

**TITLE 7  
CHAPTER 1**

Licensing of Dogs and Regulation of Animals

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**SEC. 7-1-1 DOG LICENSE REQUIRED**

It shall be unlawful for any person in the Village of Norwalk to own, harbor or keep any dog more than five (5) months of age without complying with the provisions of Sec. 174.06 & 174.07, Wisconsin Statutes, relating to the listing, licensing and tagging of the same. No individual owner (or family unit living together), firm or corporation shall keep more than two dogs (**including Service Dogs**) over the age of six months within any residential district, excepting bona fide animal hospitals in which the dogs are confined.

**DEFINITION OF SERVICE DOG.** A service dog is a type of assistance dog specifically trained to help people who have disabilities including visual difficulties, hearing impairments, mental illness, seizures, diabetes, autism, and more. Desirable character traits in service animals typically include good temperament or psychological make-up and good health. Service dogs are often trained and bred by service dog organizations. Labrador Retrievers, German Shepherds, and Golden Retrievers are the most common breeds used as service dogs, but any breed or mix of breeds is capable of being a service dog, though few dogs have all of the health and temperament qualities needed. Such a dog may be called a “service dog” or an ‘assistance dog,’ depending largely on country. Occasionally they are incorrectly referred to as “Seeing Eye Dogs”: this, however, refers to a specific organization and not to all Guide Dogs.

**EMOTIONAL SUPPORT, THERAPY, COMFORT, OR COMPANION ANIMALS ARE NOT CONSIDERED SERVICE ANIMALS.**

7/26/2022 Motion by AKaris second by CDeWitt to add the definition of service dog to ordinance 7-1-1. MC  
Posted 7/27/2022

**SEC. 7-1-2 RABIES VACCINATION REQUIRED FOR LICENSE**

The owner of a dog shall have the dog vaccinated against rabies by a veterinarian within thirty (30) days after the dog reaches five (5) months of age and revaccinated within one (1) year after the initial vaccination. If the owner obtains the dog or brings the dog into this village after the dog has reached five (5) months of age, the owner shall have the dog vaccinated against rabies within thirty (30) days after the dog is obtained or brought into the village unless the dog has been vaccinated as evidenced by a current certificate of rabies vaccination from this state or another state. The owner of a dog shall have the dog revaccinated against rabies by a veterinarian before the date that the immunization expires as stated on the certificate of vaccination or, if no date is specified, within three (3) years after the previous vaccination.

SEC. 7-1-3    ISSUANCE OF LICENSES

- (a) Village will issue dog licenses ~~year-round.~~ **January 1 to March 31 only. The county will issue the rest of the year.**
- (b) Upon payment of the required dog license fee and upon presentation of evidence that the dog is currently immunized against rabies, the Village Clerk-Treasurer shall complete and issue to the owner a license for the dog bearing a serial number and in an approved form stating the date of its expiration, the owner's name and address, and the name, sex, spayed or unsprayed, neutered or unneutered, breed and color of the dog.
- (c) The fee schedule will follow the County Schedule. Chapter 12.03 (6)(c)
- (d) Limitations on Number of Dogs. Effective as of June 1, 2002, no owner or occupant of any property located within the city shall keep more than two (2) dogs of at least five (5) months of age on such owner's or occupant's property. Any owner or occupant keeping more than two (2) dogs of at least five months of age on such owner or occupant's property prior to June 1, 2002, shall be permitted to keep the number of dogs in excess of two (2) only for the lives of the dogs then living and kept on the property. Any dog which shall die or shall otherwise be disposed of shall not be replaced until the total number of dogs is two (2) or less.

SEC. 7-1-4    LATE FEES

The Village Clerk-Treasurer shall collect a late fee ~~of \$10.00~~ as assessed by the County from every owner of a dog five (5) months of age or over, if the owner failed to obtain a license prior to April 1 of each year, or within thirty (30) days of acquiring ownership of a licensable dog or if the owner failed to obtain a license on or before the dog reached licensable age. All late fees received or collected shall be paid to the County Treasurer. Said late fee shall be charged in addition to the required licensed fee.

SEC. 7-1-5    PENALTY FOR FAILURE TO OBTAIN RABIES VACCINATION

An owner who fails to have a dog vaccinated against rabies as required under Section 7-1-2 may be required to forfeit not less than \$50.00 nor more than \$100.00.

SEC. 7-1-6    RESTRICTIONS ON KEEPING OF DOGS

- (a) **DEFINITIONS.** *The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this article, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:*
  - 1) **OWNERS SHALL MEAN** 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 ten (10) days is presumed to be harboring or keeping the dog within the meaning of this Chapter.
  - 2) **AT LARGE MEANS** to be off the premises of the owner and not under the control of some person either by leash or otherwise, but a dog within an automobile of any other person with the consent of the dog's owner shall be deemed to be upon the owner's premises.
  - 3.) **VICIOUS DOG MEANS** *any dog that bites, injures, attacks or kills a human being or domestic animal on either public or private property and/or presents a continuing threat of serious harm to human beings or domestic animals. The determination of a vicious dog shall be at the sole discretion of the county humane officer and that department and/or the designated village enforcement officer. An animal shall specifically not be declared vicious if:*
    - a) *Death, injury or damage is sustained by a person who, at the time thereof, was committing a trespass to land or criminal trespass of the dwelling upon premises occupied by the owner of the animal, or was abusing or attempting to violate an ordinance which protects persons or property.*

- b) Death, injury or damage was sustained by a domestic animal, which, at the time thereof, was tormenting, abusing, or assaulting the animal.*
- c) The animal was protecting or defending a human being within the immediate vicinity of the animal from an unjustified attack or assault.*
- d) The animal was acting in the capacity of a public safety agency for public safety purposes while under the control and direction of a public safety officer or agent.*

(b) **RESTRICTIONS.** It shall be unlawful for any person within the Village of Norwalk to own, harbor or keep any dog which:

- (1) Habitually pursues any vehicle upon any public street, alley or highway in the village.
- (2) Assaults or attacks any person.
- (3) Is at large within the limits of the Village.
- (4) Habitually barks or howls to the annoyance of any person or persons.
- (5) Kills, wounds or worries any domestic animal.
- (6) Is known by such person to be infected with rabies or to have been bitten by an animal known to have been infected with rabies.

(c) **VICIOUS DOGS.** No vicious dog shall be allowed off the premises of its owner unless muzzled or on a leash in charge of the owner or a member of the owner's immediate family over sixteen (16) years of age. A dog is declared to be vicious within the meaning of this section when it shall have bitten any person, or when a propensity to attack or bite human beings shall exist and is known, or ought reasonably to be known to the owner or any member of the owner's immediate family over sixteen (16) years of age. Any vicious dog which is found off the premises of its owner other than as herein above provided, may be seized by any person, and upon delivery to the proper authorities, may, upon establishment to the satisfaction of a court of competent jurisdiction of the vicious character of said dog, by testimony under oath reduced to writing, be killed by the police authorities.

(d) **DECLARATION OF VICIOUS ANIMAL.** *-The owner, harborer, keeper, or caretaker of any dog declared vicious shall comply with the following requirements:*

- 1) **CONFINEMENT IN DOORS.** No vicious dog may be kept on a porch, patio, or in any part of the house or structure that would allow the dog to exit the building on its own volition. No vicious dog may be kept in a house or structure when the windows are open or when screen windows or screen doors are the only obstacles preventing the dog from exiting the structure.*
- 2) **CONFINEMENT OUTDOORS.** All vicious dogs shall be securely enclosed in a chain-link kennel when outdoors. If there is more than one vicious dog owned or housed by the same party on the same property, each vicious dog must be provided with a separate and private kennel separated from any other dogs. The confinement kennel for any vicious dog must be a chain-link kennel which is no less than six feet tall and not less than six feet by eight feet in diameter with a chainlink gate attached to access the dog kennel. The chain-link will be securely anchored to a cement pad, which is the floor of the kennel area. No vicious dog will be kenneled in any kennel that does not have a cement pad floor. The gate to the kennel shall be kept locked with a pad lock or a combination lock at all times. A neutral or safety kennel shall be constructed at the entry to the vicious dog kennel entrance to ensure that the dog will not escape. The neutral or safety kennel shall also be a six-foot-tall chain-link fence and shall be no less than four feet in area with a chain-link gate attached to access the neutral or safety area. This area does not need to be locked or cemented. A dog house, shall be available inside this kennel area for the dog. All structures must be kept clean and sanitary. Structures erected to house vicious dogs shall comply with all zoning and building regulations of the township, village, or city.*
- 3) **PROHIBITED IN MULTIPLE-FAMILY DWELLINGS.** No vicious dog may be kept within any portion of any multiple-family dwelling.*
- 4) **LEASH AND MUZZLE.** No person owning, harboring or having the care of a vicious dog may suffer or permit such dog to go outside its kennel or pen unless the dog is securely leashed with a*

*leach no longer than four feet in length, under the control of an adult and wearing a muzzling device sufficient to prevent the dog from biting persons or animals. This muzzling device shall in no way interfere with the dog's natural breathing or panting process. No person may permit a vicious dog to be kept on a chain, rope or other type of tether or tie down outside its kennel or pen. The dog may not be tethered to inanimate objects such as trees, post, doghouses, and/or buildings. A vicious dog shall not be required to be muzzled when shown in a sanctioned American Kennel Club show.*

- 5) **SIGNS.** *All owners, keepers or harborers of vicious dogs shall, within 15 days of the effective date of the ordinance from which this article is derived, display in a prominent place on their premises a sign easily read by the public using the words "Beware of Dog." A similar sign is required to be posted on the kennel or pen of the vicious dog.*
- 6) **INSURANCE.** *All owners, keepers or harborers of vicious dogs shall, within 30 days of the effective date of the ordinance from which this article is derived, and/or 30 days of the date when a dog is determined to be vicious, provide the county humane officer proof of liability insurance in a single incident amount of at least \$50,000.00 for bodily injury to or death of any person or for the damage to property owned by any person which may result from the ownership, keeping or maintenance of vicious dogs. The insurance policy will have a clause to the insurance company that they will notify the county humane officer with a written notice prior to ten days of cancellation of the policy. The owner or custodian of the dog shall produce evidence of the required insurance upon request of the county humane office.*

**(e) APPEAL OF VICIOUS DOG DETERMINATION**

*Any person aggrieved by the determination of his dog being vicious may appeal such a determination with the county humane officer at the expense of the alleged vicious dog owner. In this situation any state-licensed veterinarian may be hired by the alleged vicious dog owner to assess the temperament of the alleged vicious dog. A written and signed temperament determination of said dog's temperament may be submitted to the county humane officer by the vicious dog owner's veterinarian. The final determination will be made by the Village Board of Trustee's as to whether the vicious dog determination will be lifted. This determination must be completed and submitted within 30 days of the grievance.*

**(f) DISPOSITION OF VICIOUS DOGS**

*Any vicious dog which attacks a human being or domestic animal may be ordered destroyed by the humane officer when, in the judgment of the court of competent jurisdiction, the dog represents a continuing threat of serious harm to human beings or domestic animals and said owner of the vicious dog fails to comply with kennel requirements pursuant to section 7-1-6 (b)(b)*

7/12/2022 Motion by AKaris second by CDeWitt to adopt Monroe County Definitions, Declaration, Appeal and Disposition of Vicious Dogs in addition to our 7-1-6 Restrictions of Keeping Dogs. MC  
Posted 7/26/2022

**SEC. 7-1-7 IMPOUNDMENT OF DOG**

- (a) **IMPOUNDING OF DOGS.** The Police Department or person(s) designated by the Village board may seize and impound any dog running at large, or any unlicensed dog at large, or upon a person's premises. Such animal shall be impounded as soon as reasonably possible at the Monroe County Animal Shelter, or at some other appropriate shelter if the Monroe County Animal Shelter is unable or unwilling to accept the animal. Upon the impounding of any dog, the Police Department or person(s) designated by the Village shall notify the owner or keeper personally or through the United States mail if such owner or keeper be known to the Police Department or person(s) designated by the Village board or can be ascertained with reasonable effort. If after seven (7) days the owner or keeper does not claim such dog, the Police Department may cause the disposal of the dog in a proper and humane manner and as allowed by applicable law.

- (b) OWNER MAY REDEEM DOG. The owner of any dog impounded may redeem his dog within the period above specified upon the payment of impound fee plus the actual costs per day for the dog's keep.
- (c) VILLAGE NOT LIABLE FOR IMPOUNDING DOGS. The Village shall not be liable for the death of any dog, which has been impounded or disposed of pursuant to this Section.

SEC. 7-1-8 DOGS AND CATS PROHIBITED IN CEMETERIES

No dog or cat is permitted in any cemetery within the Village. Every dog specially trained to lead blind, deaf or mobility-impaired persons shall be exempt from this Section.

SEC. 7-1-9 CRUELTY TO ANIMALS AND BIRDS PROHIBITED

No person, except a peace officer or health or humane officer in pursuit of his duties, shall within the village shoot or kill or commit an act of cruelty on any animal or bird.

SEC. 7-1-10 NEGLECTED OR ABANDONED ANIMALS POLICE POWER

Any police officer may shelter and care for any animal found to be cruelly exposed to the weather, starved, neglected or abandoned, and may deliver such animal to another person to be sheltered, cared for and given medical attention, if necessary. In all cases the owner, if known, shall be immediately notified and the person having possession of the animal shall have a lien thereon for his care, keeping, medical attention and expenses of notice. Whenever in the opinion of a police officer, an animal is hopelessly injured or diseased so as to be beyond the probability of recovery, such police officer may kill such animal.

SEC. 7-1-11 ANIMAL FECES

Any person owning or having control of any dog, cat or other animal shall clean up the feces of such animal immediately and dispose of it in a sanitary manner. No animal feces shall be permitted to remain exposed upon any private or public property.

SEC. 7-1-12 KEEPING OF FARM ANIMALS RESTRICTED

- (a) No stable, hog pen, poultry coop, yard, rabbit, fox or mink hutch or other building or pen used for the purpose of confining or housing any animals or poultry shall hereafter be erected, placed, rebuilt, or reconstructed upon any lot of ground within the limits of the Village of Norwalk with the exceptions as herein after provided.
- (b) Existing stables and barns. Any house or building now in use in said village for the purpose of confining or housing any domestic animals or poultry, shall be conditioned in such manner that it can be kept clean, sanitary and inoffensive at all times, and shall be provided with fly-tight bins or tightly closed receptacles for manure of such dimensions as to contain all accumulations of manure, which shall be removed at least twice every week from May 1<sup>st</sup> to October 31<sup>st</sup> and once a week from November 1<sup>st</sup> to April 30<sup>th</sup> and in such a manner as to prevent its becoming a nuisance. No manure, litter, or other refuse shall be allowed to accumulate on the floor of such buildings or upon adjacent grounds, under any circumstances whatever.

SEC. 7-1-13 REGULATIONS REGARDING HORSES

- (a) RIDING ON PUBLIC PROPERTY RESTRICTED. No person shall engage in horseback riding upon a traveled portion of any public highway, except to cross the same, or where no shoulders exist, riding in the right hand lane will be permitted only between the hours of sunrise and sunset, nor in school yards,

public parks or on other public property, except when the same is done as a participant in connection with a public event such as a parade or celebration event.

- (b) **AREAS OF RIDING RESTRICTED.** No person shall engage in horseback riding in the Village, except on the private property of the rider, the property of another with his consent, or designated bridle trails on public or private property.
- (c) **ORDERLY RIDING.** No person shall ride a horse in the village except the same shall be thoroughly broken and properly restrained with a bridle. No person shall engage in a horse race on public property within the Village. Every person shall ride a horse with proper care and in such manner as not to endanger the safety of property of himself or others.
- (d) **GENERAL TRAFFIC REGULATIONS TO BE OBSERVED.** Every person riding a horse on any street, alley or other public highway within the village of Norwalk shall observe all traffic rules and regulations, applicable thereto; and shall turn only at intersections, signal all turns, ride to the right hand side of the street, alley or other public highway, pass to the left when overtaking vehicles or other riders that are slower moving and shall pass to the right when meeting approaching traffic.
- (e) **RIDING MORE THAN TWO ABREAST PROHIBITED, ALSO MORE THAN TWO RIDERS PER HORSE.** Whenever groups of more than two persons are riding horses together on any street, alley or other public highway within the Village of Norwalk, they shall not ride more than two abreast, and shall at all times so govern and control their horses as not to unnecessarily interfere with other traffic thereon. Also, no one shall allow more than one other rider or passenger per horse, with driver.
- (f) **AGE LIMITS.** Owners of horses may not allow any child under the age of 16 years of age to ride without the written consent of the parents or guardian of such child and may not allow more than one passenger or rider with the driver.
- (g) **RUNNING AT LARGE OR UNATTENDED PROHIBITED.** No owner, keeper or person having a horse or horses under his control shall allow the same to run at large. No person shall allow any horse under his control to damage public or private property, nor shall any person hitch or tie a horse to any rock, tree, shrubbery or allow the animal to remain unattended on private or public property without proper consent.
- (h) **HORSES STABLES.** No person shall keep or stable any horse except as permitted elsewhere in this Code.