

CHAPTER 2
ANIMAL CONTROL
ARTICLE B. DOGS

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4-2B-1: **DEFINITIONS:**

For the purposes of this article, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings respectively ascribed to them by this section:

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER:	Any law enforcement officer employed by the Town and any other person designated by the Town Council to enforce this article.
AT LARGE:	Off the premises of the owner and not under the control of the owner or any other person by means of leash, rope, chain or otherwise.
DOG:	All dogs, whether male, female, or neutered.
OWNER:	Any person, firm, association, or corporation owning, keeping, or harboring any dog.

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VICIOUS DOG: A dog which, by its unprovoked actions, puts any person in reasonable fear of bodily injury, or actually injures or attacks any person while such person is engaged in any lawful activity. (Ord. 31, 1-9-2003; amd. Ord. 31A, 10-12-2006; Ord. 77, 6-8-2023)

4-2B-2: DOG LICENSE:

- A. Required: It shall be unlawful for any owner to keep or harbor any dog over the age of six (6) months within the limits of the Town without having first obtained a license therefor as provided by this section.
- B. Rabies Vaccination Required: No license shall be issued under the provisions of this section unless the applicant therefor shall have first exhibited to the Town Clerk a certificate or tag issued by a licensed veterinarian showing that said dog sought to be licensed has been vaccinated for rabies and is current on vaccination immediately preceding the date of the application.
- C. License Expiration And Renewal: Any license issued under the provisions of this section may be issued at any time during the year and shall expire on January 1 each year, at which time such license shall be renewed upon payment of the required fee.
- D. License Fees: Any person obtaining a license under the provisions of this section shall pay therefor to the Town Clerk for each dog the required rate stated in the Rate Schedule Policy in the office of the Town Clerk.
- E. Penalties For Violation: Any person who shall keep or harbor any dog in violation of this section, or who shall attempt to evade any of the provisions hereof, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor.
 - 1. First Conviction: Upon the first conviction hereof, such person shall be fined the sum of fifty dollars (\$50.00), plus court costs.
 - 2. Second Conviction: Within five (5) business days and upon the second conviction hereof, such person shall be fined the sum of one hundred dollars (\$100.00), plus court costs.
 - 3. Third Conviction: Upon the third conviction hereof, such person shall be fined the sum of one hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00), plus court costs and dog(s) stated in the conviction will be required to be removed from town limits indefinitely. (Ord. 31, 1-9-2003; amd. Ord. 31A-2, 6-25-2012; Ord. 65, 11-9-2017 Ord. 77, 6-8-2023)

4-2B-3: TAMPERING WITH LICENSE:

Any person who shall deprive a licensed dog of its tag or collar or shall put a registered tag on any dog not registered shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, be fined one hundred dollars (\$100.00), plus court costs. (Ord. 31A-2, 6-25-2012)

4-2B-4: KENNEL LICENSE PROHIBITED; NUMBER OF DOGS ALLOWED:

- A. Prohibited: Kennel licenses are not permitted in the corporate limits of the Town of LaGrange.
- B. Limitation: It shall be unlawful for any owner to keep or harbor more than three (3) adult dogs, over the age of six (6) months, longer than seven (7) days on any premises within the corporate limits of the Town.
- C. Penalties For Violation: Any person who shall keep or harbor any dog in violation of this section, or who shall attempt to evade any of the provisions hereof, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor.
 - 1. First Conviction: Upon the first conviction hereof, such person shall be fined the sum of fifty dollars (\$50.00), plus court costs.
 - 2. Second Conviction: Upon the second conviction hereof, such person shall be fined the sum of one hundred dollars (\$100.00), plus court costs.
 - 3. Third Conviction: Upon the third conviction hereof, such person shall be fined the sum of one hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00), plus court costs and dog(s) must be removed from household to meet the number of dogs allowed by ordinance. (Ord. 31A-2, 6-25-2012; amd. Ord. 65, 11-9-2017; Ord. 77, 6-8-2023)

4-2B-5: RUNNING AT LARGE:

- A. Prohibited: It shall be unlawful for the owner of any dog to permit the same to run at large whether licensed or unlicensed.
- B. Penalty: The violation of this section by any person is hereby declared to be a misdemeanor.
 - 1. First Apprehension: Upon the first apprehension hereof, such person shall be fined the sum of fifty dollars (\$50.00), plus court costs.

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2. Second Apprehension: Upon the second apprehension hereof, such person shall be fined the sum of one hundred dollars (\$100.00), plus court costs.

3. Third Apprehension: Upon the third apprehension hereof, such person shall be fined the sum of one hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00), plus court costs and dog(s) stated in the conviction will be required to be removed from town limits indefinitely. (Ord. 31A-2, 6-25-2012; amd. Ord. 65, 11-9-2017; Ord. 77, 6-8-2023)

4-2B-6: ABANDONMENT:

- A. Definition: "Abandonment" shall include leaving an animal for a period in excess of twenty four (24) hours without food, water, and reasonable supervision of the animal's condition.
- B. Prohibited: It is unlawful for any person to abandon, release or allow to be released any animal within the Town. All animals which are abandoned shall be considered surrendered to the Town for impoundment or disposal.
- C. Right Of Entry; Care Furnished By Town: If an animal is restrained or confined without food, water or proper attention or is injured or threatened with injury, the Town may enter into and upon any property where the animal is restrained or confined and supply it with necessary food, water or attention.
- D. Impoundment: If necessary for the health of the animal, the Town may remove and impound the animal, all at the expense of the owner or keeper thereof.
- E. Liability: The Town shall not be liable to any action for entry or for taking possession of any such animal.
- F. Penalty: Any person who shall violate any provision of this section shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be subject to penalty as provided in section 1-4-1 of this Code. (Ord. 31, 1-9-2003; amd. 2011 Code)

4-2B-7: NUISANCE DOGS:

(Rep. by Ord. 77, 6-8-2023)

4-2B-8: VICIOUS DOGS:

- A. Prohibited: Any owner who shall keep or allow to run at large any vicious dog shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor.
- B. Penalty: Any dog suspected to be a vicious dog will be apprehended and kept in an animal control facility at the expense of the owner until a court decision has been made.
 - 1. First Conviction: Upon the first conviction hereof, such person shall be fined the sum of two hundred dollars (\$200.00), plus court costs and said animal must leave Town or be destroyed by order of the court. (Ord. 58, 9-11-2014; amd. Ord. 65, 11-9-2017; Ord. 77, 6-8-2023)

4-2B-9: IMPOUNDMENT:

- A. Duty To Impound: It shall be the duty of the animal control officer of the Town to apprehend any dog found by them to be in violation of this article, if deemed necessary to enforce provisions herein.
- B. Notice Of Impoundment: Upon the capture of any dog, it shall be the duty of the law enforcement officer to notify the owner, thereof, if such owner can be ascertained, which notice may be given by telephone or in person, and shall advise of the fact of the capture and the date of the impounding of said dog. If the owner of any dog so captured and impounded is unknown or notice cannot be given to such owner, then and in such event notice shall be given by posting the same at three (3) conspicuous places within the Town, describing the dog so impounded and the place and time of taking such dog.
- C. Unlicensed Dogs: No unlicensed dog may be reclaimed, unless the person reclaiming the dog shall pay the required license fees to properly license such dog in accordance with this article.
- D. Failure To Reclaim: Any dog impounded under the provisions of this article which shall not have been reclaimed as herein provided within five (5) days after being impounded shall be destroyed. Any person whether he be the owner thereof or not, may, after three (3) days, redeem any dog impounded. (Ord. 58, 9-11-2014)

4-2B-10: RIGHT OF ENTRY:

In the enforcement of any of the provisions of this article, the animal control officer of the Town is authorized to enter the premises of any person and take possession

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of licensed or unlicensed dogs when in fresh pursuit of such dog at the time the dog goes upon private property. (Ord. 31A, 10-12-2006)

4-2B-11: **HINDERING ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER:**

Any person who shall hinder any animal control officer in the discharge of his duties as provided in this article shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined in any sum not greater than two hundred dollars (\$200.00), plus court costs. (Ord. 31A, 10-12-2006)