offense. Any fees collected under this ordinance shall be designated to a revenue account for animal control use in accordance with the provisions and requirements of State Statute. Any person found guilty of violating this ordinance shall be required to reimburse the Town for the attorney's fees and costs incurred in the prosecution of the action.

7. **Vaccination.** It shall be unlawful for the owner of any dog older than six months to keep and maintain such dog unless it has been vaccinated with anti-rabies vaccine as required by State Statute.

8. **Repeal of conflicting ordinances.** All existing animal control ordinances of the Town of St George are hereby repealed.

9. **Severability of provisions.** It is the intention of the municipality that each provision of this ordinance shall be deemed independent of all other provisions herein, and it is further the intention of the municipality that if any provision of this ordinance be declared invalid all other provisions thereof shall remain valid and enforceable.

10. **Effective date.** This ordinance shall be in full force and effect immediately upon town meeting approval.