

**TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER  
CHAPTER 16  
DOG BY-LAW**

1. In this by-law:
  - 1) "Attack" means an assault resulting in bleeding, bone breakage, sprains, serious bruising, or multiple injuries;
  - 2) "Bite" means wound to the skin causing it to bruise, puncture or break;
  - 3) "Chief Administrative Officer" means the Town Chief Administrative Officer, or designate.
  - 4) "Dog" means any dog, male or female.
  - 5) "Dog Control Officer" means a Town police officer, or by-law enforcement officer, appointed under the Police Act to enforce this by-law, or any other person appointed by the Town for the specific purpose of enforcing this by-law.
  - 6) "Justice" shall mean a Judge of the Nova Scotia Provincial Court;
  - 7) "Muzzle" means a device of sufficient strength placed over a Dog's mouth to prevent it from biting;
  - 8) "Owner" means any natural person or body corporate:
    - a) who is the licensed Owner of a Dog;
    - b) who has legal title to a Dog;
    - c) who has possession or custody of a Dog, either temporarily or permanently;  
or
    - d) who harbours a Dog, or allows a Dog to remain on his premises;
  - 9) "Registration Year" shall mean the period from the first day of April to and including March 31<sup>st</sup> in each successive year;
  - 10) "Running at Large" means:
    - a) a Dog or Dogs which are not under the control of a person responsible by

means of a leash and is or are actually upon property other than the property in respect of which the Owner of the Dog or Dogs has the right of occupation, or upon any highway, thoroughfare, street, road, trail, avenue, parkway, lane, alley, square, bridge, causeway, trestle way, sidewalk (including the boulevard portion of a sidewalk), park or other public place which has not been designated as an off leash area by the Town; or

- b) a Dog or Dogs which are under the control of a person responsible by means of leash and which cause damage to persons, property or other animals;
- 11) "Severe Injury" includes any injury resulting in broken bones, disfiguring lacerations, sutures, cosmetic surgery and further includes any other injury as determined to be severe by a Court upon hearing the evidence;
- 12) "Town" means the Town of Bridgewater.
- 13) "Vicious Dog" means any dog, whatever its age, whether on public or private property, which has
- a) chased, injured or bitten any other animal or human,
  - b) damaged or destroyed any public or private property, or
  - c) threatened or created the reasonable apprehension of a threat to a human, and which, in the opinion of a Justice, presents a threat of serious harm to other animals or humans, or
  - d) been previously determined to be a Vicious Dog.
2. 1) No person shall own or keep any Dog within the Town unless such Dog is licensed as provided by this By-law.
- 2) The holder of a Dog License must be eighteen (18) years of age.
- 3) The Owner of a Dog shall ensure that his Dog wears the dog tag provided by the Town pursuant to section 7 herein, upon licensing of said Dog, pursuant to subsection 2.5 hereof, when the Dog is off the property of the Owner.
- 4) The Owner of a Dog shall obtain an annual license for such Dog at such times and in the manner as specified in subsections 2.5.
- 5) The Owner of a Dog shall:
- a) subject to the provisions of subsection 5.5.c obtain a license for such Dog on or before the first ordinary business day after the Dog becomes three months of age;
  - b) obtain a license on the first ordinary business day after he becomes Owner

- of the Dog;
- c) obtain a license for a Dog notwithstanding that it is under the age of three months, where the Dog is found running at large;
  - d) obtain an annual license for the Dog.
3.
    - 1) A tax paid at any time after the first day of April shall be the same amount of tax required to be paid on or before the first day of April notwithstanding that it is for any part of a year; but where the Owner requires ownership of the Dog after expiration of six months of the registered year, he shall only be charged one-half of the dog tax.
    - 2) Registration made and tax paid after the first day of April shall be effective until the last day of March next following the making and payment thereof.
  4. The tax shall be annual as follows:
    - 1) For each neutered male or spayed female Dog, the annual tax shall be \$10.00; Proof of neutered male or spayed female Dog shall be provided prior to paying the fee for such Dog.
    - 2) For each un-neutered male or female Dog not spayed, the annual tax shall be \$30.00
  5. The Owner of a kennel of purebred Dogs which is registered in the Canada Kennel Register shall, in any year, pay to the Treasurer of the Town Ten Dollars (\$10.00) as a tax upon the kennel for that year, and upon the production of the Treasurer's certificate of payment, the owner of such kennel shall be exempt from assessment and any further tax in respect of such Dogs for that year.
  6. The Chief Administrative Officer shall cause to be kept a record of every Dog registered, showing the date and number of registration, and the name and description of the Dog with the name and address of the Owner. The Owner shall furnish this information to the Chief Administrative Officer at or before the time of registration.
  7. Upon initial registration of any Dogs, the Chief Administrative Officer shall supply the Owner with a lifetime metal tag for each Dog registered with the registration number stamped thereon, and the Owner of every registered Dog shall keep on such Dog a collar with the tag attached thereto.
  8. If an Owner files with the Chief Administrative Officer a Statutory Declaration that a tag has been lost, the Chief Administrative Officer may replace the tag that has been lost upon payment by the Owner of Five Dollars (\$5.00).
  9. Any Owner within the town who sells or transfers any Dog shall report to the Chief Administrative Officer the sale or transfer, the name and address to whom it was sold or transferred, a description of the Dog and the number of registration as shown on the tag issued by the Chief Administrative Officer.

10. The Chief Administrative Officer shall transfer the registration of such Dog to the new Owner thereof on payment of the amount by which the tax on the new Dog to the new Owner would exceed any tax paid on the Dog that year by the previous Owner, or in any other case, without charge.
11.
  - 1) No Dog shall be permitted to leave the premises of the Owner, or be at large within the town, unless the said Dog is under the effective restraint or control of some person in charge thereof, and the fact that any Dog is running at large shall be an offence against this by-law.
  - 2) The owner of any Dog, other than a Dog that is trained to assist or is assisting a person with a disability, shall remove the Dog's feces from public property and private property other than the Owner's.
12. The Owner of a Dog,
  - 1) which runs at large contrary to this by-law, or
  - 2) in respect of which the tax imposed by this by-law is not paid, or
  - 3) which is declared a Vicious Dog within the meaning of this by-law, or
  - 4) which, having been declared a Vicious Dog pursuant to this by-law, fails to maintain such Dog in a manner consistent with this by-law, or
  - 5) which, without provocation, has Attacked or injured any person or property, or
  - 6) which persistently disturbs the quiet of the neighbourhood by howling, barking or in any other manner is guilty of an offence against this by-law, and is subject, on conviction, to the penalty described in Section 34.
13.
  - 1) The Owner of a Dog shall ensure that such Dog shall not:
    - a) Bite, bark at, or chase stock, animals, bicycles, automobiles, or other vehicles;
    - b) Chase or otherwise threaten a person or persons, whether on the property of the Owner or not, unless the person chased or threatened is a trespasser on the property of the Owner;
    - c) Cause damage to property or other animals, whether on the property of the Owner or not;
    - d) Do any act that injures a person or persons whether on the property of the Owner or not;
    - e) Bite a person or persons, whether on the property of the Owner or not;
    - f) Attack a person or persons, whether on the property of the Owner or not;

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- g) Attack a person or persons, whether on the property of the Owner or not, causing Severe Injury; or
      - h) Cause death to another animal.
    - 2) No Owner shall use or direct a Dog to Attack, chase, harass or threaten a person or animal.
  - 14.
    - 1) The Dog Control Officer, without notice to or complaint against the Owner of any such Dog, may impound any Dog,
      - a) found running at large contrary to this by-law;
      - b) in respect of which the tax imposed by this by-law has not been paid;
      - c) which is alleged to be a Vicious Dog;
      - d) which exhibits any behaviour enumerated in section 13 of this by-law; or
      - e) which persistently disturbs the quiet of the neighbourhood by howling, barking or in any other manner.
    - 2) It shall be the duty of a Dog Control Officer of the Town to take and impound at the pound provided by the Town for such purpose, any Dog found at large within the Town, and it shall be the duty of the pound keeper to receive and impound such Dog and to furnish it with food and water.
    - 3) Any Dog rabid, or at large and known to be rabid, shall be immediately killed.
  - 15. The Town shall appoint a pound keeper who shall keep all Dogs delivered to him and furnish them with food and water.
  - 16.
    - 1) If, at the expiration of 72 hours following the impounding of any Dog, no claim of ownership for such Dog is made, it shall be the duty of the pound keeper to make all reasonable efforts to notify the Owner of such Dog, and if unable to notify the Owner, the pound keeper shall dispose of the Dog, by selling it for the best price obtainable or, if the Dog cannot be sold, by destroying it in a humane manner. At the sole option of the Dog Control Officer, the Dog Control Officer may in circumstances deemed appropriate by the Dog Control Officer and in circumstances where the dog in question is not considered fierce or dangerous, place the Dog with an animal shelter.
    - 2) On any Dog being impounded, the pound keeper shall forthwith prepare a notice in the following form:

DOG NOTICE

TAKE NOTICE that a dog (giving a short description) has been this day impounded at the Dog Pound (describe name of pound and address) in the Town of Bridgewater, and unless such Dog is claimed by the Owner on or before the \_\_\_\_\_ Day of \_\_\_\_\_ A.D. \_\_\_\_\_, at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock in the \_\_\_\_\_ and registered according to law, the said Dog may be sold or euthanised if no sale can be made of the same.

DATED at the Town of Bridgewater this \_\_\_\_\_ Day of \_\_\_\_\_ A.D. \_\_\_\_\_.

- 3) The aforesaid notice shall be posted at least in the Town Hall, a copy forwarded to the Owner, as well as being posted on the Owner's premises, if known, not less than 48 hours before the time affixed by said notice.
17. The proceeds of any sale after deducting the fees of the pound keeper shall be paid over to the Chief Administrative Officer.
18. If the Owner appears and claims his Dog before the time fixed by the pound keeper, the Dog shall be delivered to him on payment of any tax required by this by-law and on payment of the fees set out in Section 19.
19. A person or Owner claiming an impounded Dog shall be liable to pay the following:
  - 1) For impounding a Dog, the sum of Fifteen Dollars (\$15.00).
  - 2) All costs incurred by the Town in housing, feeding and maintaining the Dog, during the period in which the Dog is impounded.
20.
  - 1) The Owner of a Dog alleged to be a Vicious Dog shall be provided Notice of a Hearing for determination by the Provincial Court ten (10) clear days before the date of the Hearing
  - 2) the Owner of a Dog alleged to be a Vicious Dog shall surrender the Dog to a Dog Control Officer for the Town of Bridgewater where the Dog shall be held pending the outcome of the Hearing and any Appeals.
21.
  - 1) Upon hearing the evidence, the Justice shall make an order in a summary way declaring a Dog as a Vicious Dog if in the opinion of the Justice:
    - a) the Dog has caused Severe Injury to a person, whether on public or private property; or
    - b) the Dog, has, while off its Owner's property, caused the death of an animal.

- 2) Upon hearing the evidence, the Justice may make an order declaring the Dog as a Vicious Dog or ordering the dog destroyed, or both, if in the opinion of the Justice the Dog is likely to cause serious damage or injury, taking into account the following factors:
    - a) whether the Dog has chased any person or animal;
    - b) whether the Dog has attempted to Bite, or has bitten any person or animal;
    - c) whether the Dog has wounded, Attacked or injured any person or animal;
    - d) the circumstances surrounding any previous Biting, Attacking, or wounding incidents; and
    - e) whether the Dog, when unprovoked, has shown a tendency to pursue, chase or approach in a menacing fashion persons upon the street, sidewalk or any public or private property;
    - f) whether the Dog has previously been declared a Vicious Dog pursuant to this by-law;
    - g) where the Dog in question has previously been declared a Vicious dog pursuant to this by-law, the extent to which the Owner of such Vicious Dog has failed to take necessary measures to ensure compliance with this by-law;
  - 3) The order of a Justice declaring a Dog vicious shall embody all of the requirements in sections 2.5, 22, 23, 25, 26, 27 and 28.
- 22.
- 1) Once a Dog has been declared a Vicious Dog pursuant to this by-law such Dog shall not be returned to its Owner until the Owner has obtained a license for a Vicious Dog.
  - 2) Prior to a license being issued, the Owner of a Vicious Dog shall within ten (10) days after the Dog has been declared vicious:
    - a) have a licensed veterinarian tattoo or implant an electronic identification microchip in the Dog;
    - b) provide the information contained on the tattoo or in the microchip to the Dog Control Officer for the Town of Bridgewater; and
    - c) if the Dog is in an unaltered state, have the Dog neutered or spayed.
23. The Owner of a Vicious Dog shall:
- 1) notify the Dog Control Officer for the Town of Bridgewater should the Dog be sold, gifted, or transferred to another person or die; and
  - 2) remain liable for the actions of the Dog until formal notification of sale, gift or transfer

is given to the Dog control Officer for the Town of Bridgewater.

24. A vicious Dog order pursuant to this By-law continues to apply if the Dog is sold, given or transferred to a new Owner.
25.
  - 1) The Owner of a Vicious Dog shall ensure that such Dog does not:
    - a) chase a person or other animals;
    - b) injure a person or other animals;
    - c) Bite a person or other animals; or
    - d) Attack a person or other animals.
  - 2) The Owner of a Vicious Dog shall ensure that such Dog does not damage or destroy public or private property.
  - 3) The Owner of a Vicious Dog shall ensure that such Dog is not Running at Large.
  - 4) The Owner of a Vicious Dog shall notify the dog Control Officer for the Town of Bridgewater if the Dog is Running at Large.
26.
  - 1) The Owner of a Vicious Dog shall ensure that when such Dog is on the property of the Owner such Dog is:
    - a) confined indoors and under the control of a person over the age of eighteen (18) years;
    - b) when such Dog is outdoors such Dog is:
      - i) in a locked pen or other structure, constructed pursuant to Section 27 in order to prevent the escape of the Vicious Dog and capable of preventing the entry of any person not in control of the Dog; or
      - ii) securely Muzzled, and under the control of a person over the age of eighteen (18) years by means of a leash not exceeding one (1) meter in length in a manner that prevents it from chasing, injuring, or biting other animals or humans as well as preventing damage to public or private property.
  - 2) The Owner of a Vicious Dog shall ensure that at all times, when off the property of the Owner, such Dog is securely:
    - a) Muzzled; and
    - b) harnessed or leashed on a lead which length shall not exceed one (1) meter in a manner that prevents it from chasing, injuring or biting other animals or humans as well as preventing damage to public or private property; and

- c) under the control of a person over the age of eighteen (18) years.
27. The Owner of a Vicious Dog shall ensure that the locked pen or other structure:
- 1) shall have secure sides and a secure top, and if it has no bottom secured to the sides, the sides must be embedded in the ground to a minimum depth of thirty (30) centimeters;
  - 2) shall provide the Vicious Dog with shelter from the elements;
  - 3) shall be of the minimum dimensions of one and one-half(1.5) meters by three (3) meters and be of one and one-half (1.5) meters in height; and
  - 4) shall not be within one (1) meter of the property line or within five (5) meters of a neighbouring dwelling unit.
28. 1) The Owner of a Vicious Dog shall, within 10 days of the date of the order declaring the Dog to be Vicious, display a sign on his premises warning of the presence of the Dog in the form illustrated in Schedule "A".
- 2) A sign required by subsection 28.1 shall be placed at each entrance to the premises where the Dog is kept and on the pen or other structure in which the Dog is confined.
  - 3) A sign required by subsection 28.1 shall be posted to be clearly visible and capable of being seen by any person accessing the premises.
29. The Chief Administrative Officer shall immediately notify every person reported to him as the Owner of an unregistered Dog in the Town by letter, by ordinary mail, postage paid and addressed to the Owner's address, requesting such Owner forthwith to register the Dog and to comply with this by-law.
30. The Chief Administrative Officer shall immediately notify every person reported to him as the owner of an unregistered dog in the town by letter, by ordinary mail, postage paid and addressed to the owner's address, requesting such owner forthwith to register the dog and to comply with this by-law.
31. The Chief Administrative Officer shall keep a record of every dog and its owner so reported to him together with a description of the dog, if available, and the name of the reporting person.
32. The owner of any dog may be required by the Chief Administrative Officer to deliver to the Chief Administrative Officer, in writing, a statement of the number of dogs owned or harboured by him or which are habitually kept upon the premises and, for neglect or refusal to do so, he shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding Twenty Dollars (\$20.00).
33. Every owner who neglects to obtain a tag for each dog owned by him and keep it securely fixed on his dog, excepting while the dog is being lawfully used for hunting purposes, or who uses a tag upon a dog other than that which it was issued, shall be liable for a penalty not

exceeding One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00).

34. Every owner of a dog shall pay to the Town a fee of One Hundred Seventy-Five Dollars (\$175.00) for each dog destroyed by the Town at the request of the owner.
35. Any person who violates any provision of this by-law, except as otherwise set out herein, shall be liable to a fine of not less than One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00), or not more than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00), and in default of payment, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding thirty (30) days.
36. All former by-laws of the Town heretofore enacted relating to Dogs are hereby repealed.