

Chapter 3 – Animals and Fowl

ARTICLE I DOG ORDINANCE

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ARTICLE I DOG ORDINANCE

Sec. 3-101 “Owner” and/or “Keeper” Defined

The word “owner” when applied to the proprietorship of a dog shall include every person having a right of property in such dog, and every person who keeps or harbors such dog or has it in their care, and every person who permits such dog to remain on or about any premises occupied by them. The word “keeper” means a person in possession or control of a dog. A person becomes a “keeper” of a stray dog if the person feeds that animal for at least 10 consecutive days.

Sec. 3-102 Disturbance

On complaint being made to the Dog Constable that any dog within the City has unreasonably disturbed the quiet of any persons whatsoever by continued barking or howling, or in any manner, the Dog Constable shall issue notice to the “owner” and/or “keeper” of such dog ordering that such dog be kept under proper control.

Sec. 3-103 Dogs Running At Large

No person who is an “owner” and/or “keeper” of a dog, as defined by Section 3-101 of this Article, shall cause or permit any dog to run at large within the City, as herein defined. Dogs, while on any public way or public place shall be under restraint. The word “restraint” shall mean that a dog shall be controlled by a leash; or, at “heel”, beside the competent person and obedient to that person’s commands; or, on or within a vehicle being driven or parked on any public way. A leash shall not be more than eight (8) feet long. Nothing, within this Article shall be held to require the leashing of any dog while on the property of its “owner” and/or “keeper”.

Sec. 3-104 Impounding Dogs Found Running At Large

Any Constable or Police Officer is hereby authorized and empowered to go upon any premises and enter any building other than a dwelling to seize and impound any dog or dogs which have been found running at large or which are in violation of any of the provisions of this Article or of any order issued hereunder when such Constable or Police Officer is in immediate pursuit of such dog or dogs. Upon seizing and impounding such a dog, the Constable or Police Officer shall collect a fee of \$25.00 from the “owner” and/or “keeper” upon releasing the dog. In the alternative the Constable or Police Officer may prosecute the “owner” and/or “keeper” of the dog.

Sec. 3-104-B Removal & Disposal of Feces

It is a violation of this Section for any person who possesses or controls a dog, except guide dogs who fails to properly remove, dispose of any feces left by his or her dog on any publicly owned property or upon the premises of any person other than the owner without that person’s permission.

Sec. 3-105 Dogs Presenting an Immediate Threat

After filing of complaint to the Dog Constable and/or Police Officer, if the dog poses an immediate threat to the public, the dog shall, at the discretion of the officer, be subject to muzzling, restraint and/or transported to the animal shelter for quarantine purposes at the “owner’s” and/or “keeper’s” expense for a period of ten (10) days.

Sec. 3-106 Violation

Any person found to be in violation of any provision of this Ordinance or any order issued hereunder, shall be liable to punishment by fine not less than fifty dollars (\$50.00) but not to exceed one hundred dollars (\$100.00); and each day during which such violation continues shall constitute a new offense. Said fine to be payable to the City of Caribou.

Historical Note: Chapter 3, Section 110 of Caribou City Ordinances, as amended December 12, 1968 and June 4, 1980; Amended February 23, 1998, July 13, 1998 & May 12, 1999; Section 3-104 as amended by City Council April 8, 2013. State Law Reference: 7 M.R.S.A. §3913; 7 M.R.S.A. §3915.