

Summary of Information “Dogs on the Beach” Regulations and Owners Responsibilities

June 15 to September 15

9 AM to 5 PM

Dogs are prohibited

5 PM to Sunrise

Dogs must be on a leash

Sunrise to 9 AM

*Voice control with leash in
possession*

September 16 to June 14

*Voice control is in effect during
remainder of the year.*

*The owner or responsible party
must remove and dispose of any
feces left by the animal in the
appropriate litter receptacle.*

*The full text of both Scarborough’s
Animal Control Ordinance and
Piping Plover Ordinance are
available on the Town’s website at*

www.scarborough.me.us

*or by calling the Town Clerk’s
Office at 207.730.4020.*

The Town of Scarborough, Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Audubon Society would like to thank everyone for complying with the ordinance regulations and with observing the enclosure zones marking Piping Plover Habitat Areas.

If you have any questions or would like more information about Piping Plover Habitats and how you can help protect this endangered species, please contact any of the following for more information:

Town of Scarborough — 207.730.4020
Maine Inland Fish & Wildlife — 207.657.2345
US Fish and Wildlife — 207.827.5938
Maine Audubon Society — 207.781.2330

Photo Credit: Provided by US Fish & Wildlife Service
Photos by Richard Kuzminski

DOG LICENSES

Every dog in the State of Maine is required by state law to be licensed in the town in which you reside. The license period is January 1 through December 31 and must be obtained every year. Please contact your local municipal clerk’s office for details of what is required by Maine State Law to obtain your dog(s) license. Scarborough residents, please call 207.730.4020 for more information.

TOWN OF SCARBOROUGH Fourth Edition

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Town of
Scarborough

DOGS ON THE BEACH AND PIPING PLOVER INFORMATION



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New “Dogs on the Beach” Regulations and Owner Responsibilities

All dogs must be accompanied by a responsible party at all times and must be under that party's voice control and on a leash during the times so restricted. The responsible party must carry a leash at all times. The regulations are summarized as follows:

June 15 to September 15

- 9 AM to 5 PM—Dogs are **prohibited**.
- 5 PM to Sunrise—Dogs **must be** on a leash.
- Sunrise to 9 AM—Dogs may be “off leash” but must be under voice control; owner or responsible party must have the leash in hand.

September 16 to June 14

- Dogs are **permitted** on beaches but **must be** under voice control and the owner or responsible party must have the leash in hand.

Piping Plover Habitats

- No dog shall enter a designated protected habitat area. No dog shall approach within 150 feet of an endangered Piping Plover habitat unless the dog is on a leash that is being held by a responsible party.

Violations / Penalties —

Animal Control Ordinance: Fines range from \$100 to \$500 plus costs for each offense.

Piping Plover Ordinance: Fines range from \$50 to \$250.

Piping Plover Federal, Endangered Species: Remember dog owners are liable for their pet's actions; fines for taking an endangered species can be up to \$25,000 to \$50,000.

Definitions from Scarborough's Animal Control Ordinance (Chapter 604, Section 604-2, Definitions) -

- **LEASH:** A 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 dogs are required to be leashed between June 15 and September 15.
- **VOICE CONTROL:** 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 the 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 they consent to the presence of the dog.
- **RESPONSIBLE PARTY:** 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.

Piping Plovers

The piping plover is a small sandy-colored shorebird that nests on beaches from Newfoundland to South Carolina. This species is imperiled throughout much of its range in the United States and Canada. Once common on sandy beaches in Southern Maine, the piping plover is listed as endangered under the Maine Endangered Species Act. The East Coast population of piping plovers is also federally listed as threatened. In 2002, only 66 pairs of piping plovers nested in the entire state of Maine.



Habitat loss and lack of undisturbed nest sites are

two of the primary factors jeopardizing populations of piping plovers. Historically, Maine had more than 30 miles of suitable nesting beaches that may have supported up to 200 pairs of piping plovers. The construction of seawalls, jetties, piers, homes, parking lots, and other structures along Maine's sand-beaches has dramatically reduced the extent of suitable nesting habitat. The capability of the remaining habitat to support nesting plovers is further reduced by continued development and intense recreational use. Ensuring the availability of this limited habitat is essential for the continued existence of piping plovers and other shorebirds, such as the state-endangered least tern.

- Piping plovers nest on the following 4 beaches located in Scarborough:

Pine Point Beach
Ferry Beach
Scarborough Beach
Higgins Beach.

Temporary fencing and signs will be used to identify and protect Plover nesting areas as soon as courtship and nest scraping activity are first observed. It is critical to the survival of Piping Plovers that these marked areas remain undisturbed. Please observe posted rules and remain outside of fenced and marked areas.



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