

TOWN OF LONGMEADOW BYLAWS RELATING TO DOGS
(most violations punishable by a fine of \$25)

5-305. Unrestrained Animal.

A person shall not permit an animal to roam unrestrained except on property under the control of the person. [This means that dogs may not be unrestrained in public parks or on Town or School land.] If a person permits an animal to roam unrestrained on property under his control, he shall keep the property sufficiently fenced to keep the animal from emerging from the property.

5-306. Control of Dog -- Public Facilities and Property.

A person who owns or keeps a dog shall not permit the dog to be on school grounds between the hours of 7:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M. on any day that the school is in session, or within one hundred (100') feet of any public swimming pool or public wading pool during the time that the swimming pool or wading pool is available for use.

5-307. Dog Control -- Private Property.

A person who owns or keeps a dog shall not permit the dog to be upon the land of another person without the permission of the other person if the owner or keeper of the dog does not restrain the dog by a chain or leash that does not exceed six (6') feet in length.

5-310. Catching a Dog.

If a dog is at large or is on the property of a person other than the owner or keeper of that dog without the permissions of the property owner and without being restrained by a chain or leash that does not exceed six (6') feet in length, the Animal Control Officer shall take possession of the dog and confine it. The Animal Control Officer shall, as soon as practicable, notify in writing the licensed owner or keeper of the dog that the owner or keeper has ten (10) days within which to recover the dog.

5-312. Reclaiming Dog.

A person is not entitled to reclaim a dog that has been confined by the Animal Control Officer until:

- (a) A person has acknowledged that he is the owner or keeper of the dog;
- (b) He has undertaken responsibility for the dog; and
- (c) He has paid the expense of maintaining the dog in confinement, including, but not limited to, the cost of feeding, medical care, medicines and the necessary dog license.

5-313. Disposition of Dog.

If a dog has been confined by the Animal Control Officer, and if the dog remains unclaimed more than ten (10) days after notice has been given to the owner or the keeper of the dog, the Animal Control Officer shall dispose of the dog in a manner provided by law.

5-317. Dog As Nuisance.

If a person makes a complaint in writing to the Select Board that a dog owned or kept within the Town is a nuisance, the Select Board shall take action as provided in Chapter 140, Section 157 of the General Laws. If the

person who files the complaint knows the identity of the owner or keeper of the dog, he shall provide that information to the Select Board.

5-318. Definition: Dog As Nuisance.

A dog is a nuisance for the purpose of these By-Laws if the dog:

- (a) Has a vicious disposition;
- (b) Engages in excessive barking;
- (c) Chases cars;
- (d) Runs in packs with other dogs;
- (e) Breaks or damages shrubbery;
- (f) Damages gardens;
- (g) Bites or threatens to bite a person or persons; or
- (h) Enters unrestrained onto the property of persons other than the owner or keeper of the dog.**

5-320. Dogs on Athletic Fields.

Dogs, except for seeing eye dogs or hearing aid dogs, whether or not under the control of their owners shall not be permitted at any time on any athletic field under the jurisdiction of the School committee. This section shall supersede the provisions of Section 5-306 with respect to athletic fields which are on school grounds.

5-322. Removal of Dog Waste.

- (a) It shall be unlawful for any person owning, keeping, walking, in possession, custody or control of any dog to allow or permit such dog to defecate upon any public or private property, other than the property of the dog's owner or with the permission of the property owner, unless such person shall remove all feces deposited by such dog before leaving such property.**
- (b) The provision of this section shall not apply to a guide dog accompanying any blind person.
- (f) Feces may not be disposed of in the public storm drain system due to concern for the pollution of brooks, streams, and wetlands.** Feces may only be disposed of by:
 - (1) utilizing the public sewer systems; or
 - (2) sealing in a plastic bag and disposing in the regular trash; or
 - (3) utilizing a dog waste septic tank disposal system; or
 - (4) burial; or
 - (5) other methods approved by the public health department.