

**TOWN OF BRADLEY**  
**ANIMAL CONTROL ORDINANCE**

Approved by the Bradley Town Council at a duly called meeting on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Mark Ketch, Chairperson**

**A True Copy Attest:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Charles Clemons**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**April Dorr, Bradley Town Clerk**

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**James Hatch**

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**Duane Lugdon**

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**Laurence Wade**

Town of Bradley  
Animal Control Ordinance

THE TOWN OF BRADLEY HEREBY ORDAINS that the following ordinance shall be adopted:

Section 1. Definitions:

As used in this ordinance, unless the context otherwise indicates:

- A. DOG- shall be intended to mean both male and female dogs or wolf-hybrids.
- B. DOMESTIC ANIMALS shall include but not be limited to dogs or wolf-hybrids, cats, horses, pigs, sheep, goats and poultry, and other fowl being kept for domestic purposes.
- C. OWNER- shall be intended to mean any person or persons, firm, association, or corporation owning keeping, harboring, or in possession of or having the control of a dog and/ or domestic animal, the parent or parents or guardian of a minor who owns, keeps or has in possession a dog and or domestic animal.
- D. AT LARGE- shall be intended to mean off the owner's premises and not under the control of any person utilizing personal presence and attention as will reasonably control the conduct of such dog either by leash, cord, chain, or "at heel," or under command.
- E. ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER—The Town Manager shall appoint an Animal Control Officer to enforce the provisions of this ordinance and perform the duties and responsibilities conferred upon Animal Control Officers under Maine State statute. The Animal Control Officer shall be authorized to issue compliance orders and court summons as required by this ordinance and Maine State statute. If the appointment is to be completed via a contract, the appointment requires Town Council approval.

Section 2. Running at Large

- A. No owner shall cause or permit any dog to run at large within the Town of Bradley. A dog shall be restrained by a leash of not more than eight feet long while in or on any public way or place.
- B. Nothing in this section shall require the leashing of any dog while it is on the property of its owner.

Section 3. Barking or Howling Dogs

No owner shall keep or maintain a dog that continuously or repeatedly barks, howls, makes other loud or unusual noises, or in any manner creates a nuisance that disturbs neighborhoods and other persons through such unreasonable and objectionable noise. Barking noise or other nuisance activities shall not be permitted or allowed where the dog barks, howls, or makes other sounds common to its species which occur in a steady, rapid session for thirty (30) or more minutes or occur intermittently for one (1) hour or more. This section shall not apply to dogs that engage in herding livestock or to agricultural guard dogs that protect livestock or warn the owners of danger to the livestock.

Section 4. Removal and Disposal of Dog Excrement

- A. It shall be a violation of this section for any owner to fail to immediately remove and dispose of any feces left cast or deposited by the dog upon the premises of any public way or place or upon the property of others.
- B. This section shall not apply to a dog accompanying any handicapped person who, because of his/her handicap, is physically unable to comply with the requirements of this section.

## Section 5. License

A suitable tag showing the year the dog license was issued per the State of Maine statutes and bearing such other data as the agriculture commissioner may prescribe shall be securely attached to a collar, which must be worn by the dog for which the license was issued. It shall be unlawful for any person to remove such tag or to place either a collar or tag on any dog not described or for which the license was not issued.

## Section 6. Transport Fees

Any owner of a dog or domestic animal that the Animal Control Officer has transported will be charged a \$50.00 fee per animal, plus any mileage, boarding, and medical expenses for the animal's care. The Town of Bradley will invoice the owner. Failure to pay such a fee within 30 days of the billing date violates this ordinance.

## Section 7. Enforcement

Upon a signed and sworn written complaint by any person, a duly qualified law enforcement official, Animal Control Officer, or person acting in that capacity for the Town of Bradley may investigate and give written notice to the owner that they have been found violating this Ordinance in accordance with the procedure below.

Any person violating this Ordinance shall receive a verbal warning for the first offense.

Any person found violating this Ordinance within six months of receiving a verbal warning shall be issued a written warning.

Any person found violating this Ordinance within six months of receiving a written warning shall be fined a fee set by the Town Council of not less than Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) nor more than Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00), per violation, per day, in accordance with 30-A M.R.S. § 4452 and other applicable state law. Payment of this fine will voluntarily waive the right to appeal and defend before the Penobscot District Court the charge made against the owner for violation of this ordinance.

Any person found violating this Ordinance within six months of receiving a written warning and failing to pay the fee assigned by the Town Council may be subject to a complaint before Penobscot District Court. The fine filed in the complaint will be no less than Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00) per violation, per day in accordance with 30-A M.R.S. § 4452 and other applicable state law. Said complaint shall also include a reimbursement to the Town and its officials for all reasonable costs incurred by the Town and its officials in connection with this violation, including but not limited to compensation for the Animal Control Officer at the rate paid by the Town of Bradley, mileage expenses, and reasonable attorney's fees. Filing the complaint will require the approval of the Town Council. When making the determination to file a complaint, the Town Council may consider budget constraints, the number of complaints, the likelihood of receiving the fine, and cost reimbursement.