

**Dog Control Bylaw
Town of Tolland, MA**

Prohibited: No person owning a dog in the Town shall permit such dog to be at large in the Town, elsewhere than on the premises of the owner or keeper except if it be on the premises of another person with the knowledge and permission of such other person. Such owner or keeper of a dog in the Town which is not on the premises of the owner or upon the premises of another person with the knowledge and permission of such person shall be required to have said dog under his complete control at all times.

Prima facie evidence. In any prosecution hereunder the presence of such dog at large upon premises other than the premises of the owner or keeper of such dog shall be prima facie evidence that such knowledge and permission was not had.

Procedure when dog found to be at large. Any dog found to be at large in violation of this section shall be caught and confined by the dog officer, who shall notify forthwith the licensed owner or keeper of such dog, failing which the dog shall be destroyed. The owner or keeper of such dog shall be required to pay the reasonable expenses of maintaining such dog in confinement, including, but not limited to, costs of feeding, medical care, medicines, and the like.

Return of the dog to the licensed owner or keeper shall be dependent upon admission of ownership or the keeping of the dog and the assumption of responsibility by the licensed owner or keeper. The dog officer shall enter and prosecute a complaint against the owner or keeper of any dog taken into his custody under this section; provided, that if within the twelve months next preceding this offense the owner or keeper has not been convicted for violation of this section or a dog owned or kept by him has not been taken into custody for violation of this section the dog officer may waive prosecution. If found to be unlicensed at the time of apprehension, the owner or keeper of the particular dog will be, in fact, required to furnish proof of rabies inoculation and current years license, prior to removal from the confinement facilities.

Designation of public areas for exercise and training of dogs. The Board of Selectmen may designate times and places on public park property where dogs may be exercised or trained while under the control and supervision of their masters.

Licensed hunting dogs. This section, or any part thereof shall not apply to licensed hunting dogs owned by a licensed hunter engaging in the sport of hunting or training for such hunting.

Duty of Police, etc. Any Police officer or other person who catch a dog found at large shall turn such dog over to the dog officer in accordance with the provisions of this section and shall not kill any such dog.

Penalty for Violation of this Bylaw: In addition to any other legal remedies that may be available, Whoever violates any provision of this by-law, the violation of which is subject to specific penalty, may be penalized by non-criminal disposition as provided in Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40, Section 21D as amended in accordance with the penalty and fine schedule established in the Town of Tolland Bylaw.

Adopted at Special Town Meeting on March 28, 2005

Approved by Massachusetts Attorney General on November 16, 2005