Town of Newport Ordinance

ORDINANCE NO. 83-1

AN ORDINANCE TO REGULATE AND LICENSE DOGS IN THE TOWN OF NEWPORT, COLUMBIA COUNTY, WISCONSIN

The Town Board of the Town of Newport, Columbia County, Wisconsin, do ordain as follows:

SECTION 1, DOG LICENSE TAX

(a) Every owner, as required by Chapter 174 of the Wisconsin Statutes, of a dog more than five (5) months of age on January 1 of any year, or five (5) months of age within the license year shall annually, or within thirty (30) days from date such dog becomes five (5) months of age, at the time and in the manner provided by law for the payment of personal property taxes, pay his dog license tax and obtain a license therefor and display on dog collar.

(b) Such dog license tax shall be $2.00 for each male dog and spayed female dog, and $5.00 for each female dog, or one-half this amount if the dog became five (5) months of age after July 1st of the license year. The license year shall commence on January 1st and end on the following December 31st.

(c) Every dog specially trained to lead blind persons shall be exempt from dog license tax and every taxpayer owning such dog shall annually receive a free dog license from the Town Treasurer upon application therefor.

SECTION 2. DEFINITIONS

In this ordinance the following words mean:

(a) "Owner" includes 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 a dog.

(b) "At large'means to be off the premises of the owner and not under the control of the owner or member of this immediate family, but a dog within an automobile of its owner or in an automobile of any other person with the consent of the dog's owner, shall be deemed upon the owner's premises.

SECTION 3. RESTRICTIONS ON KEEPING OF DOGS

No person shall own, harbor or keep any dog which:

(a) Assaults or attacks any person.

(b) Habitually barks or howls to the annoyance of any person.

(c) Kills, wounds or worries any domestic animal.

(d) Is at large within the Town boundaries not under the control of the owner or member of his immediate family.

SECTION 4. IMPOUNDING STRAY OR UN-LICENSES DOGS

(a) Enforcement of this ordinance shall be carried out by the Town Constable. The Town Constable shall seize and impound any dog for the keeping of which no license has been issued and for which one is required, or seize and impound any dog which is kept in violation of Section 3 above.

(b) The Town Constable shall forthwith notify the owner of any dog impounded, personally, by telephone, or through the mail, if such owner be known to the Constable or can be ascertained with reasonable effort.

(c) If the owner of the offending dog or dogs cannot be ascertained, then, the Town Constable shall post written notice within 48 hours after said seizure and these notices shall be posted in 3 conspicuous places in the Town of Newport, one of which shall be the bulletin board on the Town Hall. The notice shall be dated.

(d) In the event that the owner does not reclaim the dog as provided for in (f) herein within 7 days of actual or posted notice, Sundays excepted, then the dog shall be disposed of in a proper and humane manner.

(e) The Town Constable shall keep a record of every dog sold or otherwise disposed of, describing the dog with reasonable certainty and listing the name and address of the party to whom sold or delivered or the manner of otherwise disposing of the dog. In addition, any person to whom such dog is sold or delivered shall sign a statement to that effect giving his name, address and the date of delivery or receipt of such dog. The proceeds from the sale of any such dog shall be deposited in the Town Treasury.

(f) The possession of any dog impounded may be obtained by paying the Treasurer the sum of $10.00 for the first day and $5.00 thereafter, during which said dog has been impounded. In addition, prior to release the owner shall pay for and comply with the licensing requirement of Section 1 of this ordinance.

SECTION 6. PENALTY

Any person or owner violating the provisions of this ordinance shall be punished by a fine of not less than $25.00 nor more than $50.00, and in default of the payment thereof be committed to the County jail until payment is made, for not exceeding 20 days.

SECTION 7. EFFECTIVE DATE

This ordinance shall take effect and be in full force and effect on December 1, 1983.

PASSED this 22nd day of November, 1983

ATTEST:
Laurence Bogh

Norman Lien,
Town Chairman

Gordon Gregerson
Town Supervisor

Leland B. Palmer
Town Supervisor

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