

**TOWN OF PITTSFIELD  
NEW HAMPSHIRE**

**ANIMAL CONTROL ORDINANCE**

**Section 1: Definitions**

- a) **Compact Area of the Town:** Shall be as defined by state statutes governing NH Fish & Game.
- b) **Dog:** Shall be intended to mean both male and female.
- c) **Owner:** Shall be intended to mean any person, group, association, firm, corporation or organization maintaining, keeping, harboring or owning a dog.
- d) **Running at Large:** Shall be intended to mean off the premises, residence or property of the owner and not under the control of a responsible individual.
- e) **Livestock:** Poultry, cattle, (cows, bulls etc.) pigs, goats or any other animal or fowl which is domestically raised for the purpose of food or a food by product, as a pet or a mode of transportation such as a horse.

**Section 2: Licensing**

All dogs over three (3) months of age within the Town of Pittsfield shall be licensed and collared in accordance with NH RSA 466:1.

**Section 3: Dogs running at large**

- a) The Town of Pittsfield hereby adopts a leash law in accordance to NH RSA 466:30.
- b) The Town of Pittsfield hereby enacts an ordinance prohibiting dogs from running at large in accordance to NH RSA 466:30-b.
- c) No dog shall be permitted to run at large within the compact area of the Town of Pittsfield.

**Section 4: Impounded dogs**

- a) Any properly licensed dog found running at large off the property of its owner and within the compact area of the town shall be impounded by the Pittsfield Police Department. The police department shall promptly attempt to notify the owner of such dog and how the owner may reclaim the dog. Impounded dogs not claimed by the owners within twenty four (24) hours may be taken to the SPCA in Concord.
- b) Any owner claiming an impounded dog shall pay to the town of Pittsfield a fee of \$35.00, plus \$5.00 for each day the dog has been impounded.

- c) Any dog found running at large that is not properly licensed will be impounded as above. The police department will attempt to identify and notify the owner of such dog and how the owner may reclaim the dog. Any dog whose owner cannot be identified or who is not claimed within twenty four (24) hours may be taken to the SPCA in Concord.
- d) An owner reclaiming a dog not properly licensed in accordance with RSA 466:1 shall be issued a summons therefore to appear in the 6<sup>th</sup> Circuit – District Division - Concord Court; and, further, shall pay to the town the impounding fee of \$35.00, plus \$5.00 for each day the dog has been impounded.

### **Section 5: Animal defecation**

Owners of dogs must pick up any defecation deposited by their dogs in or on any public way, street, park, common, sidewalk or public property. Owners walking their dogs in public areas must have in their possession the means to remove any defecation deposited by their animals in such public areas specified herein. Failure of the owner of a dog to remove any defecation shall be a violation of the provisions of this section.

### **Section 6: Animals excluded from certain town properties**

No owner of a dog shall allow the same to be on any town owned or public property, unless under the control of the owner by leash.

### **Section 7: Noise**

With the exception of typical livestock noise in the rural zone, the keeping of any animal or bird which, causing frequent or long-continued noise, disturbs the comfort and repose of any person in the vicinity, shall be prohibited.

### **Section 8: Livestock**

No person, persons, company or corporation shall knowingly and willingly allow any livestock as defined above to roam unconfined.

### **Section 9: Penalty**

Any person found in violation of this ordinance shall be guilty of a violation and upon conviction shall be fined not less than \$25.00 for the first offense and not more than \$100.00 for each subsequent offense.

### **Section 10: Passage**

- a) The Dog Ordinance was adopted by a vote of Annual Town Meeting on March 6, 1973, Article 13. This Article 13 followed (and was prompted by) the favorable vote of the proceeding Article 12 on the 1973 Annual Town Meeting Warrant, which was a petition to pass and enforce a leash law.

- b) Effective May 9, 1975, Section 3, Dogs running at large, was added to the Dog Ordinance.
- c) Effective October 15, 1988, the Board of Selectmen voted on the Municipal Ordinances of 1988, which contained the Dog Ordinance as Article 3, on September 21, 1988.
- d) When the Board of Selectmen repealed several of the articles of the combined Municipal Ordinances of 1988, on August 5, 1997, the Dog Ordinance returned to a stand-alone ordinance.
- e) The Board of Selectmen approved Dog Ordinance amendments on July 6, 1999 to Sections 4(b) to increase the impound fee and 4(d) to change the court name and the amount of the court fine for impounding (these sections remain Sections 4(b) and 4(d)) and added a Section 5 to address other impounding costs (removed 3/18/2017).
- f) The Animal Control Ordinance was adopted by a vote of Annual Town Meeting on March 14, 1998, Article 19.
- g) The Dog Ordinance was incorporated into the Animal Control Ordinance with Sections 1(a), 1(d), 2, 3, 4, 5, & 6 re-worded and Sections 1(e), 7, 8, & 9 added to the Animal Control Ordinance by the favorable vote of Article 27 at the Annual Town Meeting on March 18, 2017. Public Hearings were held by the Board of Selectmen on the proposed amended Animal Control Ordinance on August 9, 2016 and September 27, 2016.