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**CHAPTER 7**  
**DOGS**

**Article I. Dog Control.** [Adopted eff. 7/23/69, pursuant to R.S. 1964, T. 7, Sec. 3451 ff.; amended eff. 6/13/73; amended eff. 2/8/90; amended eff. 2/08/2018]

**Sec. 7-1-1. Purpose.** The purpose of this ordinance is to control dogs throughout the Town of Cape Elizabeth in the interest of the health, safety and general welfare of its residents.

**Sec. 7-1-2. Definitions.** As used in this ordinance, unless the context otherwise indicates.

[Put definitions in alphabetical order, remove (letter) notation]

- (a) "Dog" shall ~~apply to both male and female dogs.~~ mean a member of the genus and species known as canis familiaris, or any canine, regardless of generation, resulting from the interbreeding of a member of canis familiaris with a wolf hybrid.
- (b) "Owner" shall mean any person or persons, firm, association or corporation owning, keeping or harboring a dog. When a dog is in the custody of a "Responsible Party," all the provisions of an "Owner" shall apply.
- (c) "At large" shall mean off the premises of the owner and not ~~being~~ under the control of any person whose personal presence and attention would reasonably control the conduct of the animal. ~~by means of that person's proximity to the dog, and their ability to manipulate and command the animal.~~
- (d) "Dangerous dog" shall mean a dog or wolf hybrid that causes the death of or inflicts serious bodily injury on an individual or a domesticated animal who is not trespassing on the dog's premises at the time of the injury or death; a dog that causes a reasonable and prudent person who is not on the dog owner's premises and is acting in a reasonable and nonaggressive manner to fear imminent serious bodily injury by assaulting or threatening to assault that individual or individual's domesticated animal; or a dog that inflicts bodily injury on an individual or a domesticated animal who is not trespassing on the dog owner's premises at the time of the injury and has previously been determined by a court of competent jurisdiction to be a nuisance dog. For the purpose of this definition, "owner's premises" means the residence or residences, including buildings and land and motor vehicles, belonging to the owner. Dangerous dog does not include:
1. A dog certified by the State and used for law enforcement use;

1                   2. A dog that injures or threatens to assault an individual who is on  
2                   the dog owner's premises if the dog has no prior history of assault  
3                   and was provided by the individual immediately prior to the injury  
4                   or threatened assault; or

5                   3. A dog that inflicts serious bodily injury on or causes the death of  
6                   an individual who is committing a crime against an individual or  
7                   property owned by the dog owner.

8                   (e) "Leash" shall mean a hand held device, 30 feet or less in length, used to  
9                   restrain a dog.

10                  (f) "Nuisance dog" shall mean a dog that causes bodily injury, other than  
11                  serious bodily injury, to an individual or a domesticated animal who is not  
12                  trespassing on the dog owner's premises at the time of the injury; a dog  
13                  that causes a reasonable and prudent person who is not on the dog owner's  
14                  premises and is acting in a reasonable and nonaggressive manner to fear  
15                  bodily injury, other than serious bodily injury, by assaulting or threatening  
16                  to assault that individual or individual's domesticated animal; or a dog that  
17                  causes damage to property or crops not owned by the dog owner while the  
18                  dog is not on the owner's premises. For the purposes of this definition, dog  
19                  owner's premises means the residence or residences, including buildings  
20                  and land and motor vehicles, belonging to the owner of the dog. Nuisance  
21                  dog does not include:

22                  1. A dog certified by the State and used for law enforcement use;

23                  2. A dog that injures or threatens to assault an individual who is on  
24                  the dog owner's premises if the dog has no prior history of assault  
25                  and was provoked by the individual immediately prior to the injury  
26                  or threatened assault; or

27                  3. A dog that inflicts bodily injury on an individual who is  
28                  committing a crime against an individual or property owned by the  
29                  dog owner.

30                  (g) "Sight and Voice control" shall mean that the dog returns immediately to  
31                  and remains by the side of the responsible party in response to the  
32                  responsible party's verbal command. "Sight control" shall mean that a dog  
33                  is always within sight of the Responsible Party and the dog is capable of  
34                  complying with Voice Control. A violation of this Ordinance occurs upon  
35                  a failure to comply with the definition of either Voice Control or Sight  
36                  Control. If a dog approaches or remains within 10 feet of any person other  
37                  than the responsible party **or if a dog bites a person or animal**, that dog  
38                  is not under voice control and a violation of this Ordinance occurs unless  
39                  such person (or in the case of a minor child, an adult present with the

1 child) has communicated to the responsible party by spoken word or  
2 gesture that such person consents to the presence of the dog.

3 (h) “Responsible party” shall mean any person who has possession or  
4 custody of a dog. If a dog is present in violation of the restrictions of this  
5 ordinance, the owner of the dog and the responsible party are jointly and  
6 severally liable for the violation.

7  
8 **Sec. 7-1-3. License.** Any person who violates any section of the dog licensing  
9 requirements commits a civil violation for which a forfeiture may be adjudged.

10  
11 (a) License and Tag Requirements. License, record and tag requirements shall  
12 be as prescribed and required by Maine Statutes Annotated, and all rules  
13 and regulations duly promulgated thereunder. Each owner or keeper of a  
14 dog at the age of 6 months or over shall, on or before January 1, annually,  
15 or at such time as such dog becomes 6 months old, obtain a license from  
16 the town clerk's office in accordance with 7 M.R.S.A. Chapter 721. An  
17 owner or keeper of a dog declared as a wolf hybrid is also subject as  
18 required by the laws of the State of Maine.

19  
20 (b) Failure to Display Tags. It shall be unlawful for any dog owner or keeper  
21 to fail to have affixed to the dog's collar, the license identification and  
22 rabies tag. Said tags must be displayed securely attached to a collar of  
23 leather, metal or materials of comparable strength. on a collar constructed  
24 of a durable material and sized so as to ensure the tag's attachment. The  
25 collar shall be worn at all times by the dog for which the license and rabies  
26 tags were issued, except that a dog is not required to wear a tag when on  
27 premises of the owner or off the premises of the owner while hunting, in  
28 training, or in an exhibition.

29  
30 **Sec. 7-1-4. Barking and Howling.** No person shall own, keep or harbor any dog which  
31 by loud, frequent, and habitual barking, howling or yelping, shall disturb the peace of any  
32 person or persons.

33  
34 **Sec. 7-1-5. Dangerous Dog or Nuisance Dogs.** A dangerous dog is hereby defined to be  
35 a dog which by its conduct shall cause reasonable fear of bodily injury to any person. The  
36 owner of any dangerous dog shall keep same confined in a secure enclosure or on a chain  
37 or leash controlled by the owner or his agent at all times. Procedures resulting in the  
38 disposal or method of restraint of an animal who has assaulted a person shall be as  
39 prescribed and required by Maine Statutes Annotated, Title 7 and succeeding  
40 amendments. The keeping of a dangerous or nuisance dog shall be regulated by Title 7  
41 M.R.S.A Sec. 3952-A and succeeding amendments.

42  
43 **If there is an incident where a dog may have engaged in dangerous or nuisance**  
44 **behavior, the incident shall immediately be reported to the Cape Elizabeth Police**

1 Department. The owner of the dog shall remain on scene to provide contact  
2 information to the Police Department.

3  
4 **Sec. 7-1-6. Dogs At Large Failure to Restrain.** It shall be unlawful for any dog, licensed  
5 or unlicensed, to be at large, except when used for hunting. The owner of any dog found  
6 at large is subject to the penalties provided in Title 7 M.R.S.A. Chapter 719. owner or  
7 keeper to fail to restrain such an animal either by enclosed run, leash, tether, radio collar,  
8 choke collar or voice command so that the animal attacks, harasses or menaces any  
9 pedestrian, jogger, cyclist or passerby on any property other than that which is in the care  
10 and control of the dog owner.

11  
12 **Sec. 7-1-87 Management of Dogs to be Restrained on Municipal Property.**

13  
14 At all times, dogs on municipal property shall be controlled to the extent necessary  
15 to preserve access and safety for all members of the public. Any dog in or within ten  
16 feet (10') of a municipal parking lot must be restrained on a leash.

17  
18  
19 (a) Dogs on municipal property shall be controlled based on the Property  
20 Management Category Designation.

21  
22 1. Category 1: No dogs allowed. No dogs shall be allowed on any  
23 municipal property assigned as Category 1 for the purpose of dog  
24 control.

25  
26 2. Category 2: Dogs allowed on leash only. Dogs that are restrained by  
27 leash held by a responsible party, defined herein, are allowed on any  
28 municipal property assigned Category 2.

29  
30 3. Category 3: Dogs allowed on voice or leash control. Dogs that are under  
31 the control of a responsible party by either voice or leash control are  
32 allowed on any municipal property assigned Category 3.

33  
34 (b) Property Manager. Property Management Category Designation shall be  
35 by property location and may include 1 or more categories designated by  
36 location, time of day, month, event or other measurement. Property  
37 managers are designated as follows:

38  
39 1. Athletic Fields located on the school campus: Superintendent of  
40 Schools

41  
42 2. Municipal town open space (excluding Fort Williams Park):  
43 Conservation Committee

44  
45 3. All other municipal property: Town Council  
46

1            (c) Designation change. Property Management Category Designation shall be  
2            assigned by the Town Council, and in the case of subsection b(1) and b(2)  
3            above, may be changed by the designated property manager to promote  
4            sound property management after proposed changes have been posted on  
5            the town website for 30 days. The Town Council retains the authority, but  
6            not the obligation, to change a Property Management Category  
7            Designation. Notification of Property Management Category Designation  
8            shall be provided to the Cape Elizabeth Police Chief.

9  
10           ~~(a) — Any dog within the boundaries of a groomed and/or regularly maintained~~  
11           ~~municipal property including, but not limited to, Fort Williams Park,~~  
12           ~~public roads, municipal sidewalks and athletic fields, will be walked on a~~  
13           ~~leash or tether at all times. The person accompanying the dog in these~~  
14           ~~situations is required to collect any feces dropped by the animal and~~  
15           ~~dispose of same in an area where it will not likely be encountered by any~~  
16           ~~persons. The Cape Elizabeth Poor Farm, Lions' Field excluding the Little~~  
17           ~~League field, and a portion of Fort Williams Park Southerly of Humphreys~~  
18           ~~Road (as defined in paragraph (b) are not considered to be groomed and/or~~  
19           ~~regularly maintained for purposes of this ordinance.~~

20  
21           ~~(b) — The Unleashed Dog Area in Fort Williams Park (encompassing the~~  
22           ~~MultiPurpose Field) is defined as an area abutting the Southerly edge of~~  
23           ~~the Central Parking Lot and extending westerly along the Southerly side of~~  
24           ~~the Heavy Equipment Storage Building, continuing Westerly directly~~  
25           ~~behind the long garages at the rear of the Officers Row buildings to~~  
26           ~~Harrison Road; continuing on (and including) Merriman Road along the~~  
27           ~~northerly border of Delano Park to the water's edge; then extending~~  
28           ~~northerly along the shoreline turning westerly across "The Green" to the~~  
29           ~~southern end of Battery Blair; turning northerly then westerly back to the~~  
30           ~~Southerly edge of the Central Parking Lot (as referenced on the Unleashed~~  
31           ~~Dog Area Map dated (insert date)). Unleashed dogs are prohibited on the~~  
32           ~~Multi Purpose Athletic Field from April 1st to November 1st.~~

33  
34           (d) Limited Privileges List. When the Cape Elizabeth Police  
35           Department has determined that a dog has not **been under control in**  
36           **accordance with Sec. 7-1-8(a) above,** the Owner shall be added to the  
37           Limited Privileges List. Dog owners on the Limited Privileges List may  
38           only allow a dog on a Category 3 municipal property if the dog is on a  
39           leash.

40  
41           **Sec. 7-1-8. Removal of Dog Waste. An owner must remove and dispose of any feces**  
42           **left by the owner's dog on any sidewalk, street, beach, public property or private**  
43           **property (other than the property of dog owner or a person who has consented to**  
44           **the presence of the dog on the person's property) and deposit such feces into an**  
45           **appropriate litter receptacle. When the dog is at a location where removal of dog**  
46           **waste is required, the owner must be in possession of a plastic bag or similar utensil**

1 not part of the human body for collecting and removing dog feces. Dog feces placed  
2 in plastic bags may not be left where removal of dog waste is required. Removal of  
3 dog waste shall not be required of any owner who, by reason of physical handicap, is  
4 unable to comply with this requirement.

5  
6 **Sec. 7-1-98. Impoundment.** The Cape Elizabeth Police Department may impound any  
7 dog in violation of this ordinance, or otherwise in possession of the Cape Elizabeth Police  
8 Department. Unlicensed dog, whether or not at large, and dogs found running at large,  
9 whether or not licensed, shall with or without complaint be taken up and impounded by a  
10 police officer or dog control officer. An impounded dog may be temporarily housed in the  
11 Cape Elizabeth Police Department for a period not to exceed 24 hours and then, if  
12 necessary in an animala shelter designated by the Town as the Town Animal Shelter and  
13 there confined in a humane manner for a period of not more than fourteen (14) days.

14  
15 **Sec. 7-1-109. Disposition of Impounded Dogs.**

- 16  
17 (a) Any owner may regain possession of an impounded dog upon compliance  
18 with the provisions of Section 7-1-3 (a) of this ordinance, and upon  
19 payment of the impoundment and boarding fees set forth herein. Any dog  
20 impounded under the provisions of this ordinance and not reclaimed by  
21 the owner within said fourteen (14) days, shall be considered to be  
22 abandoned by the owner, and the property of the Town Animal Shelter  
23 and may, after consultation with the Humane Society and/or the Animal  
24 Refuge League, be humanely destroyed or given to the Humane Society  
25 and/or the Animal Refuge League, or any person deemed to be responsible  
26 and a suitable owner.  
27  
28 (b) Where the ownership of any such dog is known, or can be reasonably  
29 ascertained by a police officer or dog control officer, such officer shall, if  
30 possible, notify the owner within three (3) days of such impoundment, but  
31 failure to give such notice shall in no way impose any liability upon the  
32 Town for the destruction or transfer to another of any dog so impounded  
33 and not reclaimed within said period of fourteen (14) days.

34  
35 **Sec. 7-1-110. Fees and Boarding Charges.** Any dog impounded hereunder may be  
36 reclaimed upon payment to the Town, through the Cape Elizabeth Police Department of  
37 an impoundment fee as established in the Town Fee Schedule of \$5.00 for each dog,  
38 except upon the second impoundment of the same dog the fee shall be \$20.00, and upon  
39 the third and all subsequent impoundments of the same dog the fee shall be \$40.00; and  
40 upon presentation to the Animal Shelter, currently designated by the Town to receive  
41 impounded dogs, of evidence of such payment to the Town and upon payment to that  
42 animal shelter of a further board fee in accordance with the current fee schedule of the  
43 animal shelter.

44  
45 **Sec. 7-1-121. Interference Forbidden.** No person shall interfere with, hinder or molest  
46 any police officer or dog control officer in the performance of any duty of such officer, or

1 seek release of any dog in the custody of a police officer or dog control officer, except as  
2 herein provided.

3  
4 | **Sec. 7-1-132. Records.** It shall be the duty of a police officer or dog control officer to  
5 keep, or cause to be kept, an accurate and detailed record of the licensing, impoundment  
6 and disposition of all dogs coming into his custody.

7  
8 | **Sec. 7-1-143. Enforcement.** The Cape Elizabeth dog control officer and the Cape  
9 Elizabeth Police Department are hereby directed and empowered to enforce the  
10 provisions of this ordinance.

11  
12 | **Sec. 7-1-154. Penalties.** Whoever keeps a dog contrary to the provisions of ~~Sections 7-1-~~  
13 ~~3, 4, 5, 6, 7, or 11 of~~ this ordinance shall be punished by a fine of not more than One  
14 Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) to be recovered by complaint for the use of the Town of Cape  
15 Elizabeth before the 9th District Court of Maine, Division of Southern Cumberland. In  
16 addition, said Court may make such further order regarding the destruction, restraint or  
17 other disposition of the offending dog as the Court deems appropriate. (Revised eff .  
18 2/8/2018)

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