



Theodora K. Eaton, MMC  
*Town Clerk*

## TOWN OF NEEDHAM

*Office of the Town Clerk*

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### AT THE SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

HELD ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2010

### UNDER ARTICLE 7

It was

VOTED: That the Town vote to amend the General By-laws by deleting Section 3.7 and inserting in place thereof the following:

#### "SECTION 3.7 DOG REGULATIONS

**3.7.1 Use of Leashes.** No person shall allow a dog owned or kept by her/him to go beyond the confines of the property of the owner or keeper unless the dog is held firmly on a leash.

**3.7.2 Disturbing the Peace.** No person shall own or keep within the Town any dog which bites, excessively barks or howls or in any other manner disturbs the peace and quiet of any neighborhood, or endangers the safety of any person, domesticated animal or farm animal.

**3.7.3 Complaints.** The animal control officer is hereby authorized to seek a complaint against the owner or keeper of a dog who is found to have violated the provisions of sub-sections 3.7.1, 3.7.2, 3.7.4, 3.7.5, 3.7.6, 3.7.7, or 3.7.8 for which the following penalties shall be imposed:

1. First Offense -- twenty-five dollars (\$25.00)
2. Each Subsequent Offense -- fifty dollars (\$50.00)

**3.7.4 Restraint of Dogs.** In addition to the foregoing penalties, the animal control officer is also authorized and empowered to muzzle or restrain a dog, or to order the owner or keeper of a dog to muzzle or restrain a dog, pending a hearing before the Board of Selectmen as hereinafter provided, when the animal control officer finds that a dog has bitten or threatened any person or domesticated or farm animal, or has chased any vehicle upon any way open to public travel in the Town, or the owner had violated the provisions of section 3.7 more than three times in any calendar year. The owner or keeper of any dog that has been ordered to be restrained or muzzled under the provisions of section 3.7 may request in writing to the Board of Selectmen that the animal control officer vacate such order.

**3.7.5 Uncontrollable Dogs.** In addition to any other statutory authority contained in M.G.L. Chapter 140, the animal control officer may, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, enter a complaint before the Board of Selectmen to obtain an order to control or dispose of a dog found to be uncontrollable, or whose owner or keeper is unresponsive to any other penalties contained in Section 3.7.

**3.7.6 Restricted Areas.** No person shall allow a dog, other than a service dog, owned or kept by him or her, whether leashed or unleashed, to trespass on Memorial Park or DeFazio Park.

**3.7.7 Removal of Pet Waste.** No person owning or keeping a dog shall suffer, permit, or allow such a dog to leave feces in any public or private property of someone other than that of the dog's owner or keeper within the Town of Needham, without the approval of said property owner. Any person having custody and control of a dog in any such area shall carry with him or her proper equipment for the removal of feces. For purposes of this section, the means of removal shall be any tool, implement, or other device carried for the purpose of picking up and containing such feces. No person shall leave or dispose of said feces in any catch basin, drainage structure, waterway or on any public property or street except in a trash receptacle.

**3.7.8 Off-Leash Areas.** The Town may authorize an area or areas to be used as off-leash areas for dogs licensed in the Town of Needham for which a separate fee will be assessed and for which the Board of Selectmen may, from time to time, establish regulations for use. No person owning or keeping a dog shall suffer, permit or allow such dog to use the off leash area without the proper license or in violation of such regulations."

And by deleting section 4.1.1 and inserting in place thereof the following:

**"4.1.1 Licenses.** Any owner or keeper of a dog which is six (6) months of age or older and is located in the Town of Needham shall obtain a license from the Town Clerk for that dog commencing on January 1st of each year, as required by M.G.L. Chapter 140."

And by inserting a new section 4.1.5 as follows:

**"4.1.5 Fees.** The fees for registering and licensing dogs of all types in the Town shall be established from time to time by vote of the Selectmen."

Carried by Voice Vote  
As declared by the Moderator

A true copy  
ATTEST:

  
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Theodora K. Eaton, MMC, Town Clerk