

**Ordinance No: 23-01**  
**Dog Licensing Regulation**

**STATE OF WISCONSIN**  
**Town of Morrison, Brown County**

**SECTION 1 – TITLE/PURPOSE**

The title of this ordinance is the Town of Morrison Dog Licensing Regulation. The purpose of this Ordinance is to regulate, by tax and penalty, the care, treatment and control of dogs in the Town of Morrison.

**SECTION 2 – LICENSE REQUIRED**

All dogs over five months of age residing in the Town of Morrison need to be licensed before April 1 each year. Every dog is required by state statute to have a current rabies shot. To receive your license, include the current rabies vaccination papers along with the correct fee to the Town Treasurer at 3792 Park Rd, Greenleaf, WI 54126

**SECTION 3 – FEE**

See the Town of Morrison fee schedule for fees associated with licensing dogs.

**SECTION 4 – ISSUANCE OF LICENSE**

Upon payment to the Town Treasurer of the required fee, the Treasurer shall issue to such person(s) a license to keep such dog for one year, and such person(s) shall, upon procuring the license, place upon the dog a collar with a tag furnished to them by the Town Treasurer.

**SECTION 5 – STATE REGULATIONS**

Chapter 174 of the Wisconsin Statutes shall apply so far as applicable.

**SECTION 6 – DOGS NOT TO RUN AT LARGE**

No owner or person in control or having custody of a dog shall allow the same to run at large within the Town unless accompanied by and under control of the owner or keeper.

**SECTION 7– HARBORING CERTAIN DOGS PROHIBITED**

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

- A. Habitually pursues any vehicle upon any public street, alley or highway.

- B. Assaults or attacks any person
- C. Is vicious. Any dog that has bitten, attacked or injured any person or animal, and/or signs of showing teeth, shall constitute, that such dog is vicious, see Section 11.
- D. Habitually barks or howls to the annoyance of any two or more neighboring households.
- E. Is required to be licensed, but is not.

## **SECTION 8 – CERTIFICATE OF VACCINATIONS REQUIRED**

No license shall be issued hereunder for any dog unless the applicant exhibits a certificate of a qualified veterinarian showing that the dog has been vaccinated for rabies and distemper within the two years prior to application.

## **SECTION 9 – DOG POUND**

- A. Confinement of dogs. The Town Constable or any other officer appointed by the Town Board shall apprehend any dog running at large within the Town or which does any of the things prohibited under Section 7 and confine the same in a suitable dog pound.
- B. Enforcement. The Brown County officers or Town Constable or their qualified assistants shall be responsible for the apprehension and confinement of dogs in a pound as herein provided, and such police officer shall apprehend and confine dogs as provided in this section and may enforce this section, including the right to commence actions for the collection of any forfeiture imposed by this article. Such action shall be brought in the name of the Town. Such officer shall be paid such compensation, as the Town Board shall determine by resolution.
- C. Disposition of unclaimed dogs. The keeper of the pound shall keep all dogs apprehended for seven days at the dog pound (unless sooner claimed by the owner or keeper), if any dog is not claimed by the rightful owner within such time, the dog may be sold for the amount incurred in apprehending, keeping and caring of the dog or it may be destroyed in a proper and humane manner.
- D. Owner or keeper to pay costs. The owner or keeper of any dog so confined may claim such dog at any time before the same is disposed of, upon payment of all costs and charges incurred in apprehending, keeping and caring of the dog. Such costs and charges may include a daily fee of \$20 plus the cost of food, and may include expenses for vaccinations or any necessary medical treatment of the dog. The owner or keeper's payment of costs and charges incurred in apprehending, keeping and caring of the dog shall be made directly to the Town Treasurer' office. All fees must be paid prior to claiming said dog.

## **SECTION 10 – LIMIT ON NUMBER OF DOGS**

No person, except a kennel licensee, shall own, harbor or keep more than four dogs that are more than five months of age except in a place or places where the Town impounds animals. If a total of more than four dogs are owned, harbored or kept in or by any one household, the head of the household shall be deemed the person so owning, harboring or keeping such dogs, notwithstanding that the dog license or licenses may be issued to other members of the household as owners of such animals.

## **SECTION 11 – Definition of a Vicious Dog**

- A. Any animal that, while off the owner's or caretaker's property has killed a domestic pet or animal without provocation,
- B. Any animal that, without provocation, inflicts substantial bodily harm on a person on public or private property.
- C. Any dog with a propensity, tendency or disposition to attack, cause injury or otherwise endanger the safety of human beings or their domestic animals as evidenced by its habitual or repeated chasing or snarling or baring teeth and/or snarling in a threatening manner.
- D. Any dog owned or harbored primarily or in part for the purposes of dog fighting, or any dog trained for dog fighting.
- E. Any dog that is subject to being destroyed under Wisconsin Stats 174.02(3)
- F. No dog shall be brought into the Town which displays any of the above characteristics.

## **SECTION 12– LEASH AND MUZZLE**

- A. 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 leash no longer than four feet in length.
- B. No person may permit a vicious dog to be kept on a chain, rope or other type of leash outside its kennel or pen unless a person is in physical control of the leash.
- C. The vicious dog may not be leashed to inanimate objects such as trees, posts and buildings.
- D. A muzzling device sufficient to prevent a vicious dog from biting persons or other animals shall be used to muzzle a vicious dog on a leash outside the dog's kennel.

## **SECTION 13 – CONFINEMENT**

- A. All vicious dogs shall be securely confined indoors or in a securely enclosed and locked pen or kennel, except when leashed and muzzled as provided in Section 12.
- B. The pen, kennel or structure shall have secure sides and a secure top attached to all sides.
- C. A structure used to confine a vicious dog shall be locked with a key or combination lock when the dog is within the structure. The structure shall have a secure bottom or floor attached to the sides of the pen, or the sides of the pen must be embedded in the ground no less than two feet.
- D. All structures erected to house vicious dogs shall comply with all zoning and building regulations of the Town.
- E. All structures shall be adequately lighted and ventilated and kept in a clean and sanitary condition.

## **SECTION 14 – CONFINEMENT INDOORS**

- A. No vicious dog may be kept on a porch, patio or in any part of a house or structure that would allow the dog to exit the building on its volition.

- B. No vicious dog may be kept in a house or structure when the windows are open or when screen windows or screen door are the only obstacles preventing the dog from exiting the structure.

## **SECTION 15 – PROHIBITED IN MULTIPLE FAMILY DWELLINGS**

No vicious dog may be kept within any portion of any multiple family dwelling building.

## **SECTION 16 – SIGNS**

All owners, keepers or harborers of vicious dogs shall, within 15 days of the effective date of this section, display in a prominent place on their premise a sign easily readable by the public using the words 'Beware of Dog'. A similar sign is required to be posted on the kennel or pen of the dog.

## **SECTION 17 – INSURANCE**

All owners, keepers or harborers of vicious dogs shall, within 30 days of the effective date of this article, provide proof to the Town Board of public liability insurance in a single incident amount of \$50,000 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 shall provide that no cancellation of the policy will be made unless a ten-day written notice is first given to the Town Board. The owner or custodian of the dog shall produce evidence of the required insurance upon request of a law enforcement officer, or a member of the Town Board. This section does not apply to dogs kept by law enforcement agencies.

## **SECTION 18 – VICIOUS DOG DETERMINATION**

The Town Constable shall investigate every dog complaint and make a determination as to whether or not such dog is 'vicious', as defined in Section 11. In the event that the Town Constable makes a determination that a dog is vicious, he or she shall so inform the owner, keeper or harborer of such dog and provide such person with a copy of this section.

## **SECTION 19 – APPEAL OF VICIOUS DOG DETERMINATION**

Any person aggrieved by the determination of the Constable, as provided in Section 18, may appeal such determination directly to the Town Board.

## **SECTION 20 – COMPLIANCE**

Within ten days of the determination that a dog is vicious, as provided in Section 18, or ten days after an unsuccessful appeal under Section 19, the owner of a vicious dog shall either comply with all provisions of this article or dispose of such dog.

## **SECTION 21 – DISPOSITION OF VICIOUS DOGS**

- A. Any vicious dog which attacks a human being or domestic animal may be ordered destroyed by the Town Constable or Brown County officer when, in the judgement of a court of competent jurisdiction, the dog represents a continuing threat of serious harm to human beings or domestic animals.
- B. Any vicious dog that has knowingly bitten any person shall immediately report such fact to the Town Constable or Dog officer and shall keep such dog confined for not less than fourteen days or for such a period of time as the Town Constable or Dog Officer shall direct. The owner or keeper of any such dog shall surrender the dog to the Town Constable or a licensed veterinarian upon command for examination.

## SECTION 22 – VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES

Any person who shall violate any provision of this ordinance shall, upon conviction thereof, forfeit not less than \$50, nor more than \$2,500 with the costs of prosecution. A separate offense shall be deemed committed on each day on which a violation of this section occurs or continues.

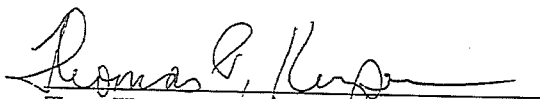
## SECTION 23 – SEVERABILITY

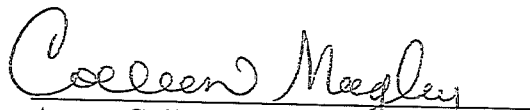
The sections, paragraphs, sentences, clauses, articles and phrases of this ordinance are severable; if any provision is found to be unconstitutional, invalid or unenforceable, such find shall not affect the remaining portions of this ordinance.

## SECTION 24 – EFFECTIVE DATE

This ordinance is effective on publication. The Town Clerk shall properly post/publish this ordinance as required under s 60.80, Wis Stats.

Amended by the Town of Morrison, Town Board, on February 14, 2023  
Originally adopted Nov 13, 2007

  
Tom Kempen, Chairperson

  
Attest: Colleen Magley, Clerk