

# **TOWN OF GOULDSBORO DOG CONTROL ORDINANCE**

Revised: June 2000

## **SECTION 1. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this ordinance is to control dogs throughout the Town of Gouldsboro in the interest of the health, safety, and general welfare of its residents.

## **SECTION 2. DEFINITIONS AS USED IN THIS ORDINANCE UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE INDICATES**

- A. "DOG" shall mean both male and female whether neutered or not.
- B. "OWNER" shall mean any person, firm, association or corporation owning, keeping or harboring a dog.
- C. "AT LARGE" shall mean off the premises of the owner and not being under the control of any person by means of personal presence and attention, or ability to manipulate and command the conduct of the dog.
- D. "DANGEROUS DOG" shall mean a dog, which has bitten a person who was not a trespasser on the owner's premises at the time of the incident; or a dog which causes a reasonable person acting in a peaceable manner outside the owners premises, to be put in apprehension of eminent bodily harm.

## **SECTION 3. LICENSE REQUIRED**

All dogs kept, harbored or maintained by their respective owners in the Town of Gouldsboro shall be licensed and tagged in accordance with appropriate laws of the State of Maine, M.R.S.A. 3921.

## **SECTION 4. DISTURBING THE PEACE**

It shall be unlawful for anyone owning, possessing or harboring a dog to cause or permit such dog to disturb the peace of any person. It shall be in violation of this ordinance if; any owner or keeper causes or permits a dog to bark, howl, or yelp continuously during the hours of 8:00pm till 8:00am for (15) minutes or intermittently for (30) minutes or more. From 8:00am till 8:00pm the limit will be (30) minutes or more continuously or (1) hour intermittently.

It shall be unlawful for any dog owner or keeper to cause or permit such dog to disturb the peace by biting, chasing or damaging the property of any person.

## **SECTION 5. RUNNING AT LARGE**

It shall be unlawful for any dog, licensed or unlicensed, to run at large, except when used for hunting purposes.

## **SECTION 6. IMPOUNDING**

Any Law Enforcement Officer of the Town of Gouldsboro shall seize, impound, or restrain any dog violating this Ordinance or State law. A dog found in violation of Section 5 shall be delivered to the owner when possible if the owner or keeper can be determined and is readily available to take possession of the dog.

When a dog of known ownership is found in violation of Section 5 three (3) or more times in a six (6) month period, Law Enforcement Officer in that capacity may take the dog to the animal shelter and notify the owner.

## **SECTION 7. CONFINEMENT OF CERTAIN DOGS**

- A. It shall be unlawful for the owner or keeper of a female dog to cause or permit such dog to be beyond the owner's premises at any time while dog is in heat unless such dog is restrained with a leash, cord, or chain which shall not be more than eight (8) feet long by the owner or agent.
- B. Any person who is assaulted by a dog without provocation or any person witnessing an unprovoked assault against a person or domesticated animal may file a written complaint with a Law Enforcement Officer.

Procedures regarding the complaints of dangerous dogs and the method of restraint, confinement or disposal shall be prescribed and required by Maine Statues Annotated, Title 7, Section 3952 and succeeding amendments.

## **SECTION 8. ENFORCEMENT**

It shall be the duty of the Law Enforcement Officer to enforce all the provisions of this Ordinance.

## **SECTION 9. PENALTIES**

Any person found in violation of any of the provisions of this Ordinance shall be guilty of a civil violation and upon a conviction thereof shall be fined not less than fifty dollars (\$50) nor more than two hundred dollars (\$200) to be recovered by a complaint before the Maine District Court, District, Hancock County, subject to the rights of exception and appeal as are provided by law. All fines collected shall be recovered to the use of the Town of Gouldsboro and deposited in a separate account as required by M.R.S.A. Section 3945 (Use and License Fees Retained by Municipalities).

  
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Attested  
Yvonne P. Wilkinson  
Clerk, Town of Gouldsboro

June 20, 2000  
Date