



Local Law

DOG CONTROL AND LICENSING LAW

Local Law Filing New York State Department of State

41 State Street, Albany, NY, 12231

Town of Fine
County of St. Lawrence

Local Law No. 1 of the year 2012

A Local Law Dog Control and Licensing Law

Be it enacted by the Town Board of the Town of Fine, in the County of St. Lawrence, as follows:

SECTION 1:

LEGISLATIVE INTENT

The Town Board of the Town of Fine finds that the running-at-large and other uncontrolled behavior of licensed and unlicensed dogs has caused physical harm to persons and damage to property and has created nuisances within the Town. The purpose of this Local Law is to protect the health, safety and well-being of persons and property by imposing restrictions on the keeping and running-at-large of dogs within the Town. The purpose of this Local Law is also to govern the new licensing procedures as established under the Agriculture and Markets Act. Any item not specifically mentioned in this Local Law is to be governed by the Agriculture and Markets Act.

SECTION 2:

AUTHORITY

This Local Law is enacted pursuant to the provisions of Article 7 of the Agriculture and Markets Law and the Municipal Home Rule Law of the State of New York.

SECTION 3:

TITLE

The title of this Law shall be Dog Control and Licensing Law.

SECTION 4:

DEFINITIONS

As used in this Local Law, the following words shall have the following respective meanings:

A. "Dog" means male and female, licensed and unlicensed, members of the species *canis familiaris*.

B. "Owner" means a person entitled to claim lawful custody and possession of a dog who is responsible for purchasing the license for such dog unless the dog is or has been lost, and such loss was promptly reported to the Dog Warden and a reasonable search has been made. If a dog is not licensed, the term, "owner", shall designate and cover any person or persons, firm, association or corporation, who or which at any time owns or has custody or control of, harbors or is otherwise responsible for any dog which is kept, brought or comes within the Town. Any person owning or harboring a dog for a period of one (1) week prior to the filing of any complaint charging a violation of this Local Law shall be held in and deemed to be the owner of the dog.

C. "Run at Large" means to be in a public place or on private land without the knowledge, consent and approval of the owner of such land.

D. "Town" means the Town of Fine.

SECTION 5:

RESTRICTIONS

It shall be unlawful for any owner of any dog in the Town to permit or allow such dog to:

- A. Run at large unless the dog is accompanied by its owner or a responsible person and under the full control of such owner or person. For purposes of this Local Law, a dog or dogs hunting in the company of a hunter or hunters shall be considered as accompanied by its owner.
- B. Engage in habitual and loud howling, barking, crying or whining or conduct as to unreasonably and habitually disturb the comfort or repose of any person other than the owner of such dog.
- C. Uproot, dig or otherwise damage any vegetables, lawns, flowers, garden beds or other property without the consent or approval of the owner.
- D. Chase, jump upon or at, or otherwise harass any person in such manner as to reasonably cause intimidation or fear, or to put such person in reasonable apprehension of bodily harm.
- E. Habitually chase, run alongside of or bark at motor vehicles, motorcycles or bicycles while on a public street, highway or place, or upon private property without the consent or approval of the owner of such property.
- F. Create a nuisance by defecating, urinating or digging on public property, or on private property without the consent or approval of the owner of such property.
- G. If a female dog, when in heat, be off the owner's premises, unrestrained by a leash.

SECTION 6:

LICENSING OF DOGS

- A. All dogs over the age of four months in the Town of Fine must be licensed with the Town Clerk and are required to present a current Certificate of Rabies at the time of licensing or the renewal of an existing license.
- B. All dog licenses will be for a period of one year and will expire at the end of the month one year from the date of issue.
- C. Fees for Licensing of Dogs: The fee for a spayed or neutered dog will be \$5.50 (which included the assessment of a \$1.00 surcharge for the purpose of carrying out animal population control) and the fee for an unspayed or unneutered dog will be \$13.50 (which included the assessment of a \$3.00

surcharge for the purpose of carrying out animal population control), with such fees being reviewed by the Town Board periodically and may be changed by a Resolution of the Town Board without the necessity of passing a Local Law.

D. Enumeration Fee: When the Town Board determines the need for a dog enumeration, a fee of \$5.00 will be assessed to all dogs found unlicensed or renewed at the time the enumeration is conducted.

E. Service Dogs: The Town of Fine will not require a license for any guide dog, service dog, hearing dog, detection dog, war dog, working dog, police dog or therapy dog.

F. The Town of Fine does not allow the licensing of dogs by a shelter. The shelter MUST send the adoptive dog owners to the Town Clerk of the Town or City in which the dog will be harbored for licensing OR to the Town Clerk of the Town of Fine, where the shelter is located for the purchase of the license for adoption purposes.

G. All dog licenses may be purchased by visiting the Town offices or by regular mail. If licensing or renewing a license by mail, the appropriate fee must accompany the forms. There will be NO refund of fees.

H. All fees will be used in funding the administration of the Dog Control Law of the Town of Fine.

I. Fees for Seizure of Dogs: The fee for seizure and impoundment of dogs in violation of this Law or the laws of the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets Law are as follows: First Offense: The same impoundment and euthanasia fees per animal that are charged to the Town for such service; Second Offense: \$60.00 plus the impoundment and euthanasia fees per animal.

SECTION 7:

PROCEDURE FOR SEIZURE OF DOGS

A. The Dog Control Officer or any peace officer shall seize:

(1) Any unlicensed dog, whether on or off the owner's premises;

(2) Any dog not wearing a tag which is not on the owner's premises; and

(3) Any dog found in violation of Section 5 of this Local Law. Such seized dog shall be kept and disposed of in accordance with the provisions of Article 7 of the Agriculture and Markets Law, and see that the Order of the Town Justice of the Town of Fine in such case is carried out.

B. The Dog Control Officer or peace officer observing a violation of this Law in his/her presence shall issue and serve an appearance ticket for such violation. Said Law should be considered a petty offense and not a Misdemeanor. Said Dog Control Officer or peace officer shall forthwith file the appropriate document entitled an "Information" with the Court to substantiate the appearance ticket.

C. Any person who observes a dog in violation of this Local Law may file a complaint under oath with the Town Justice of the Town of Fine, specifying the nature of the violation, the date thereof, a description of the dog and the name and a residence, if known, of the owner of such dog. Such complaint may serve as a basis for enforcing the provisions of this Local Law.

SECTION 8:

PENALTIES

Any person convicted of a violation of this Local Law shall be liable for either:

- i) a criminal violation, subject to a fine not to exceed \$100.00 for a first violation; not to exceed \$200.00 for a second violation, and not to exceed \$500.00 for each subsequent violation, or
- ii) a civil penalty not to exceed \$100.00 for a first violation; a civil penalty not to exceed \$200.00 for a second violation, and a civil penalty not to exceed \$500.00 for each subsequent violation.

SECTION 9:

SEVERABILITY

Each separate provision of this Local Law shall be deemed independent of all other provisions herein. Should any provision be deemed to be declared invalid, all other provisions of this Local Law shall remain valid and enforceable.

SECTION 10:

REPEALER

This Local Law shall supersede all prior Local Laws, ordinances, rules and regulations relative to the control of dogs within the Town of Fine, and they shall be, upon the effectiveness of this Local Law, null and void.

SECTION 11:

EFFECTIVE DATE

This Local Law shall become effective upon the date it is filed with the New York State Secretary of State or January 1, 2013, whichever date is later.

I hereby certify that the Local Law annexed hereto, designated as Local Law No. __1__ of 2012, of the Town of Fine was duly passed by the Town Board on September 12, 2012, in accordance with the applicable provisions of law.

Hope M. Dolan, Clerk
Town of Fine

(Seal)

Date: _____

STATE OF NEW YORK)
) ss.:
COUNTY OF ST. LAWRENCE)

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing Local Law contains the correct text and that all proper proceedings have been had or taken for the enactment of the local law annexed hereto.

Christopher E. Cooper,
Town Attorney
Town of Fine

Date: