

Town of Trenton Dog Ordinance

An ordinance regulating dogs and the ownership thereof. The Town Board of the Town of Trenton, Pierce County, Wis., do ordain as follows:

Section 1. The provisions of Chapter 174, Wis. Stats., are adopted and made a part hereof by reference, except as otherwise provided herein.

Section 2. Definitions. Owner: Any person, group of persons, or corporation owning or keeping a dog.

At Large: Any animal shall be deemed to be at large when he is off the property of his owner and not under the control of a competent person. A dog within the motor vehicle of its owner, or in a motor vehicle of any other person with consent of the dogs owner, shall be deemed to be upon the owners premises.

Competent person: An individual of sound age, reason, and discretion who, considering his or her age, mental and physical abilities, and considering the type, age, training and past behavioral practice of the subject dog, is able to control and restrain and to keep from running at large the said dog.

Restraint: An animal is under restraint within the meaning of this ordinance if he is controlled by a leash, at "heel" beside a competent person and obedient to that persons commands, on or within a vehicle being driven or parked on the streets, or within the property limits of its owner or keeper.

Animal Shelter: Any premise designated by action of the Township for the purpose of impounding and caring for all animals found running at large in violation of this ordinance.

Animal Control Authority: The provisions of this ordinance shall be enforced by the Animal Control Authority which is to consist of the Town Board members, Town Clerk and Town Treasurer.

Animal Warden: The person or persons employed by the Town Board as its enforcement officer.

Section 3. Enforcement. The provisions of this ordinance shall be enforced by the Animal Warden of the Town of Trenton.

Section 4. Restrictions on keeping dogs. No person within the Township shall own, harbor, or keep any dog which: (a) Habitually pursues any vehicles upon any public street, alley or highway in the Township, (b) Assaults or attacks any person, (c) Is at large within the limits of the Township, (d) Habitually barks or howls to the annoyance of any person or persons, (e) Kills, wounds or worries any domestic animal, (f) Is known by such person to be infected with rabies or to have been bitten by an animal known to have been infected with rabies.

Section 5. Licensing.

(a) no person shall own, keep or harbor any dog within the Township limits unless such dog is licensed as herein provided. Written application for such license shall be made to the Town Treasurer, and shall state the name and address of the owner and the name, breed, color, and sex of the dog. The license fee shall be paid at the time of making the application and a numbered receipt given to the applicant. A numbered metallic tag shall be issued to the owner upon payment of the license fee.

(b) The yearly license fee shall be \$20 for unaltered male and female dogs and \$10 for altered male and female dogs, kennel license fee \$100.

(c) All dogs license shall be issued for one year beginning with the 1st day of January. There shall be no prorating of license fees for less than one year.

(d) In the event that a metallic license tag issued for a dog shall be lost, the owner may obtain a new tag without charge.

(e) If there is a change in ownership of a dog during the license year, the owner should have the license transferred to his name and notify the Town Treasurer.

(f) No person shall use for any dog a license receipt, or license tag issued for another dog.

(g) No license shall be issued for any dog without proof of current rabies vaccination having been made to the Town Treasurer.

Section 6. Tag and Collar.

(a) Upon complying with the provision of Section 5 of this ordinance, there shall be issued to the owner a numbered metallic tag, stamped with the number and year for which issued.

(b) Every owner is required to see that the tag is securely fastened to the dogs choke chain, collar, or harness which must be worn by the dog at all times.

Section 7. Impoundment.

(a) Any dog found violating or in violation of the provisions of Section 4 hereof shall be impounded by the Township in the shelter designated as the Township Animal Shelter, and there confined in a humane manner. Dogs not claimed by their owners before the expiration of the seven days shall become the property of the Township and be disposed of at the discretion of said Township except at hereinafter provided in cases of certain dogs.

(b) The Township may transfer title of all animals held at its animal shelter to the Township Animal Shelter after the legal detention period has expired and the animal has not been claimed by its owner. In the event of such transfer of title it is expressly understood that the Township Animal Shelter shall pay for each animals food and board after the legal detention period only.

(c) When animals are found running at large and their ownership is known to the agents of the Animal Control Authority, such animal need not be impounded, but the agent may, at his discretion, cite the owners of such animals to appear in court to answer charges of violation of this ordinance.

(d) Immediately upon impounding animals, the agents of the Animal Control Authority shall make every reasonable effort to notify the owners of such animals so impounded, and inform such owners of the conditions whereby they may regain custody of such animals.

Section 8. Redemption of impounded animals. The owner shall be entitled to possession of any impounded animal, except as hereinafter provided in the cases of certain dogs, upon compliance with license requirements and the payment of impoundment fees set forth herein.

Section 9. Impoundment fees. Any animal impounded hereunder may be reclaimed as herein provided upon payment by owner to the Animal Control Authority of the current fee charged by animal shelter for each dog and an additional sum for each day such dog is impounded. Impoundment fees set forth herein shall be collected for the Township, and such additional sums as herein provided for keeping animals, shall be collected by the Town Treasurer and retained for the Township to help defray the costs of keeping such animals beyond the period set forth.

Section 10. Investigation. For the purpose of discharging the duties imposed by this ordinance and to enforce its provisions, any agent of the Town Board or any police officer, is empowered to enter upon any premises upon which an animal is kept or harbored and to demand the exhibition by the owner of such animal or the license of such animal. It is further provided that any agent of the Town Board may enter the premises where any animal is kept in a reportedly cruel or inhumane manner and demand to examine such animal and to take possession of such animal when, in his opinion, it requires humane treatment.

Section 11. Records.

(a) It shall be the duty of the Animal Warden to keep, or cause to be kept, accurate and detailed records of the licensing, impoundment and disposition of all animals coming into its custody.

(b) It shall be the duty of the Animal Warden to keep or cause to be kept, accurate and detailed records of all bite cases reported to him, and his investigation of the same.

(c) It shall be the duty of the Animal Warden to keep or cause to be kept, accurate and detailed records. All monies belonging to the Town of Trenton shall be paid to the Town Treasurer. All records shall be open to inspection at reasonable times by such persons responsible for similar records of the Town of Trenton, and shall be audited by the Town of Trenton annually in the same manner as other town records are audited.

Section 12. Penalty. Any person who shall violate the provisions of this ordinance shall, upon conviction thereof, forfeit \$50 for first offense, \$100 for second offense with costs of prosecution, and in default of payment of the forfeiture and costs of prosecution, shall be imprisoned in the county jail in Pierce County, Wisconsin, until said forfeiture and costs are paid, but not to exceed (5) five days.

Section 13. This ordinance shall take effect upon passage and publication.

Passed and Adopted: Sept., 13, 1982.

Amended: Nov. 6, 2000

Signed
Chairman: Donald R. Johnson
Countersigned:
Steven D. Thoms, Clerk