

TOWN OF STEPHENTOWN DOG LICENSURE LAW

LOCAL LAW NO. 1 OF THE YEAR 2017

Be it enacted by the Town Board of the Town of Stephentown as follows:

1. Purpose.

The purpose of this Local Law is to provide for the licensing and identification of dogs as the Town Board finds that such licensure relates to the control and protection of the dog population and the protection of persons, property and domestic animals from dog attack and damage.

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. To the extent this law is inconsistent with any other Town laws, including but not limited to Local Law No. 3 of 2010, a law which is replaced in its entirety with this law, the terms of this law shall control.

3. Title.

The title of this Local Law shall be Town of Stephentown "Dog Licensure Law".

4. Definition of Terms.

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 specis canis famllaris.
- (b) "Owner" means 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 control officer 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 filing any complaint charging a violation of this Local Law, shall be held in and deemed to be the owner of any dog found to be m violation of this chapter.
- (c) "Town" means the Town of Stephentown.

All other definitions as set forth in the Agriculture and Markets Law are incorporated herein.

5. Licensing of Dogs.

- (a) All dogs in the Town of Stephentown, unless exempted per Agriculture and Markets Law § 109(1) or otherwise, must be licensed with the Town Clerk by the age of four (4) months and are required to present a current Certificate of Rabies vaccination at the time of such application for licensing or the application for renewal of an existing license. The owner of each dog required to be licensed shall obtain, complete and return to said Town Clerk a dog license application together with the license application fee, any applicable license surcharges and such additional fees as may be established or hereinafter may be modified by resolution by the Town Board. Each license application shall also be accompanied by proof that the dog has been vaccinated against rabies.

(b) All dog licenses will be for a period of two (2) years and will expire at the end of the twenty-fourth (24th) month from the date of issue.

(c) Fees for Licensing of Dogs. The fee for a spayed or neutered dog will be three dollars and fifty cents (\$3.50) annually (seven dollars (\$7.00) for the license term), which includes the assessment of a one dollar (\$1.00) surcharge for the purpose of carrying out animal population control. The fee for an unsprayed or unneutered dog will be eleven dollars and fifty cents (\$11.50) annually (twenty three dollars (\$23.00) for the license term. In addition to the foregoing, there shall be a three dollar (\$3.00) surcharge for each unsprayed/unneutered dog licensed for the purposes of carrying out the annual enumeration of the dog population.

A license for any guide dog, service dog, hearing dog, detection dog, war dog, working search dog, police dog and therapy dog is required, but no license fee shall be charged.

The Town Board may, by resolution, change any of the foregoing fees if it deems same necessary.

(d) In addition to the foregoing, a kennel license fee shall be required for a person to harbor four (4) or more dogs. Such fee will be twenty five (\$25) dollars per year for four to ten dogs and fifty (\$50.00) dollars per year for kennels exceeding ten dogs.

(e) The Town of Stephentown may contract with an animal shelter(s) to license dogs adopted by residents of the Town of Stephentown, allowing said shelter(s) to provide, accept and grant an application for a dog license made by a resident of the Town at the time of the adoption of a dog from said shelter(s) provided that such application is made in accordance with this law and the license fee, any additional tee and surcharge shall be remitted to the Town of Stephentown on or before the third day of the month following the month in which the license fee and additional fee and surcharge was received.

(f) All dog licenses may be purchased and obtained by visiting the Office of the Town Clerk. Initial licensing must be obtained by visiting the office of the Town Clerk. When renewing a license by mail the appropriate fee must accompany the forms. Fees are non-refundable.

6. Seizure of Dogs at Large/Period of Impoundment.

Any dog found to be running at large in violation of sections 117 or 118 of the Agriculture and Markets Law, whether licensed or unlicensed, will be seized by the Dog Control Officer and such dog shall be properly fed and cared for until redeemed by the owner adopted or disposed of as provided by sections 117 and 118 of the Agriculture and Markets Law. The owner of any dog impounded by the Town of Stephentown shall be entitled to redeem that day within five (5) business days, excluding the day the dog is impounded, provided that the owner produces proof the dog is licensed and identified and pays a fee of ten dollars (\$10.00) for the impoundment plus all costs incurred by the Town for such impoundment.

7. Penalties for Offenses.

A violation of this Chapter shall be deemed an offense against this Chapter, and any person convicted of such violation shall be liable to the penalty set forth in Section 118 of the Agriculture and Markets Law.

8. Severability.

Should any section or provision of this law be deemed to be unconstitutional or invalid by a court of law, such decision shall not affect the validity of this law as a whole or any part thereof other than the part so decided to be unconstitutional or invalid.

9. Repealer.

This Chapter shall supersede all prior Local Laws, Ordinances, Rules and Regulations relative to the licensure of dogs within the Town of Stephentown and all other matters specifically detailed herein and they shall be upon the effectiveness of this Local Law, null and void.

10. Effective Date.

This local law shall become effective upon filing with the Secretary of State.