# ORDINANCE FOR THE CONTROL OF DOGS

## Town of Hancock, VT

### Adopted June 6, 2023

Pursuant to Article 24 VSA §2291 (10) and 24 VSA §1974 (a), the Selectboard of the Town of Hancock hereby adopt the following ordinance relating to the regulation of keeping dogs and providing for their leashing or restraint within the Town of Hancock.

1. DEFINITIONS: A dog “running at-large” shall mean a dog which is (a) not on a leash, or (b) not on or within a vehicle, or (c) not on the property of its owners or their agent, or (d) not clearly under the verbal command of its owner or their agent, or (e) not hunting with its owner or their agent.
2. All dogs resident within the Town of Hancock shall be registered with the Town Clerk.
3. All dogs resident within the Town of Hancock shall be vaccinated against rabies, with certification of such vaccination a prerequisite for registration with the Town Clerk.
4. A person shall not allow a dog to run at-large within the Town of Hancock.
5. A person shall not permit any un-spayed dog in estrus to be outside a building or outside a fenced enclosure.
6. A person shall not permit a dog to bark excessively, or to otherwise become a public nuisance, or to create a disturbance.
7. The Hancock Town Animal Control Officer shall be the chief enforcement office for this Ordinance.
8. The Animal Control Officer and any law enforcement officer may use all reasonable methods for catching and impounding a dog in violation of this Ordinance, including the use of tranquilizing and marking apparatus.
9. The Animal Control Officer or any law enforcement officer may impound a dog found in violation of this Ordinance at the pound, and upon complaint, shall impound any dog found in violation of this Ordinance.
10. The procedure for claiming or releasing a dog from the pound shall be as follows:
	1. Upon delivery to the pound, the pound attendant shall notify the dog’s owner, if the dog is licensed. The dog shall be held for three (3) days after the owner is notified, unless claimed earlier.
	2. If the dog is unlicensed, the pound attendant shall notify the radio station of the dog’s description, and the dog shall be held for three (3) days after the first broadcasting of the dog’s description, unless claimed earlier.
	3. If the owner does not claim the dog within the three (3) day period, the dog shall be given to whoever pays the pound fees, rabies shots, and any other necessary fees.
	4. If no person claims the dog, the dog may be humanely destroyed, and the Town shall pay all necessary fees.
	5. No dog shall be released from the pound until it is properly licensed, and all pound and other charges paid.
11. A person claiming the dog from the pound shall pay a reasonable fee for the dog’s board, all fees for licensing, and all other necessary charges and expenses incurred by the pound. In addition, such person shall pay the pound for the benefit of the Town the sum of Sixty Dollars ($60) to compensate the Town for its reasonable expenses in enforcing this Ordinance.
12. A person who violates this Ordinance shall be fined Two Hundred Fifty Dollars ($250) per violation.
13. If any part of this Ordinance is held to be invalid, such holding shall not affect the remaining portions of this Ordinance, which shall remain in full force and effect.
14. This Ordinance shall be effective as agreed April 28, 2023 and adopted by the Hancock Selectboard for the Town of Hancock herein.

# PUBLIC NOTICE AND IMPLEMENTATION

Public Notice: The Selectboard of the Town of Hancock shall make reasonable efforts to ensure that the public is notified of the existence of this Ordinance:

**ORDINANCE FOR THE CONTROL OF DOGS**

This Ordinance shall be:

1. Entered into the Selectboard's minutes.
2. Shall be posted in at least three conspicuous places within the Town of Hancock.
3. The full text of the Ordinance or a concise summary of it published in The Herald of Randolph not more than fourteen (14) days following the date specified below when this ordinance is adopted.

This Ordinance is hereby adopted by the Selectboard of the Town of Hancock on this 6th day of June, 2023 and shall, unless a petition is filed as provided by law, become effective upon the expiration of sixty (60) days after said date.

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