

Section 3 KEEPING OF DOGS

3.1 DEFINITIONS

- 3.1.1 **Adequately Restrained** shall mean a dog which is on a leash on the owner's property such that the animal cannot reach the public sidewalk/right-of-way or the walkway to the house.
- 3.1.2 **Dangerous Dog** is any dog, which, according to the records of the Animal Control Officer, has inflicted injury on a human being without provocation on public or private property; or any dog which, according to the records of the Animal Control Officer, has killed or injured a domestic animal, livestock or fowl without provocation while off the owner's property; or any dog which, in the opinion of the Animal Control Officer, Police Chief or Health Director is an immediate danger to the public by virtue of the dog's vicious disposition.
- 3.1.3 **Known Owner of Dog** is that person who can be identified as the owner of the animal through local license records, pet shop sale records, or identified by at least two neighbors.
- 3.1.4 **Kennel** is a place of business or a private home where 5 or more dogs are owned or housed. This home or place of business is to be inspected by the animal inspector and licensed by the Board of Health annually. Cost of the license is \$100.00

3.1.5 BARKING DOGS

- 3.2.1 Upon complaint of a barking dog, the Animal Control Officer shall be subject to the following action within each calendar year:

First Offense	Written Warning
Second Offense	\$20.00 fine
Third Offense	\$30.00 fine
Each Subsequent offense	\$50.00 fine

3.3 DANGEROUS DOGS

- 3.3.1 Any dog which bites while in the owner's home or while adequately restrained shall on the first offense be quarantined in the home for 10 days. Provided however, that the proof of current rabies vaccination is presented to the Animal Control Officer. Further bites shall be subject to action noted in Section 3.3.2
- 3.3.2 Any unrestrained dog, which bites shall be impounded for ten (10) days. During impoundment, the Animal Control Officer shall attempt to notify the owner at the end of the ten (10) days the dog shall be released to the *owner* upon

proof that the dog is licensed, has received a current rabies vaccination and any other vaccination as required by the kennel, and has paid all kennel fees. The owner shall be subject to a fine of \$50.00 for the first offense and \$100.00 for the second offense. Upon report of the third bite by a dog, the owner shall appear before the Board of Health for a hearing. At that time, the Board may order the owner to have the dog humanely euthanized by a humane society or licensed veterinarian.

3.3.3 Any dog which has *or has not* inflicted injury but is considered a “ dangerous dog” by virtue of its vicious disposition may be the subject of a hearing upon request of the Animal Control Officer or any citizen of the Town. The owner of such animal shall be notified of the hearing by a registered letter or delivery by a constable. the Board of Health will make a determination of the restraint or disposal of the animal at the time of the hearing.

3.3.4 Any dog which has been noted by the Animal Control Officer to be dangerous and is uncatchable by the Animal Control Officer shall be shot by a Police officer of the Town of Reading. The head shall be removed by a licensed veterinarian and prepared for *rabies* testing at the State Laboratory Institute, 305 South Street, Jamaica Plain ~~for rabies testing~~.

3.4 **HEARING**

3.4.1 Any person so aggrieved by any action described in these regulations may request, in writing, a hearing at the next scheduled Board of Health meeting.

*Revised by the BOH 4/14/05
Effective 4/05*

*Revised 9/08/05
Effective 11/01/05*