

TOWN OF NORRIDGEWOCK DOG NUISANCE ORDINANCE

Enacted March 7, 2005
Amended March 1, 2021

SECTION 1: DEFINITIONS

Terms, as used in this Ordinance, shall have the following meaning, unless the context indicates otherwise.

1. “Dog” shall mean both male and female canines.
2. “Owner” shall mean any person or persons, firm, association or corporation owning, keeping, harboring, in possession of, or otherwise having responsibility for, or exercising control over a dog.

SECTION 2: DOG NUISANCE

It shall be a violation of this Ordinance for any owner of any dog in the Town of Norridgewock to permit or allow such dog to engage in howling, barking, whining, yelping, crying, or other conduct sustained for one (1) hour or intermittently for three (3) hours, which conduct can be heard at or beyond the boundary of the property on which the dog is located so as to disturb the peace of any reasonable person other than the owner of such dog.

SECTION 3: COMPLAINT PROCEDURE

Any person who observes or perceives a dog acting in violation of the Ordinance may file a written complaint with the Animal Control Officer or a Law Enforcement Officer of the State of Maine authorized to act in the Town (“Law Enforcement Officer”) specifying the objectionable conduct of the dog, the date and time thereof, a description of the dog, and name and residence, if known, of the owner of said dog. Upon receipt of such complaint, the Animal Control Officer or Law Enforcement Officer shall investigate the complaint, and if such complaint is determined to be valid, shall issue a warning to the owner of said dog.

In the event that another complaint regarding the same dog is received within one (1) month from the date of the initial complaint, the Animal Control Officer shall contact a Law Enforcement Officer to assist with the issuance of a summons and complaint citing the owner with a violation of this Ordinance and the filing of the same in District Court.

It shall be the duty of the Animal Control Officer to enforce the provisions of this ordinance, with the assistance of Law Enforcement Officers, as necessary.

SECTION 4: PENALTY

A violation of this Ordinance shall be considered a civil violation, as defined in 17 M.R.S. § 4-B, as may be amended. Any person found to be in violation of this Ordinance shall be subject to a civil penalty of \$100.00 for the first offense, \$250.00 for a second offense, and \$500.00 for third and subsequent offenses. All civil penalties so assessed shall be recovered for the use of the Town of Norridgewock through the District Court. The Defendant shall also be responsible for all court costs, surcharges, and fees incurred by the Town in the prosecution of said violation, including the Town's attorney's fees.

A True Attest Copy

Richard A. LaBelle
Town Clerk