

**DOG ORDINANCE
FOR THE
MUNICIPAL TOWN OF
OXFORD**

Enacted
09/20/2018

OXFORD DOG ORDINANCE

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A. Title

This Ordinance shall be known and may be cited as the "Dog Ordinance of the Town of Oxford, Maine".

B. Authority and Purpose

This Ordinance is enacted pursuant to the authority in Title 30A M.R.S.A., Sections 2101 and 3001 and the purpose of this Ordinance is to provide regulations in addition to those contained in Title 7 M.R.S.A., Sections 3911-3964 with respect to controlling dogs throughout the Town of Oxford in the interest of the health, safety and general welfare of its residents.

C. Definitions

1. "At Large" means off the premises of the owner and not under the control of any person by means of personal presence and attention as will reasonably control the conduct of such dog.
2. "Owner" means any person, firm, association, partnership, or corporation owning, controlling, keeping or harboring a dog.
3. "Nuisance" shall mean a dog which by loud, frequent, and habitual barking, howling or yelping, disturbs the peace, or a dog which chases persons or vehicles, or a dog which causes damage to persons or property.
4. "Dangerous Dog" shall mean a dog that causes reasonable fear of bodily injury to any person or which attacks or threatens to attack any person.
5. "Cemetery" means a public or private graveyard, burial ground, or area set apart for interment of the dead, including not only the individual lots for depositing of the dead but also any areas surrounding said lots that are within the borders of the graveyard, burial ground, or area set apart for interment of the dead.
6. "Park" means the ballfields and beach area of Pismo Beach and the ballfields on the Pottle Road.
7. "Boarding Kennel" means any place, building, tract of land or abode in or on which 3 or more privately owned companion animals are kept at any one time for their owners in return for a fee or compensation and includes a facility where 3 or more companion animals are kept for training purposes for compensation.

8. "Kennel" means 5 or more dogs kept in a single location under one ownership for breeding, hunting, show, training, field trials, sledding, competition or exhibition purposes. The sale or exchange of one litter of puppies within a 12-month period alone does not constitute the operation of a kennel.

D. Regulations

1. No dog shall be kept within the limits of the Town unless such dog shall have been licensed and such license is displayed by its owner in accordance with the statutes of the state. The provisions of this section shall not apply to any dog belonging to an out of state resident, visiting within the town, without the intention of becoming a resident, but the owner of such a dog shall comply with the remaining provisions of this article.

2. No owner shall permit a nuisance. Any licensed kennel or boarding kennel is exempt from this provision as long as the kennel or boarding kennel was in business prior to the adoption date of this Ordinance at town meeting.

3. Dangerous dogs shall be confined in a secure enclosure or on a chain or leash controlled by the owner or custodian at all times.

4. It shall be unlawful for any dog, licensed or unlicensed, to run at large, except when used for hunting.

5. No person shall cause or permit any animal or dog owned by him or her, in his or her custody, or under his or her control to be within any cemetery or park unless on the walkways and roadways and held in leash by a responsible person, the leash not to exceed eight (8) feet in length or one dog under voice control.

6. An owner must remove and dispose of any feces left by his/her animal on any sidewalk, street, beach, public property or private property (other than the property of the owner of the animal or of a person who has consented to the presence of the animal on his or her property) and deposit such feces into appropriate litter receptacle. An owner whose animal is present on any property from which the animal's feces is required to be removed pursuant to this section must have in his or her possession a plastic bag or similar utensil not part of the human body for collecting and removing the feces. This regulation shall not apply to any person who, by reason of physical handicap, is unable to comply with the requirement.

E. Records

It shall be the duty of a police officer or animal control officer to keep or cause to be kept, an accurate and detailed record of the impoundment and disposition of all dogs coming into his custody.

F. Enforcement

This Ordinance shall be enforced by the Animal Control Officer and the Oxford Police Department

G. Penalties

Any person who violates this chapter commits a civil violation for which a forfeiture of not less than \$50 nor more than \$250 may be adjudged for a first violation and not less than \$100 nor more than \$500 for 2 or more violations, plus reasonable attorney's fees and costs. All penalties recovered shall be paid to the Town.

H. Severability

The provisions of this Ordinance are severable, and if any provision shall be declared to be invalid or void, the remaining provisions shall not be affected and shall remain in full force and effect.