

**TOWN OF SKOWHEGAN**  
**ANIMALS AND FOWL ORDINANCE**

Adopted July 16, 1973  
Amended March 8, 1999  
Amended June 13, 2022

**SECTION I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Ordinance is to control dogs and other domesticated animals within the Town of Skowhegan in the interest of health, safety and general welfare of its residents and their animals.

**SECTION II. DEFINITIONS**

As used in this article, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, unless the context indicates otherwise.

**AT LARGE:** Shall be intended to mean off the premises of the animal's owner, and not under the control and restraint of the animal's owner or a member of his immediate family, either by leash, cord, chain, "at heel," or under command. This definition does not apply to cats.

**DOG:** Shall mean - An animal, wholly or in part, of the species "Canis familiaris".

**OWNER:** Shall mean - Any person or persons, firm, association or corporation, owning, keeping, harboring or in possession of, or having the control of an animal. "Owner" shall also be intended to mean and to include the parent or parents or guardian of a minor who owns, keeps or has in his possession an animal. (Town Meeting, 3-13-71, §1)

**PUBLIC NUISANCE:** Shall mean - An owner's failure to control, restrain or otherwise allow, either by conduct or condition, any animal to:

- a. Be at large; or
- b. Cause a disturbance by excessive and frequent barking or noisemaking which creates unreasonably loud and disturbing noises for a duration of at least 30 minutes continuously or one hour or more intermittently, near the private residence or business of another or of any government or public facility; or
- c. Produce maggots, flies, odors, or unclean conditions sufficient to annoy or endanger adjacent property owners, residents, or other individuals who may be reasonably exposed by such conditions; or
- d. Chase vehicles or molest, attack or interfere with other persons and animals on public or private property.

**SECTION III. LIVESTOCK, FOWL, or DOMESTIC ANIMALS**

(For purpose of this section, domestic animal does not include dogs)

**1. Animals kept incidental to a residential use of a property.**

- A. Any livestock, fowl, or domestic animals shall be kept in such a manner as not to constitute a public nuisance.
- B. On complaint, the Animal Control Officer or Police Officer may give notice to any owner, or person keeping the livestock, fowl, or domestic animal to abate the nuisance within ten (10) days.

- C. Any violation of this article after ten days by the owner or person keeping such livestock, fowl, or domestic animals shall be subject to a civil forfeiture in an amount not to exceed two hundred dollars (\$200.00). Each day the violation continues constitutes a separate offense.

## **SECTION IV. DOGS**

### **1. Barking, howling, yelping dogs.**

- A. No person shall keep or harbor any dog within the Town which, by frequent and habitual barking, howling, or yelping, creates unreasonably loud and disturbing noises for a duration of at least 30 minutes continuously or one hour or more intermittently. Any person who shall allow any such dog to remain, be lodged or fed within any dwelling, building, yard, or enclosure which the person occupies or owns shall be considered as harboring such a dog.
- B. Any keeper, holder, or owner of a barking, howling, or yelping dog shall be subject to a civil forfeiture in an amount not to exceed one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for each separate violation.

### **2. Removal and disposal of dog excrement.**

- A. No person shall cause or permit any dog excrement to be cast or deposited by the animal upon the premises of any public park, beach, sidewalk, or other property owned by the Town or upon any property owned by another individual or business entity.
- B. Failing to immediately remove and lawfully dispose of any dog excrement left upon any public park, beach, sidewalk, or other property owned by the Town, or upon property owned by another individual or business entity is a civil violation for which a forfeiture not to exceed twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) may be adjudged for each offense.
- C. This section shall be enforced by the Animal Control Officer or Police Officer.
- D. This section shall not apply to a dog, or dogs, in direct charge of any handicapped person who, by reason of said handicap, is physically unable to comply with the requirements of this article.