

CONTROL OF NUISANCE DOG LAW

LOCAL LAW #2021- 02

SECTION 1: TITLE

This law shall be known as the “Control of Nuisance Dog Law.”

Section 2: DEFINITIONS

- a. **Dog** – Shall include both male and female dogs, without regard to whether the dog is spayed or neutered.
- b. **Owner** – Any person, who owns, keeps, harbors or has care, custody or control of a dog. Dogs owned by a minor shall be deemed to be in the custody of the minor’s parent(s), guardian or head of the household where the minor resides.
- c. **Dangerous Dog** – Any dog that attacks any person or domestic animal within the meaning of Article 7 of the Agriculture and Markets Law of the State of New York. Such dog shall be dealt with in accordance with the Article 7 of the Agriculture and Markets Law.
- d. **Restraint** – A dog is considered under restraint when:
 1. It is controlled by a leash, or
 2. It is used to track, locate, or chase game by a licensed hunter who is in the field.
 3. It is within the property limits of the owner, whether loose or confined, or confined on the premises of another with the consent of that person, or
 4. It is within a vehicle being driven on or parked on the street.

Section 3: NUISANCE

It shall be unlawful for the owner of any dog in the Town of Ledyard to permit or allow his or her dog to:

- a. Run at large.
 1. Off the owner’s property and
 2. Not under the restraint of a competent person
- b. Habitually engage in loud howling or barking, crying, or whining or to conduct itself in such manner so as to disturb the comfort and repose of any person other than the owner of such dog.
- c. Chase and/or bark at motor vehicles, pedestrians, or persons on bicycles while on a public street or highway in the Town or upon public or private property in the Town other than the property of the dog owner.

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- d. Jump on, chase bark at or otherwise harass any person in such a manner as to put such person in reasonable apprehension of bodily harm or injury.
- e. Defecate on, or dig in, or otherwise damage public or private property in the Town other than the owner of the dog.
- f. Upset or otherwise interfere with garbage receptacles.
- g. Cause damage to property, livestock, or person of others
- h. Kill or injure a dog, cat or household pet
- i. Uproot, dig or otherwise damage any vegetables, lawn, flowers, garden beds or other property without the consent approval of the owner thereof.
- j. No unspayed dog in season (heat) shall be allowed to roam, nor shall she be left unattended without the precaution of properly enclosing her either by fence or cage. In all cases she should be properly supervised so as to prevent the occurrence of dog packs.
- k. Habitual – For the purpose of this Local Law, habitual shall mean the continuous barking, howling or making of other noises for a period of 30 minutes or more or other nuisance behavior on 2 or more occasions, within a one-week period.

SECTION 4: ENFORCEMENT

- a. This Local Law shall be enforced by the Dog Control Officer, by any Peace Officer or by any person having jurisdiction under the Agricultural and Markets Law. The Dog Control Officer is hereby authorized to issue an appearance ticket for any violation of this law pursuant to the Criminal Procedure Law of the State of New York in the enforcement of this Local Law.
- b. Any person who observes a dog in violation of this Local Law may file a complaint under oath with the Town Justice in the Town or the Town Dog Control Officer 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 provision of this Ledyard Law. However, any complaint arising from a dogs alleged damage to private property must be made by owner, or legal tenant of that property, and if the owner or tenant did not witness the damage himself/herself, supported by sworn statements of witnesses with direct knowledge

SECTION 5: SEIZURE

- a. Any dog alleged to be in violation of this Local Law, and caught at large, may be seized by the Dog Control Officer or any Peace Officer and shall be impounded and disposed of in the accordance with the provisions of Article 7 or other applicable provisions of the Agricultural and Markets Law.
- b. The Dog Control Officer or Peace Officer may also investigate or refer to a Town Justice of the Town any dangerous dogs described in Article 7 of the Agriculture and Markets Law and see that the order of the Town Justice in such case is carried out.

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- c. No person shall hinder, resist, or oppose the Dog Control Officer, Peace Officer, or other person (s) authorized to administer or enforce the provisions of this Local Law in the performance of the officer's duties under this Local Law.
- d. Each dog seized in accordance with the provisions of this Local Law shall be properly sheltered, fed, and watered during the redemption period as herein provided in a facility designated by the Town Board of the Town of Ledyard.

SECTION 6: IMPOUNDMENT FEES

Each dog which is seized, whether or not licensed, shall be held for a period of at least five (5) days from when seized, during which period the dog may be redeemed by its owner provided that such owners produce proof that the dog has been licensed pursuant to the Agriculture and Markets Law and further provided that the owner pays impoundment fees which shall be set by the Dog Control Officer. Any owner of a licensed dog shall be liable for the seizure and impoundment fees regardless of whether the dog is redeemed or not.

SECTION 7: FINES AND PENALTIES

1. Upon an owner's first conviction for any violation of this law, a fine in an amount not to exceed \$50.00 shall be imposed.
2. Upon an owner's second conviction for any violation of this law, within 18 (eighteen) months with respect to any dog, a fine of not less than \$35.00 and not more of \$100.00 shall be imposed.
3. Upon an owner's third or subsequent conviction, for any violation of this law within 18 (eighteen) months with respect to any dog, a fine or not less than \$75.00 and not more than \$175.00 shall be imposed.

SECTION 8: NOTIFICATION

Promptly upon seizure of the identified dog, the owner of such dog shall be notified by the Dog Control Officer of the fact of seizure and the procedure for redemption. Notification of the seizure shall be given to the owner in at least one of the following manners: (a) by personal delivery, or (b) by certified mail, return receipt requested, or (c) by leaving a copy of the notice at the owner's residence together with notice by regular mail.

If notification is personally given, such dog shall be held for a period of at least 5 (five) days after day of notice, during which period the dog may be redeemed by the owner in accordance with the Agriculture and Markets Law provisions. If notification is given by some method other than personal notification, the dog shall be held for a period of at least 10 (ten) days, the owner may redeem such dog upon payment of the impoundment fees to the Town of Ledyard

prescribed in Section 6 of this Local Law and by producing proof that the dog has been licensed.

SECTION 9: FORFEITURE

An owner shall forfeit ownership of any dog not redeemed by the expiration of the appropriate redemption period, during which time it may be kept with no liability to the Town of Ledyard. After the expiration of the adoption period the dog will be put up for adoption or euthanized in accordance with Agriculture and Market Law provisions.

SECTION 10: LIABILITY

The owner of any dog destroyed under the provisions of this Local Law, whether destroyed by the Dog Control officer or Peace Officer or released to authorized Humane Society or veterinarian, shall not be entitled to any compensation, and no action may be maintained thereafter to recover value of such dog or any other type of damage.

SECTION 11: INCORPORATION OF STATE LAW

The provisions of Article 7 of the Agriculture and Markets Law of the State of New York are deemed incorporated in the Local Law as is fully set forth herein. Any State Law which is inconsistent with this Local Law, shall be superseded by the provisions hereof to the extent of its inconsistency, except where restricted by State Law.

SECTION 12: SEPERABILITY

If any part or parts of the Local Law are for any reason held to be invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Local Law.

SECTION 13: EFFECTIVE DATE

This Local Law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the State of New York.