

**ORDINANCE # 5-2007
TOWN OF HOLLAND
DOG CONTROL ORDINANCE**

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE REGULATION AND LICENSING OF DOGS
WITHIN THE TOWN OF HOLLAND, LA CROSSE COUNTY, WISCONSIN.

SECTION 1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.01 Purpose and Applicability

The purpose of this ordinance is to promote and protect the health, safety, convenience and general welfare of the people of the Town of Holland. This Ordinance is authorized by Chapters 170, 172, 173, 174 and Sections 951.01 through 91.15, Wisconsin Statutes, including any repeal or recreation of said chapter or sections.

1.02 Severability

This Ordinance, and its parts, are declared to be severable. If any section, clause, provision, or portion of this Ordinance is declared invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, this decision shall not affect the validity of the Ordinance as a whole. All parts of the Ordinance not declared invalid or unconstitutional shall remain in full force and effect.

1.03 Conflict

If any part of this Ordinance is found to be in conflict with any other Ordinance or with any other part of this Ordinance, the most restrictive or highest standard shall prevail. If any part of this Ordinance is explicitly prohibited by federal or state statute that part shall not be enforced.

1.04 Repeal

All previous ordinances relating to the care, maintenance and control of dogs are hereby repealed.

1.05 Definitions

At large: To be off the premises of the owner and not under control of some person either by leash or otherwise, but a dog within an automobile of its owner or in an automobile of any other person with the consent of the owner of said dog, shall be deemed to be upon the owner's premises.

Dog Permit Review Panel: A panel appointed by the Town Chair to review "Multiple Dog Permits". The panel shall consist of one Town Board member and two Town citizens.

Owner: Any person owning, harboring or keeping a dog and the occupant of any premises on which a dog remains or to which it customarily returns daily for a period of 10 days; such person is presumed to be harboring or keeping the dog within the meaning of this section.

SECTION 2.0 DOG LICENSE

2.01 Dog License

Any person owning, keeping, harboring or having custody of any dog over five (5) months of age shall obtain a license for it in accordance with the laws of the State of Wisconsin. The license must be purchased each year and the deadline for acquiring the license and the fee for such is established by the County of La Crosse. All dogs, within 30 days after they have reached the age of four (4) months, must have a current rabies vaccination administered by a licensed veterinarian.

2.02 Limit of Dogs

No household shall keep more than two (2) dogs over the age of five (5) months. Each dog is required to be licensed.

2.03 Exceptions to Dog Limit

- A. Bona fide animal hospitals in which dogs are confined within a completely enclosed building.
- B. Individual owners that have been granted a "Multiple Dog Permit" through the following process:
 - (1) An application for a Multiple Dog Permit must be obtained from the Clerk, filled out, and then filed with the Clerk.
 - (2) The Dog Permit Review Panel shall set a meeting date to review the application. The Clerk shall notify the neighbors who may attend to voice their approval or concerns.
 - (3) If the permit is approved, the Panel will require the dog owners to sign an agreement before the permit goes into effect.
 - (4) There will be an additional fee for each dog over the two dog limit. The fee will be set annually by the Town Board and must be paid by the dog owner each year.
 - (5) The Permits must be renewed annually and also will be reviewed by the Panel each year.
 - (6) If legitimate complaints are received at any time, the permit may be revoked, based upon review by the Panel.

SECTION 3.0 DOG CONTROL

3.01 Care of Dogs

- A. All dogs shall be cared for, maintained and handled in a sanitary manner and in such a way as to prevent noises, barking, fighting or howling or other disturbances of the peace and quiet of the neighborhood.
- B. Dogs shall not be permitted to run at large. Every female dog in heat shall be confined in a building or secure enclosure in such manner that such female dog cannot come into contact with another animal, except for planned breeding; provided, however, a dog may be kept on a leash under the supervision of a responsible person.
- C. All dogs shall wear an identification tag at all times.

3.02 Damage by Dogs

Any dog doing damage or running at large may be seized by a Humane Officer or Law Enforcement Officer of La Crosse County and impounded or disposed of in accordance with Section 3.03 of this Ordinance.

3.03 Disposition of Dogs

It shall be the duty of the La Crosse County Animal Control to issue citations to owners of animals found running at large or kept contrary to the provisions of this Ordinance.

- A. The Officer shall, upon seizure of any dog, turn the same over to the County Animal Shelter, who shall hold the dog for no less than seven (7) days until claimed by the owners. After seven (7) days the dog becomes the property of the designated animal shelter. Such animal shelter shall be entitled to an impoundment fee and boarding fee as established by La Crosse County.
- B. It shall be the duty of such Officer to ascertain, if possible, the identity of the owner of each dog seized by them and to notify such owner of the fact that such has been seized. Any such owner may receive the release of such dog upon payment of the impoundment and/or boarding fee and any and all expenses of keeping such dog during the time it was impounded.
- C. After any dog has been kept for seven (7) days, and the owner thereof cannot be ascertained, by exercise of reasonable diligence, the animal becomes the property of the La Crosse County Humane Society.
- D. No dog shall be destroyed until the ten (10) day rabies quarantine period has passed.

SECTION 4.0 PENALTIES

The penalty for violation of any provision of this Ordinance including the molesting, hindrance or interference with the La Crosse County Animal Control when in the discharge of any duty prescribed by this Ordinance, shall be as established by La Crosse County Code.

SECTION 5.0 EFFECTIVE DATE

Following passage by the Town Board, this ordinance shall take effect the day after the date of publication or posting as provided by sec. 60.80, Wis. Stats.

Adopted by the Holland Town Board of the Township of Holland, La Crosse County, Wisconsin, this 12th day of September, 2007.

George Hammes, Town Chairman
Attest: Marilyn Pedretti, Town Clerk