

**TOWN OF MARSHFIELD
WOOD COUNTY, WISCONSIN
KEEPING OF DOGS ORDINANCE**

The Town Board of the Town of Marshfield, Wood County, Wisconsin, do ordain as follows:

SECTION 1: Ordinance # 15-03 of the Municipal Code of the Town of Marshfield entitled “Keeping of Dogs” is hereby created to read and provide as follows:

1.01 DEFINITIONS. The following definitions shall apply in construing the provisions of this Section, unless the context of subject matter otherwise requires:

A. “Owner” means any person owning, harboring or keeping a dog. The occupant of any premises on which a dog remains or to which it customarily returns daily for a period of ten (10) days, is presumed to be harboring or keeping the dog within the meaning of this Chapter.

B. “At Large” means to be off the premises of the owner and not under the control of some person, either by leash or otherwise, but a dog within an automobile of its owner or in an automobile of any other person with the consent of the dog’s owner, shall be deemed to be upon the owner’s premises.

1.02 LICENSE REQUIRED. No person shall own, harbor or keep any dog more than five (5) months of age, without complying with Section 174.05 through 174.10 of the Wisconsin Statutes, relating to the licensing, listing and tagging of dogs.

1.03 RESTRICTIONS ON KEEPING OF DOGS. No person within the Town of Marshfield shall own, harbor or keep:

- A. Any dog which habitually pursues any vehicle upon any public road or highway in the Town.
- B. Any dog which assaults or attacks any person.
- C. Any dog which is at large within the limits of the Town of Marshfield.
- D. Any dog which habitually barks or howls to the annoyance of any person or persons.
- E. Any dog that kills, wounds or harasses any domestic animal.
- F. Any dog which is known by any such person to be infected with rabies or to have been bitten by any animal known to have been infected with rabies.

1.04 IMPOUNDING OF DOGS. It shall be the duty of the dog catcher of the Town of Marshfield or Wood County Sheriff’s Department to impound dogs found or known to be running at large within the Town. The said dog catcher of the Town of Marshfield or Wood County Sheriff’s Department shall have the right to pursue a dog upon the premises of the owner or elsewhere. Impounded dogs shall be dealt with pursuant to the provisions of subsection (1.05) of this Ordinance.

1.05 CLAIMING IMPOUNDED DOG. Any person whose dog has been impounded may obtain the dog’s release from the dog catcher by making payment to the dog catcher for all of the latter’s costs, charges and/or expenses that were incurred as a result of the dog’s impoundment. Every person taking a dog from the dog catcher shall sign a receipt therefore. Unclaimed impounded dogs shall be kept for the minimum time allowed by state statute.

1.06 DUTY OF OWNER IN CASES OF DOG BITE. Every owner or person harboring or keeping a dog, who knows that such dog has bitten any person, shall immediately report such fact to the Wood County Sheriff Department and the Wood County Health Department and shall keep such dog confined for not less than fourteen (14) days or for such period of time as the health officer shall direct. The owner or keeper of any such dog shall surrender the dog to the health officer upon demand for examination.

1.07 NUMBER OF DOGS LIMITED. No more than three (3) dogs shall be kept in or upon one residential unit or by one or more persons constituting one residential unit.

1.08 ANIMALS ON PROPERTY OF OTHERS. No person who has the care, custody, or control of any animal shall allow or permit the animal to defecate or urinate upon property not owned by such person or without such other property owner’s consent or upon any public property.

1.09 ANIMAL WASTES ON OWNER'S PROPERTY. The accumulation of dog feces or wastes upon private property in the Town of Marshfield is declared to be a public nuisance. The owner or occupant of property upon which there exists any accumulation of dog feces or wastes shall remove all such wastes from his or her premises and dispose of the same in a safe and sanitary manner within twenty-four (24) hours of written notification from an officer of the Town to remove the same. Failure to do so shall be a violation of this Ordinance and shall subject the owner or occupant of the premises to the penalties set forth in subsection (1.10) hereof.

1.10 PENALTY. Any person, firm or corporation violating any of the provisions of this Ordinance shall be subject to the following actions:

- 1st Violation – Warning
- 2nd Violation - \$135 fine
- 3rd Violation - \$235 fine
- 4th Violation – Confiscation of Dog

SECTION 2: This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and publication as provided by law.

Adopted by the Town of Marshfield Board on this 10th day of December 2015, effective upon publication and posting.

Amended by the Town of Marshfield Board on this 12th day of November 2019, effective upon publication and posting.

Allen W. Breu, Chairman

Janet A. Meyer, Clerk

Published & posted on November 19, 2019. Effective Date – November 19, 2019.