

Town of Winchester, Vilas County

Ordinance #2020-01

Licensing and Control of Dogs

1) Purpose

This Ordinance is adopted for the licensing and control of dogs within the Town of Winchester.

2) Licenses

a) Every Person who owns, harbors, or keeps a dog more than five (5) months of age on January 1 of any year, or five (5) months of age within the license year, will annually pay the dog license tax and obtain a license therefore, as provided by the provisions of CH 174, Wis. Stats.

b) The license year commences on January 1 and ends on the following December 31.

c) This ordinance adopts s. 174.055, Wis. Stats. exempting dogs for the blind, deaf and mobility-impaired.

3) Fees

a) The cost is \$5.00 for neutered males and spayed females, and \$10.00 for females and unneutered males. Municipalities are required to charge an additional \$5.00 Late Fee on or after April 1 or after the 30-day period has elapsed in the case of new dogs and young dogs, pursuant to s.174.05(5), Wis. Stats. Owners of dogs will make application for licenses to the Town Treasurer.

b) Bona fide evidence of rabies inoculation for each dog must be provided before any license is issued.

4) Dogs At Large, Unlicensed

a) Dogs running at large or untagged are subject to impoundment as specified in s. 174.046, Wis. Stats..

b) A dog, is considered to be running at large, if it is off the premises of its owner and not under the control of the owner or some other person.

c) A dog, is considered to be, untagged if a valid license tag is not attached to a collar which is kept on the dog whenever the dog is outdoors unless the dog is securely confined in a fenced area.

5) Penalty

Any person violating s. 310.04, Wis. Stats. Will forfeit not less than \$25.00 nor more than \$100.00 for the first offense and not less than \$50.00 nor more than \$200.00 for subsequent offenses. The penalties in this ordinance are in addition to any other liability imposed on the owner of the dog.

6) Enforcement

For the purpose of this ordinance, designated officers may be the duly elected Town Chairman, or duly appointed Dog Catcher of the Town of Winchester. Such officers will be charged with the enforcement of this ordinance and will be responsible for any notification required when a dog is to be destroyed or disposed of, or when a dog is impounded for any reason as set forth in this ordinance.

7) Previous Ordinance

Upon adoption of this ordinance, Ordinance #2018-03, as adopted by the Town Board of Winchester is rescinded.

8) Validity

Should any section, clause, or provision of this ordinance be declared by the courts to be invalid, the same will not affect the validity of the ordinance as a whole or any part thereof, other than the part so declared to be invalid.

9) Effective Date

This ordinance will be in effect from and after its passage and posting as required by law.

Adopted This 1st Day of June 2020

Town Chairman 

Attest: Town Clerk 