

021385

TO
ORDINANCE / REGULATING THE KEEPING OF DOGS

The Selectmen of the Town of Worcester, on this 13th day of February, 1985, do hereby enact the following ordinance:

SECTION 1. DAMAGE AND DISTRESS.

All dogs with the Town of Worcester shall be kept or restrained so as to avoid distress to any person or animal and damage to any property.

SECTION 2. INVESTIGATIONS.

The Selectmen shall investigate the circumstances surrounding the damage to property or the distress to a person or animal suspected to have been done by a dog within the Town, upon complaint from any citizen or upon their own initiative.

SECTION 3. HEARING.

If the Selectmen determine that the facts of their investigation warrant further action, they shall give reasonable notice to the parties affected and hold one or more hearings.

SECTION 4. FINDINGS.

At the conclusion of such hearings, the Selectmen may make such findings as are warranted by their investigation and the presentations made at the hearings. If the Selectmen find that a dog has caused damage to property with Town, or has caused distress to a person or animal within Town, they may issue the appropriate order under Section 5 of this ordinance.

SECTION 5. ORDER.

The Selectmen may order that a dog be restrained appropriately to the circumstances. The restraint ordered may be by chaining, fencing in, or restriction within a building, or by any other means that will reduce or eliminate the possibility that the dog will repeat the damage or distress it has been found to have done.

SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This ordinance shall take effect sixty days following its enactment by the Board of Selectmen, but only if approved by vote of the townspeople at Town Meeting in March of 1985.

Paul P. Hanlon	Ronald J. Morissette	David E. Maxham
Paul P. Hanlon, Selectman	Ronald J. Morissette, Selectman	David E. Maxham, Selectman

Dog Ordinance Continued:

Citizens of the Town of Worcester may rescind this ordinance by filing a petition with the signatures of at least 5% of the qualified voters of the Town which calls for a special Town Meeting to vote on the issue. The petition must be filed within 44 days of the adoption of the ordinance by the Selectmen. Please note that the ordinance as passed by the Selectmen will not go into effect unless the townspeople vote in favor of the ordinance at March Town Meeting, and an article has been placed in the Town Meeting Warning calling for this vote already. Additional copies of the ordinance may be obtained at the Town Clerk's Office, and you may call Paul Hanlon at 229-9114 if you have any questions about the ordinance.

A True Record. Received for record February 13 A.D., 1985 at 8:48 P.M.

Attest Therese C. [Signature] Town Clerk

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