

ANIMAL ORDINANCE

Pursuant to the provisions of Title 20, Section 3549 of Vermont Statutes Annotated as amended, it is hereby ordained by the Selectboard of the Town of Brookfield, that the following dog ordinance be adopted.

Section 1. DEFINITIONS: As used in this ordinance the following terms shall have the respective meanings:

- (a) Dogs: Shall include male and female of the canine species and wolf or wolf hybrids.
- (b) Pet: Shall mean any dog, cat, ferret, wolf hybrid or any other animal which is kept for the owner's enjoyment.
- (c) Owner: Shall include any person or persons, firms, associations, or corporations owning, keeping, or harboring a dog, ferret, wolf hybrid or other pet. Unless otherwise identified on the dog or pet license, the head of the household shall be presumed to be the owner of the dog or pet.
- (d) Officer: Shall mean any police officer, game warden, sheriff, constable, the Town Animal Control Officer, or any member of the Selectboard if none of the aforementioned officers is immediately available.

Section 2: RUNNING AT LARGE. All dogs and wolf hybrids within the Town of Brookfield shall be restrained from running at large off the property of the owner. A dog or wolf hybrid shall be deemed to be restrained from running at large when it is kept within an enclosure on the property of its owner or keeper, or is kept on a leash, or is under the immediate control of a competent and responsible adult. Hunting dogs in training and pursuing legal game and under reasonable control of an owner or keeper shall not come under the provisions of this ordinance.

Section 3: DISTURBANCE BY NOISE. It shall be unlawful for any person owning or possessing a dog or wolf hybrid to permit it to disturb the quiet by habitually crying, barking, or howling for a period of more than 30 minutes, day or night. This section may be acted upon notification in writing by one complainant and one witness to the Town Constable. The complainant shall make a reasonable attempt to contact the dog or wolf hybrid owner before contacting the Town.

Section 4: LICENSE REQUIREMENT: It shall be the duty of every owner of any dog, wolf hybrid or ferret over the age of 6 months, and living within the town of Brookfield, to procure a license in accordance with Title 20, Sections 3501-3592 of the Vermont Statutes. Any person with an unlicensed dog, wolf hybrid or ferret within the Town after the final license date of April 1st of each year shall be charged a \$10 fine per animal, plus the appropriate license fee. Proof of current rabies vaccination is required to obtain a dog license.

Section 5: IMPOUNDING. Any dog, ferret, or wolf hybrid found running at large within the Town may be taken up by an Officer and impounded. Notice of such impoundment shall be promptly given to the owner if such can be determined. If the owner of the animal is unknown, a notice of impoundment shall be posted in the Town Clerk's Office, the town website and on Front Porch Forum.

Section 6: REDEMPTION. An owner may reclaim their impounded animal upon payment of all fees associated with the impoundment including maintenance and care of the animal.

Section 7: ANIMAL BITE. The owner of any dog, wolf hybrid or ferret that bites or attacks a person or other domestic animal may be fined up to \$100.00 for the first such incident and will be held responsible for any medical or veterinary bills for the injured parties. Reports of animal bite should be made to one of the Town Constables, or to the Town Clerk within 48 hours.

Any dog, wolf hybrid, or ferret that bites a person may be confiscated and impounded for a period of up to 14 days if no proof of rabies vaccination is available. Any pound fees, medical expenses, or veterinary fees shall be paid by the owner of the animal. After 14 days, if such an animal is safe from rabies or infectious disease, it may be released back to the owner upon satisfaction of damages made to all parties involved, plus pound fees. If the animal is proven to have rabies, it shall be destroyed at the owner's expense.

Section 8: DISPOSITION OF UNCLAIMED DOGS AND PETS. It shall be the duty of the Constable to keep all unclaimed animals impounded for a period of up to 14 days at the Country Animal Hospital in Bethel, VT, or wherever animal housing is deemed suitable. Any animals not reclaimed within the 14 days may be advertised for adoption or destroyed.

Section 9: CIVIL ORDINANCE. This Ordinance shall be a civil ordinance and shall be prosecuted in civil court as provided under Title 24, Sections 1974, 1977 et seq., Vermont Statutes Annotated as amended.

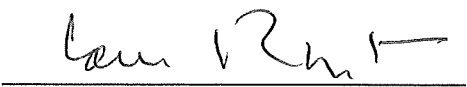
Section 11: ORDINANCE REPEALED. All Ordinances and parts of ordinances in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed.

Section 12: SEPARABILITY. If any section, subsection, sentence clause, phrase, or portion of this Ordinance is for any reason held invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such provision shall be deemed a separate, distinct, and independent provision and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions hereof.

Dated this 8th day of June 2024 by the Selectboard, Town of Brookfield, County of Orange, Vermont.

Attest:





NKL III
Jan 12