General By Laws

LEASH LAW

Article 3. Leash Law and Impoundment

10-3-1. Restraint of Dogs. No dog in the Town of Kingston shall be allowed to run at large in any of the ways or public places in the Town, nor upon the property of someone not his Owner or Keeper without the written permission of the Owner or occupant. No dog shall be allowed in any public place or any land or way within the Town without effective tether designed for dogs or leash; or fenced within the bounds of the property of the Owner or Keeper, and under control of its Owner/Keeper; or unless it is confined within a motor vehicle in accordance with G.L. c. 140, §§ 136A-174E.

10-3-2. Impounding of Dogs. The following violations shall result in the apprehension and impoundment of a dog at the Town Animal Shelter or other boarding facility, approved by the Animal Control Officer, or subject to the fine in accordance with Section 15-2-2.: 1. If any dog is found without a license as required by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, G.L. c. 140, §137; 2. If any dog is found without the necessary vaccination of Rabies, which is required by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, G.L. c. 140, § 145B; 3. If any dog has bitten, injured or physically molested any person or domestic animal; 4. If any dog is found running at large within the Town, whether or not it may be chasing any vehicle, bicycle, or person walking or running on a public way or way open to public traffic; 5. If any dog has caused damage to the property of other persons. A dog impounded for any of the above reasons shall be released to its Owner/Keeper upon payment of violation(s) and any other applicable fees associated with boarding the dog as follows: 1.Owner/Keeper provides proof of prepaid veterinarian appointment, if necessary, for all required vaccinations; 2.Owner/Keeper applies and pays for the necessary licensing of an unlicensed dog, or an expired license; 3.Owner/Keeper agrees to abide by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, G.L. c. 140, Section 155, which were set in the event of a dog causing injury.

10-3-3. Procedure Following Impoundment. When the Animal Control Officer apprehends a dog in violation he/she must make a complete registry of the dog, including the breed, if discernible, color, sex and identification tags or marks. If the dog is licensed, he shall note the name and address of the Owner and shall notify that Owner by mail or telephone that his/her dog has been impounded. Dogs impounded and unclaimed by the Owner/Keeper after a seven (7) day period shall be disposed of as deemed necessary and in accordance with G.L. c. 140, §§136A-174E.

10-3-4. Exceptions. The provisions of this By-Law including the provisions regarding Kennels shall not prohibit the use of hunting dogs for hunting purposes during hunting seasons. It shall not prohibit the training of hunting dogs or working dogs and shall not prohibit field trials for hunting and working dogs, when conducted by a responsible person.