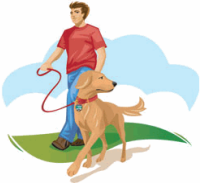


What is considered a nuisance dog?

Nuisance dogs are defined by RSA 466:31, and include:

- Barking for a period of 1/2 hour or more, or during the night.
- Growling, snapping, chasing people, bicycles, cars, etc.
- Bites, attacks, or preys on other animals, fowl, or people.
- Dig, scratches, excretes, or causes garbage on another's property.



From the Police Chief David Noyes

It goes without saying that you should always pick up after your dog and never go on a walk without an adequate supply of pick-up bags on hand. But there are less obvious rules that, when followed, eliminate a lot of possible issues and problems with other people and dogs you may encounter along the way. Be familiar with the Dog Owner Etiquette contained in this brochure.

We can ensure a friendly and safe experience in Waterville Valley for residents, property owners, and guests if you take an active role in communicating the requirements of the ordinance in a congenial manner.

The most effective way to educate a dog owner in violation is to call us. Public Safety is tasked with enforcing the dog ordinance. Give us an opportunity to educate these dog owners and get compliance with the law!

DOG VIOLATION?

- **CALL IMMEDIATELY**
- **GIVE A DESCRIPTION**
- **GIVE A LOCATION**

To Report Dog Violations

Waterville Valley Dept. of Public Safety
Police Department
14 TAC Lane
Waterville Valley, NH 03215

Dispatch: 603-236-4732
Duty Phone: 603-254-6708
EMERGENCY: 911

Website: www.watervillevalley.org/publicsafety



Town of Waterville Valley
New Hampshire

Dog Control Ordinance

and Responsible
Dog Ownership



By the
Waterville Valley Dept. of Public Safety

“ Working together, we can ensure a friendly and safe environment in which everyone can enjoy their pets and everything the Valley has to offer. ”

WV Board of Selectmen
Town Meeting 2015

DOG OWNER ETIQUETTE



What is an Ordinance?

It is local law. Enforceable like any other State or Federal Law.

What is the Dog Control Ordinance?

I. It shall be unlawful for the owner of the keeper of a dog to allow said dog to run at large in the Town of Waterville Valley.

A. In this ordinance, "at large" means not under the control of the owner or any person by means of personal presence and attention and/or by means of physical restraint so as to control the conduct of such dog.

II. Any person authorized by the Board of Selectmen may seize, impound, or restrain any dog found in violation of this ordinance and may deliver such dog to a person or shelter authorized to board dogs. The owner of such dog shall be liable for any fees incurred.

III. Any person who violates the provisions of this ordinance shall be subject to a fine of not more than \$50.00 for a first offense, and not more than \$100.00 for each subsequent offense. A person may choose to pay a civil forfeiture of \$25.00 to the Town Clerk within 96 hours of the time notice of violation is provided and shall thereby waive the right to be heard in district court and shall not be prosecuted for that offense. For each subsequent offense by the same person, the amount of civil forfeiture shall be \$50.00. However, civil forfeiture may not be paid after three (3) offenses in one (1) year, but rather their case shall be disposed of by district court proceedings and fines.

Know Your Dog

That is, you should know the sort of thing that might put your dog in an undesired state. Does she bark at or try to chase bicyclists or skateboarders? Does she go nuts on sight of a squirrel or other dog? You can minimize them by calmly avoiding situations that could trigger your dog.

Note the key word "calmly." If you become anxious about a person or animal approaching, your dog will sense this and possibly go into alert mode. You need to train yourself to spot the situation without reacting to it, and then change direction, move off of the sidewalk, or whatever else you need to do without making a big deal out of it.

This way, to your dog, you're simply altering direction on the walk, nothing more nor less.

Know Your Surroundings

Of course, in order to be prepared to avoid situations that might set your dog off, you need to be aware of them before your dog has noticed. Always walk with your head up and eyes forward, scanning the area.

Not only will this help you to spot any possible things to avoid, but this posture and alertness will help you to assume a calm assertive state naturally. Your confidence will help your dog stay calm and submissive.



Learn How to Read Others

Not everyone out there likes dogs. Some are downright afraid. Other dog walkers who aren't in control are also the ones most likely to cause some sort of incident, whether it's dogs barking at each other, jumping on or snapping at people, or getting loose.

It is an acquired skill, but with practice you can learn to tell whether an approaching walker is afraid, in control or not. Does their body language project confidence, or do they seem anxious or fearful?

How do they try to correct their dog? If they're doing it very quietly or non-verbally, then they're probably in control. If they're shouting, "No!" at their dog constantly, then they aren't in control. It's probably best to cross the street or move up onto a lawn or driveway until they've passed

Change the Course Right Away

Having to avoid other dog walkers or pedestrians is not the ideal situation, but it can sometimes be necessary to avoid a confrontation. The important part is in how you do it.

The trick is to make it appear to be just a normal change in course on your walk. Do not abruptly stop and pull up on your dog's leash, and do not yank your dog to try to change direction. If you're going to cross the street, approach the curb normally, wait until it's clear, and then calmly cross the street with your dog.

The important part is that you do so calmly and quietly. This way, to your dog, you're simply altering direction on the walk, nothing more nor less.

Redirect When Necessary

If you absolutely cannot avoid the oncoming situation, then you need to redirect both your dog and the other party. Try to move off of the sidewalk as far as possible, using your body to turn your dog facing away, and allow your dog to lower her head; the grass may have enough interesting smells to keep her completely distracted.

At the same time, give a friendly warning to the other person. For example, if they're walking a dog you can let them know your dog's issue — "She can be a little leash-aggressive" or "He doesn't like small dogs."

If your dog might have an issue with a person, then something as simple as a friendly, "Hello!" can help mitigate any problems by letting your dog know that you aren't threatened by that other person.

Report Dog Violations **IMMEDIATELY!** Get a Description. Get a Location. Call!!
603-236-4732