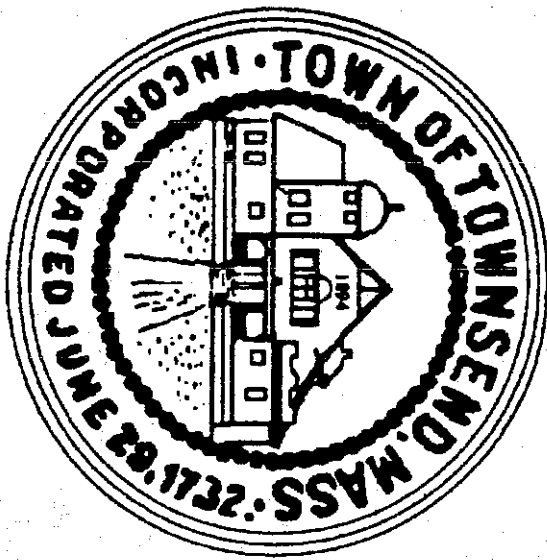


# Town of Townsend



## Dog By-law

Provided by: Office of the Town Clerk  
Daniel J Murphy, Town Clerk

All dog licenses expire annually on December 31

### General By-laws: Article VII

A bylaw to prohibit dogs from becoming a public nuisance.

### SECTION I

#### DEFINITION OF TERMS:

**DOG:** All animals of canine species, both male and female.

**OWNER:** Any person or persons, firm, association or corporation owning, keeping or harboring a dog as herein defined.

**PUBLIC NUISANCE:** Any dog shall be deemed a public nuisance when attacking persons or domestic animals when such dog is on property other than that of the dog owner, when destroying property, when on a public school grounds and not under restraint; when it persistently chases moving motor vehicles, pedestrians, or bicycle riders; when it persistently and continually barks or howls; when it is permitted to run at large and unrestrained on property other than its owners; any unspayed female dog in season shall be deemed a public nuisance when not confined indoors or housed in a veterinary hospital or registered kennel. Each time one of the above nuisances exist shall constitute a separate offense.

### SECTION 2

#### DOG RESTRAINT

2.1 No owner or keeper of any dog shall permit such dog, whether licensed or unlicensed, to become a nuisance within the Town at anytime.

2.2 This bylaw does not prohibit the running of hunting dogs or the exercising of dogs that are under the immediate control of owner or keeper.

2.3 If the owner or keeper of a dog be a minor, the parent or guardian of such minor shall be held liable for any violations of the Bylaw

2.4 The owner shall pay such fees as established by Middlesex County and it shall be the duty of the Animal Control Officer to apprehend any dog which he/she has reason to believe to be a public nuisance and to impound such dog in a suitable place or to order the owner thereof to restrain such dog.

2.5 If such a dog is impounded and has upon it the name and/or address of the owner, or owner if otherwise known, the Dog officer shall immediately notify the owner. If the owner is not known, then no notice is necessary.

2.6 The owner of any dog impounded may reclaim such dog upon payment of ten dollars (\$10.00); and three dollars (\$3.00) for the first twenty-four (24) hour periods or any part thereof that the dog is held and fourteen dollars (\$14.00) each additional twenty four (24) hour period or any part thereof; provided, however, if the dog is not licensed before it is released to any person, a license, if such is required by the Town, shall be secured. The sums collected pursuant to the provision of this section shall be accounted for and paid over to the Town Treasurer. Any dog which has been impounded and has not been redeemed by the owner within ten (10) days shall be disposed of as provided by the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

2.7 Any owner found in violation of any of these provisions of the Bylaw shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall be punishable by a fine in accordance with the following schedule or any other schedule permitted by law: 1st offense-\$25.00; 2nd-offense \$35.00; 3rd and subsequent offenses in any twelve month period-\$50.00.

2.8 The Animal Control Officer, members of the Police Department, or whoever else may be designated by the Board of Selectmen, shall enforce the provisions of the Bylaw and shall attend to all complaints or other matters pertaining to dogs in the Town with citation rights.

### SECTION 3 DOG LICENSES

3.1 The annual fee in the Town of Townsend shall be:  
**Female/Male-\$11.00; Spayed Female/Neutered Male-\$6.00.** (Dogs for which their age can be confirmed as being eight years or older, and dogs for which it can be verified by a veterinarian in writing that they cannot be spayed or neutered due to severe medical reasons, shall adhere to the same fee schedule as spayed and neutered dogs). A valid rabies certificate must be presented each time a dog/canine is licensed. **Kennel (1-4 dogs)-\$25.00; Kennel (5-10 dogs) -\$50.00; Kennel (over 10 dogs)-\$75.00.**

3.2 Any person or entity who fails to register and license their dog each year by the last day of February in the Town of Townsend, Middlesex County, and pay the fees and charges under any and all applicable ordinances, bylaws or regulations adopted/observed by the Town of Townsend will be required to pay to the Town a late fee, in the amount of five dollars (\$5.00). Any one acquiring a dog six months of age or older, after the last day of February in any year, shall have thirty (30) days from date of acquisition which shall be presumed to be the date on the rabies certificate, to register and license the dog or be subject to a late fee of five dollars (\$5.00).

3.3 Additionally, failure to license and register a dog by May 1st annually shall result in a twenty-five (\$25.00) fine, which will not affect the late fee the Town charges. The Town will still charge this late fee. This is a violation.

fine to be paid to the Office of the Town Clerk. On or about May 1st annually, those owners in violation of the licensing requirement of this bylaw, will receive a notice of failure to license and those that do not pay \$25.00 within twenty-one (21) days shall then go to court.

### SECTION 4 DOG KENNELS

4.1 Subject to applicable Zoning By-laws/Regulations and Building Permits, no owner or keeper of five or more dogs shall erect a kennel for housing of said dogs without prior written approval of the Animal Control Officer relative to the construction, location and capacity of said kennel. Should the petitioner be turned down by the Animal Control Officer, the petitioner shall have the right to appeal to the Board of Selectmen. Any such determination by the Board of Selectmen shall not affect any obligation of the owner to comply with the Zoning Bylaws or any other applicable rule or regulation.

STTM April 25, 1995  
APPROVED by Attorney General May 24, 1995  
A TRUE COPY ATTEST

Daniel J. Murphy, Town Clerk

### Dog License Form

To license your dog by mail, please return this completed form with the items listed below to: Townsend Town Clerk, 272 Main Street, Townsend, MA 01469.

- Proper Fee
- Rabies certificate with expiration
- Self addressed stamped envelope/55¢

**Licenses will not be issued without proof of rabies vaccination & fee.**

Fees (circle one):

Male/Female \$11; Spayed/Neutered \$6  
*(Kennel licenses upon approval of dog officer only)*

Owner Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Dog Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Breed: \_\_\_\_\_ Color: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

2nd Dog (circle one):

Male/Female \$11; Spayed/Neutered \$6

Dog Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Breed: \_\_\_\_\_ Color: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Anyone acquiring a dog during the year shall have thirty (30) days from the date of acquisition (which shall be presumed to be the date on the rabies certificate) to register and license the dog or be subject to a late fee of \$5.00

Licenses expire annually on December 31st