

Ordinance to Enforce Dogs at Large Town of Union
Waupaca County
Ordinance 2023 - 3

[1] **Authority.** This section is adopted pursuant to authority conferred by Chapters 60 and 174, Wis. Stats.

[2] **Purpose.** The purpose of this section is to promote the public health, safety and general welfare of the Town of Union by requiring owners to control dogs, by requiring reasonable restrictions on the keeping of dogs and establishing administrative procedures.

[3] **Definitions.** For the purpose of this ordinance, the following terms are defined.

[a] **At Large.** Any 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.

[b] **Domestic Animal.** A domestic animal is any dog, cat or livestock.

[c] **Harboring or Keeping a Dog.** Harboring or keeping a dog is to afford it lodging, to shelter it or give it refuge.

[d] **Kennel.** Any establishment wherein or whereon dogs are kept for the purpose of breeding, sale or sporting purposes.

[e] **Officer.** A designated officer appointed by the Town of Union.

[f] **Owner.** Any person who owns, harbors or keeps a dog;

[g] **Untagged Dog.** A dog is untagged if a valid license 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.

[4] **General Provisions.**

[a] **Dogs At Large Prohibited.** It shall be unlawful and a violation of this ordinance for any person owning, harboring or keeping a dog to permit, allow or cause such dog to run at large in the Town of Union.

[b] **Restrictions on Harboring or Keeping Dogs.** It shall be unlawful and in violation of this ordinance for any person to harbor or keep a dog which habitually pursues any vehicle on a public right-of-way; which assaults or attacks any person off the premises; which habitually barks or howls as to constitute a reasonable annoyance to other persons; which kills, wounds or worries any livestock or other domestic animal; which exceeds six months of age but has not been issued a valid license; which is known or reasonably known to be infected with rabies or bitten by an animal known to have been infected with rabies but not confined and quarantined; or which is untagged.

- [c] **Complaint.** Complaints shall be made to the Town Board in writing and shall be signed by the complainant.
- [d] **Dog Bites.** All dog bites shall be reported to the Town Board. The dog shall be confined by the owner. The dog shall not be released by the owner until the Board approves the release.
- [e] **Surrender of Dogs.** Dogs shall be surrendered upon demand by the Town Board.

[5] **Impoundment and Disposition of Dogs.**

- [a] **Impoundment and Disposition.** Dogs that are apprehended and confined shall be impounded at a facility approved by the Town Board. If the dog has been confined by the Town Board there shall be a charge of \$25.00 per day for confinement up to three (3) days. After that time period, if the dog has not been released to the owner, the dog will be re-homed, after 10 days it will be euthanized in a careful, proper and humane manner.
- [b] **Penalties.** If the owner of a dog negligently or otherwise permits the dog to run at large or to be untagged, the owner shall forfeit not less than \$50.00 for the first offense; not less than \$100 for the second offense; and not less than \$200.00 for the third or subsequent offenses.

[6] **Release of a Dog.** The officer or facility to whom a dog is delivered may release the dog to its owner or a representative of the owner only if:

- [a] The owner or representative gives his or her name and address;
- [b] The owner or representative presents evidence that the dog is licensed, and presents evidence that the dog is vaccinated against rabies, or a receipt from a licensed veterinarian for prepayment of a rabies vaccination; and
- [c] The owner or representative pays all confinement and impoundment costs.

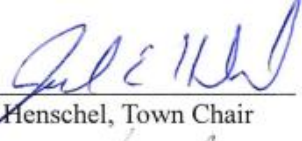
Adopted and approved this 11th day of September, 2023.

Ayes 3

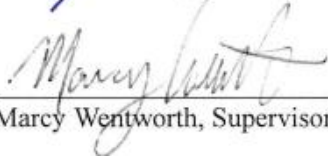
Nays 0

ATTEST:


Kelly Norton, Town Clerk



Joel Henschel, Town Chair



Marcy Wentworth, Supervisor



Chris Fisher, Supervisor