Sec. 1: AUTHORITY

TOWN OF PITTSFIELD

Pittsfield, Vermont 05762 Pittsfield Select Board

DOG ORDINANCE

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This ordinance is adopted by the Select Board of the Town of Pittsfield, Vermont under authority of 20 V.S.A. § 3549, 24 V.S.A. §§ 2291 (10), (14) & (15), and 24 V.S.A. Chapter 59.

Sec. 2: LICENSING

A person who is the owner of a dog more than six (6) months old shall annually on or before April 1, cause the dog to be registered, numbered, and described as licensed as required by 20 V.S.A., Chapter 193, Subsection 2 with the Town Clerk. The failure of the dog owner to comply with 20 V.S.A., Chapter 193, Subchapter 2 shall constitute a violation of this ordinance. The Town Clerk shall not issue a license before all applicable licensing fees, penalties and fines are paid in full.

Sec. 3: RUNNING AT LARGE

It shall be unlawful for any dog owner to permit or allow his or her dog or dogs to run at large within the Town of Pittsfield. All dogs in said town when off the property of the owner(s) shall be controlled on a leash or electronic control device such as a training collar and firmly under the control of its owner or handler. The foregoing shall not apply to any dogs used by the owner or person in control of such dog(s) for legal hunting or farming purposes.

Sec. 4: IMPOUNDMENT

Dogs found running at large off said owner(s) property in violation of Sec. 4 hereof may be taken up by a police officer, constable or other duly authorized agent and impounded at the owner’s expense. Notice of such impoundment shall promptly be given to the owner, if such person(s) can be determined. An owner may reclaim his dog(s) after paying an apprehension fee of $15.00 to said Town of Pittsfield and reimbursing said Town for actual expenses incurred for care and maintenance of the impounded dog(s). If the apprehension fee and/or care and maintenance expenses are not paid after ten (10) days from the time the owner has been notified or if a dog(s) remains unclaimed after ten (10) days from the time the owner has been notified, the dog may be humanely disposed.

Sec. 5: ENFORCEMENT

This is a civil ordinance. Tickets issued under this ordinance shall be enforced by the Vermont Judicial Bureau in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §§ 1974a et seq. For purposes of enforcement in the Judicial Bureau, any Enforcement Officer shall have authority to issue tickets and represent the Town at any hearing.

Sec. 6: PENALTIES and WAIVER FEES

Any owner, keeper or other person who violates any section of this ordinance shall, in addition to any other fines, penalties and remedies as provided by law, be subject to the following civil penalties:

1. At the option of the Enforcement Official or the Select Board, the issuance of a warning letter notifying the owner or keeper to license the domestic pet or wolf-hybrid immediately, if applicable, or take other action to prevent the domestic pet or wolf-hybrid from causing a disturbance or nuisance or running at large.

2. A fine of $50.00 for the first and second violation, $75.00 for the third violation, and $100.00 for each violation thereafter. For delinquent dog licenses, only one violation per year per dog will be assessed.

3. Each day that the violation continues shall constitute a separate violation, unless stated otherwise under this Sec. 6 hereof

4. A waiver fee of one-half the civil penalty to which an owner or keeper is subject shall be assessed for those owners or keepers who admit or do not contest the ordinance violation, which amount and the date for acceptance of the waiver fee shall be affixed to the complaint or notice.

Sec. 7: OTHER LAWS

This ordinance is in addition to all other ordinances of the Town of Pittsfield and all applicable laws of the State of Vermont.

Sec. 8: SEVERABILITY

If any section of this ordinance is held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such finding shall not invalidate any other part of this ordinance.

Sec. 9: PREVIOUS PROVISIONS REPEALED

The Town of Pittsfield’s previous dog ordinance, as amended, and designated as Dog Ordinance October 15, 2020 is hereby repealed effective as of the effective date of this chapter.

Sec. 10: EFFECTIVE DATE

This ordinance shall become effective 60 days after its adoption by the Pittsfield Select Board. If a petition is filed under 24 V.S.A. § 1973, that statute shall govern the taking effect of this ordinance.

Approved by the Pittsfield Select Board at a meeting held on June 3, 2021

Attest: TOWN OF PITTSFIELD SELECT BOARD

Ann D. Kuendig A.J. Ruben Joyce Stevens