

TOWN OF PRINCETON
CHAPTER XII - DOG RESTRAINT AND REGULATIONS
(FROM THE TOWN OF PRINCETON GENERAL BYLAWS- UPDATED AUGUST 2009)

SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS

The following words and phrases as used in this By-Law, unless the context otherwise requires, shall have the following meanings:

- (a) "Dog": Shall mean all animals of canine species, both male and female.
- (b) "Owner": Shall mean any person or persons, firm, association or corporation owning, keeping or harboring a dog, as herein defined.
- (c) "Public Nuisance": Any dog shall be deemed a public nuisance when such dog:
 - 1) Is elsewhere than on the premises of its keeper unless such dog (a) is then under control of a person competent to control and restrain such dog or (b) is not a threat to public safety.
 - 2) Any unspayed female dog in season and not confined.
 - 3) Any dog that persistently and prolongedly barks and/or howls.
- (d) "Animal Control Officer": Shall mean a person appointed by the Board of Selectmen to enforce the laws relating to animal control.
(Amended at the Annual Town Meeting - May 12, 2009)
- (e) "License Period": Shall mean the time between January first and the following December thirty-first, both dates inclusive.
- (f) "Dog License": Shall mean an annual license issued for all dogs over six month of age. The owner shall securely attach the town's license tag to their dog.

SECTION 2. PROHIBITION

No keeper of a dog shall permit such dog(s) to be a public nuisance in the Town of Princeton.

SECTION 3. ENFORCEMENT

The Animal Control Officer shall enforce the provisions of this By-Law and to that end he shall have the authority to seek complaints in the District Court for violations thereof. He shall investigate complaints of alleged violations of this By-Law. He shall also apprehend any dog found by him to be a public nuisance and impound such dog in a suitable place or order the keeper thereof to restrain it.

SECTION 4. PROCEDURE FOLLOWING IMPOUNDMENT

- (a) Notice to Owner: The Animal Control Officer shall immediately notify the owner of any dog impounded by him under the provisions of this By-Law if such owner is known to him. If such owner is not known by him no notice shall be necessary.
- (b) Redemption of Impounded Dogs: The owner of any dog(s) impounded under the provisions of this By-Law may redeem such dog provided he first

- 1) reimburse the Town for its expenses for initial handling of such dog plus an amount for each day of impoundment thereof according to fees set annually by the Board of Selectmen, and
- 2) procures from the Town Clerk's office a license and tag for any such dog not licensed.

SECTION 5. DISPOSITION OF UNCLAIMED DOGS

Any dog which has been impounded under the provision of this by-law and has not been redeemed by the owner within ten (10) days and/or the owner is unknown, the dog may be disposed of as provided by Section 151A, Chapter 140 of the General Laws as amended. If the dog owner is known, the identified owner shall be liable for all costs for impounding incurred by the town or the owner of the impounding facility. The Animal Control Officer may try to find a home for any such impounded dog. He may waive impound fees to a new owner.

An adoption fee of \$50 will be assessed at the time of adoption. No dog or cat shall be released for adoption as a pet without the written agreement from the adopter guaranteeing that the animal will be neutered or spayed. Vaccination fees, licensing fees, and veterinary costs shall be charged if applicable, and are above and beyond the adoption fee.

(Amended at the Annual Town Meeting – May 12, 2009)

SECTION 6. ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

The Animal Control Officer shall keep an account of all monies received by him under the provisions of this by-law.

SECTION 7. PENALTY

Violations of Section 2: Any person violating the provisions of Section 2 of this by-law shall be liable to fine in accordance with the procedure prescribed in Section 172A of Chapter 140 of the General Laws, as amended, at a schedule of fines set by the Board of Selectmen.

Owners of Dogs who receive three (3) or more notices of violation of this by-law shall be subject to a hearing before the Board of Selectmen under the provisions of Chapter 140, Section 157 of the General Laws.

(Amended at the Annual Town Meeting – May 12, 2009)

SECTION 8. UNLICENSED DOG FINES

A fine shall be imposed on the owner of a dog who has not licensed such dog on or before the close of the last business day in the month of April of each year, postmark is not acceptable. Such fine may be enforced by non-criminal disposition pursuant to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40, Section 21D.

(Amended at the Annual Town Meeting - May 15, 2001)

SECTION 9. DISPOSITION OF FUNDS

Any funds collected pursuant to the provisions of this by-law by the Animal Control Officer or persons authorized to license dogs in the Town, shall be accounted for and paid over to the Town Treasurer in a timely manner.

SECTION 10. FEES

The Board of Selectmen will set the fee rate for dog licenses, impounding fees and offense or violation fees. The current fee schedule (Appendix A) is as follows:

DOG FEES:

1. Annual License:	Male	\$15.00
	Female	\$15.00
	Spayed/Neutered	\$10.00
	Transfer Fee	\$ 2.00
	Replacement Tag	\$ 1.00

(Amended at Special Town Meeting – March 10, 2009)

2. Unlicensed Dog Fine:

A fine shall be imposed on the owner of a dog who has not licensed such dog on or before the close of the last business day in the month of April of each year; postmark is not acceptable.

(Amended at the Annual Town Meeting – May 15, 2001)

3. Impound Fees:

Initial handling (pick-up)	\$ 15.00
Each day of confinement	\$ 10.00 (per day)

4. Penalty for violation of by-laws:

First Offense	\$10.00
Second Offense	\$25.00
Third and subsequent offenses	\$50.00

(Amended at the Annual Town Meeting - June 3, 1996, and at the Annual Town Meeting – May 12, 2009)

SECTION 11. KENNEL LICENSES

Definition: One (1) pack or collection of dogs on a single premise, whether maintained as pets or for breeding, boarding, sale, training, hunting or other purposes and including any shop where dogs are on sale, and also including every pack or collection of more than three (3) dogs, three (3) months old or older, owned or kept by a person(s) on a single premise irrespective of the purpose for which they are maintained.

In lieu of individual licenses, the owner(s) or keeper(s) of four (4) dogs or more is required to purchase a kennel license for the number of dogs kept on a single premise. Fees are as follows:

Four (4) dogs:	\$ 40.00
Five (5) to ten (10) dogs:	\$ 60.00
Eleven (11) or more dogs:	\$100.00

(Adopted at the Annual Town Meeting, May 16, 2000)