

NOTICE

TOWN OF EAST MONTPELIER

Notice is hereby given of the adoption on December 15, 2014 by the East Montpelier Selectboard of the following ordinance:

DOG & WOLF-HYBRID CONTROL ORDINANCE

Section 1: Authority. 20 V.S.A. §3549, 24 V.S.A. §2291 (10), (14), & (15), and 24 V.S.A. Chapter 59.

Section 2: Purpose. To regulate the keeping of dogs to protect the public.

Section 3: Definitions. Definitions of terms pertinent to the dog control ordinance.

Section 4: Nuisances. Description of actions by a dog that shall be deemed nuisances, including running at large and disturbing the peace.

Section 5: Collar and License. Requirement that all dogs wear a collar or harness with current license attached.

Section 6: Enforcement. Violations of this ordinance will be a civil matter enforced in the Vermont Judicial Bureau or the Washington County Superior Court.

Section 7: Penalties and Costs. Progressive penalties up to \$400 per offense and costs of impoundment plus remedial actions ordered by the enforcement officer.

Section 8: Potentially Vicious Dogs. A potentially vicious dog can be impounded and subject to the same penalties as a vicious dog except humane destruction.

Section 9: Notice of Impoundment and Release From Impoundment. The officer will provide notice of a dog's impoundment to the owner, if known, or provide public notice if the owner is unknown. Impounded dogs will be released to their owners only after all required actions have been met. If such actions are not accomplished, the dogs may be transferred or humanely destroyed.

Section 10: Investigation of Vicious Dogs. Upon formal complaint, the Selectboard shall investigate, hold a hearing, and render judgment.

Section 11: Other Laws. All prior ordinances or parts thereof inconsistent with this ordinance are repealed to the extent of the inconsistency.

Section 12: Severability. If a part of this ordinance is found invalid, such finding does not invalidate the rest of the ordinance.

Section 13: Effective Date. February 13, 2015 unless disapproved by vote of the Town of East Montpelier following submission of a petition as provided in 24 V.S.A. §1973.

The full text of the dog control ordinance is available for review at the Municipal Office Building, 40 Kelton Road, East Montpelier and on the town's website at: <http://eastmontpeliervt.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/2014-EM-Dog-Control-Ordinance.pdf>.

Town of East Montpelier citizens may petition for a town vote on the question of disapproving this ordinance. The petition must be signed by not less than 5% of the qualified voters of the Town of East Montpelier and submitted to the Town Clerk at the Municipal Building no later than 5:00 p.m. January 28, 2015. Absent such a petition, the ordinance will take effect February 13, 2015.

Any questions may be directed to Town Administrator Bruce Johnson, PO Box 157, East Montpelier, Vermont 05651, 223-3313x204 or eastmontadmin@comcast.net.