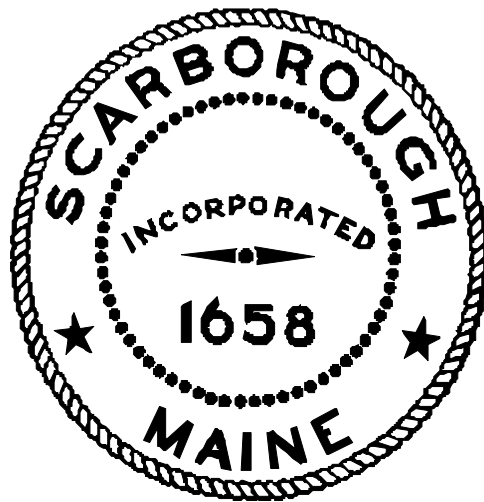


**CHAPTER 604**  
**TOWN OF SCARBOROUGH**  
**ANIMAL CONTROL ORDINANCE**



**ADOPTED 02/16/2000**  
**AMENDED 05/19/2004**

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**CHAPTER 604  
TOWN OF SCARBOROUGH  
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ADOPTED 2/16/00  
AMENDED 5/19/04**

**604-1 Purpose**

The purpose of this ordinance is to require that all animals in the Town of Scarborough be kept under the control of their owner or keeper at all times so that they will not injure persons or other animals, damage property or create a public health threat.

The provisions of this ordinance that apply to the owner of an animal apply equally to any person keeping, or having control, custody, or possession of that animal.

**604-2 Definitions**

**1. ABANDONED ANIMAL:**

An animal that has been deserted by its owner or keeper.

**2. ANIMAL:**

Every living, sentient creature not a human being.

**3. ANIMAL CONTROL:**

Control of dogs, cats and domesticated or undomesticated animals.

**4. ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER:**

Any person appointed by the Town of Scarborough to enforce animal control laws.

**5. ANIMAL SHELTER:**

A facility that includes a physical structure, or part of a physical structure, that provides temporary or permanent shelter to stray, abandoned, abused or owner-surrendered animals.

**6. AT LARGE:**

off the premises of the owner and not under the control of any person whose personal presence and attention would reasonably control the conduct of the dog.

**7. BEACH:**

Any beach area within the Town of Scarborough which is used by the general public.

**8. DOG:**

Any of large and varied groups of domesticated animals in the canine family.

**9. LEASH:**

Hand held device, 30 feet or less in length, which can be used to restrain a dog if the dog fails to respond to voice commands or if the owner or responsible party is ordered by a

law enforcement officer to leash the dog and at all times when this Ordinance requires dogs to be leashed. (amended 05/19/2004)

**10. OWNER:**

Any person or persons, firm, association or corporation owning, keeping or harboring an animal or any person having custody, possession, or control of an animal.

**11. RESPONSIBLE PARTY:**

As used in this ordinance, the term “responsible party” means any person who has possession or custody of a dog. If a dog is present on a beach in violation of the restrictions of this section, the owner of the dog and the responsible party are jointly and severally liable for the violation. (amended 05/19/2004)

**12. VOICE CONTROL:**

As used in this ordinance, the term “voice control” means that the dog returns immediately to and remains by the side of the responsible party in response to the responsible party’s verbal command. If a dog approaches or remains within 10 feet of any person other than the responsible party, that dog is not under voice control and a violation of this Ordinance occurs unless such person (or in the case of a minor child, an adult present with the child) has communicated to the responsible party by spoken word or gesture that such person consents to the presence of the dog. (amended 05/19/2004)

**604-3 Animal Control Officer**

A qualified person shall be employed by the police department who shall be known as and perform the duties of Animal Control Officer. The Animal Control Officer shall be principally responsible for the enforcement of all laws related to dogs, cats, and other domesticated animals and also to undomesticated animals.

**604-4 At Large Dogs**

It is unlawful for any dog, licensed or unlicensed, to be at large, except when used for hunting. The owner of any dog found at large shall be subject to the civil penalties provided in this ordinance.

**604-5 Impoundment or Return of At Large Dogs**

All dogs found at large in violation to Title 7, M.R.S.A., Section 3911 may be impounded at the animal shelter or returned to the owner, at the discretion of the Animal Control Officer. If the Animal Control Officer returns the dog to its owner, the owner shall pay a \$15.00 (fifteen dollars) return fee to the Town of Scarborough before the dog is returned. The payment must be made at the police dispatch center, which shall issue a receipt therefor.

#### **604-6 Disposition of Impounded Animal**

An owner is entitled to resume possession of any impounded animal provided that all provisions of this ordinance have been met, and that all impoundment fees due under the provisions of this ordinance have been paid. Any animal not claimed after the owner has been notified may be classified as an abandoned animal, and the animal's owner may be subjected to all civil penalties authorized by this ordinance.

#### **604-7 Impoundment Fee**

An owner may reclaim an impounded animal by first paying to the Town of Scarborough at the Town Clerk's Office, a fee of \$30.00 (thirty dollars) for each animal impounded. If the Town Clerk's Office is closed, the fee shall be paid at the Police Dispatch Center. Fees must be paid and a receipt from the Town must be presented to the animal shelter before the release of an animal. All fees will be deposited in the separate account required by Title 7, M.R.S.A. 3945.

#### **604-8 Animal Noise**

- a. Except as provided in subparagraph (b) and (c) below, no owner shall permit or allow any animal to bark, howl or make other sounds common to its species if such sounds recur in steady, rapid succession for 20 minutes or more or recur intermittently for one hour or more.
- b. Section 604-8(a) shall not apply if any animal is provoked by trespassing people or animals on private property on which the animal is situated or by other legitimate cause for provocation.
- c. Section 604-8(b) shall not apply to farm animals kept on a property located in the R-F or R-F-M Districts under the Scarborough Zoning Ordinance. In all other zoning districts, Section 604-8(a) shall not apply to farm animals kept on a property [the principal use of which is] [a use of which is] the commercial production of farm products and is either a conforming use or a lawful nonconforming use under the Scarborough Zoning Ordinance. For purposes of this exception, dogs are not "farm animals" and kennels are not "farms."

#### **604-9 Control of Animal Waste**

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.

#### **604-10 Public Beaches and Shores (amended 05/19/2004)**

The following restrictions apply to dogs on beaches:

- a. No dog shall be present on any beach at any time unless the dog is accompanied by a responsible party who has voice control (see definition) over the dog and who is carrying a leash in the hand of the responsible party (see definitions) which can be used to restrain the dog.
- b. No dog shall be present on any beach between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. from June 15<sup>th</sup> through September 15<sup>th</sup>.
- c. When otherwise allowed to be present on a beach pursuant to this section, all dogs must be leashed at the following times:
  - At all times from June 15<sup>th</sup> through September 15<sup>th</sup>, except that a dog under the voice control of its owner or a responsible party shall be permitted to be unleashed between sunrise and 9:00 a.m. (The purpose of this exception is to allow individuals to walk, jog, run or engage in other physical exercise with their dogs in the early hours of the morning.)
  - Whenever the owner or responsible party has been directed by a law enforcement officer to leash the dog.
- d. Whenever a portion of a beach has been roped off, fenced off or otherwise demarcated and posted as a protected area in order to protect the nesting site of a piping plover or of any another endangered species protected under federal law, no dog shall enter such protected area, and no dog shall approach within 150 feet of such protected area unless the dog is attached to a leash held by a responsible party so that the responsible party can physically restrain the dog from entering the protected area.

#### **604-11 Dangerous Dogs**

Any person who is assaulted by a dog or any person witnessing an assault against a person or domesticated animal or a person with knowledge of an assault against a minor, within thirty days of the assault, may make a written complaint to the Animal Control Officer that the dog is a dangerous dog. The Animal Control Officer may issue a civil violation citation for keeping a dangerous dog pursuant to 7 M.R.S.A. §3952. After issuing the citation and before hearing in court, if the dog poses an immediate or continuing threat to the public, the Animal Control Officer shall order the owner of the dog to muzzle, restrain or confine the dog to the owner's premises or to have the dog at the owner's expense at a place determined by the Animal Control Officer. If the owner fails to comply with such order, the Animal Control Officer may apply to the District Court, Superior Court or a Justice of the Peace pursuant to 7 M.R.S.A. §3952 for an ex parte order for authorization to take possession of the dog that poses an immediate or continuing threat to the public.

#### **604-12 Trespass**

An owner of an animal may not allow that animal to enter onto the property of another after the owner has been warned by the Animal Control Officer or a law enforcement officer that the animal was found on the property of another.

The owner of an animal is responsible, at the owner's expense, for removing such animal found trespassing. The Animal Control Officer, may, at the owner's expense, remove and control the animal if:

the owner fails to remove the animal after having been notified by the Animal Control Officer that the animal was trespassing; or  
the animal is an immediate danger to itself, to persons or to another's property.

Any animal so removed shall be subject to the provisions of Sections 604-5, 604-6 and 604-7 in the same manner as an at large dog.

### **604-13 Tags and Stickers**

No dog shall be kept within the limits of the Town of Scarborough unless such dog is licensed by its owner in accordance with Maine Law. The Town Clerk shall provide with each new license issued for a dog a tag indicating the year the license is issued and such other information as may be required under 7 M.R.S.A. §3922-B. The tag remains with the dog for as long as the dog is kept in the Town of Scarborough. At each license renewal, the Town Clerk shall provide a sticker indicating the year for which the license is valid. The sticker must be attached to the back of the tag. The owner shall make sure that the tag is securely attached to the back of the tag. The owner shall make sure that the tag is securely attached to a collar of leather, metal or material of comparable strength and that the collar is worn at all times by the dog for which the license was issued except when hunting, in training or in an exhibition. When the dog is hunting, in training or in an exhibition, its owner shall produce proof of licensure within twenty-four hours upon request by the Animal Control Officer. If a sticker and tag are lost, the owner shall obtain a new license, tag and sticker. The Town Clerk shall issue another license tag and sticker upon presentation of the original license and payment of one dollar. The Clerk shall retain the one-dollar for a recording fee.

### **604-14 Rabies Tags**

Rabies tags obtained from a veterinarian for immunization against rabies must be securely attached to a collar of leather, metal or material of comparable strength that must be worn by the dog for which the tag was issued except when the dog is hunting, in training or in an exhibition or on the premises of the owner. When the dog is hunting, in training or in an exhibition, its owner shall produce proof of licensure and proof of rabies immunization within twenty-four hours upon request for the Animal Control Officer.

### **604-15 Violations/Penalties**

Any persons who violates Section 604-8 (Animal Noise) or Section 604-9 (Control of Animal Waste) shall be subject to civil penalties for each violation, as follows:

First violation: not less than \$50.00 and not more than \$100.00, plus costs.

Second violation: not less than \$100.00 and not more than \$250.00, plus costs.

Third and subsequent violations: not less than \$250.00 and not more than \$500.00, plus costs.

Any person who violates any other Section of this ordinance shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$100.00 and not more than \$500.00 plus costs for each offense.

All civil penalties collected pursuant to this Ordinance shall be recovered to the use of the Town of Scarborough and deposited in the separate account required by 7 M.R.S.A. Section 3945.

A person issued a civil violation citation for violating this Ordinance may elect to pay the minimum penalty specified above for each violation alleged in the citation, in lieu of appearing in court to answer the citation. Such payment must be received at the Office of the Town Clerk in the amount specified by the Animal Control Officer by the seventh day prior to the court appearance date specified in the citation. Upon receipt of such payment by the Clerk, the Animal Control Officer shall cause the citation to be dismissed. However, the violations alleged in the citation shall be deemed admitted for purposes of assessing any future penalties under this section.

#### **604-16 Severability Clause**

If any part of this ordinance shall be held valid, such part shall be deemed severable and the invalidity thereof shall not affect the remaining parts of this ordinance.