

Article 59 Revised Dog Bylaw

MOTION: That the Town vote to adopt Article 59 as printed in the Warrant, with the following two changes:

➤ Section 3a – change the word “three” to “four”

➤ Section 3j – change to read as follows:

to be within the boundaries of the sections of Town cemetery property that are utilized and maintained for graves, including the paved roadways in the cemeteries, with the exception of a dog in attendance at an owner’s funeral service and held firmly on a leash;

Problems being addressed:

- Dog waste deposited on playgrounds, cemeteries, conservation trails, sidewalks, catch basins/storm drains – no current requirement to pick up dog waste
- Dogs not under owner's control on public property interfere with other park, cemetery, or conservation land users
- Dogs running freely disrupt funerals and interfere with children playing on playgrounds
- Large dog play groups disrupt summer camp activities
- Dogs running freely dig holes at town fields, causing hazardous depressions and interfere with mowing activities









March 3, 2014 Public Hearing

Article 59 – Dog Bylaw





Cemeteries where no dogs are allowed:

Mt. Auburn/Cambridge

Littleton

Acton

Maynard

Arlington

Newton

Bedford

Stow

Belmont

Weston

Lexington

Cemeteries where dogs allowed on a leash:

Lincoln

Sudbury

What's New In Dog Bylaw:

1. Licensing period, vaccination requirements & date for late fee delineated in bylaw. State Law specifically referenced.
2. Owners/keepers required to remove and properly dispose of dog waste from areas other than an owner's property.
3. When on Town-owned land dog must be held firmly on a leash or under effective and direct voice control.
4. Persons walking 4 or more dogs on public ways, sidewalks, trails or other Town-owned property shall have dogs leashed at all times.

5. Dogs not allowed within sections of cemetery property that are utilized and maintained for graves, including paved roadways (except when attending an owner's funeral).
6. Dogs not allowed within any public children's playground.
7. Dogs must be held firmly on a leash while at Emerson Field on Mondays-Fridays from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm from late June through late August, due to summer camp activities.
8. Dogs must be leashed while walking or running on a public sidewalk or at a public gathering, including organized athletic events.
9. Digging holes or causing damage to any Town-owned land or property is not allowed, including interfering with mowing or field maintenance activities.

10. Three sections of bylaw do not apply to dogs properly trained as service animals to assist persons with disabilities – Sections 3i, 3j and 3k.

Proposed Implementation:

- Increased public education and owner awareness of bylaw.
- Dog Bylaw to be distributed with licenses.
- Increased signage.
- Gradual increased enforcement, following public education campaign.
- Fines to remain the same: \$25 for 1st offense; \$50 for 2nd offense; \$100 for 3rd and each subsequent offense.
- Enforcement done by Animal Control Officer and Police Officers, with possibility in future of other staff being trained and designated by Town Manager.







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