

STATE OF WISCONSIN
TOWN OF FOREST
ST. CROIX COUNTY

SECTION I – TITLE/PURPOSE

The title of this ordinance is the Town of Forest Dogs Running at Large ordinance. The purpose of this ordinance is to regulate, by tag and penalty, the care, treatment, and control of dogs in the Town of Forest.

SECTION II – AUTHORITY

The town board of the Town of Forest has the authority under its village powers under s 60.22, Wis. Stats., and the specific authority under s. 60.23 (30), and Chapters 173 and 174, Wis. Stats., to adopt this ordinance.

SECTION III – ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE

The town board of the Town, by this ordinance, adopted on proper notice with a quorum and by a roll call vote by a majority of the town board present and voting, provides the authority for the Town to regulate the care, treatment, and control of dogs in the Town of Forest.

SECTION IV – DEFINITIONS

In this Ordinance;

- A. “Abandoned” means that an owner has failed to pay the impoundment and care costs incurred by the Town, as specified in Section VIII, subsection E, within 7 days after receipt by a dog’s owner of written notice from the town clerk that the dog is under the possession and care of the Town or its designated agents.
- B. “Law enforcement officer” means any person employed by the Town for the purpose of detecting and preventing crime and enforcing laws or ordinances and who is authorized to make arrests for violations of the laws or ordinances that the person is employed to enforce.
- C. “Legal premise” means the real property owned or occupied by the owner of the dog.
- D. “Owner” means a person who owns, harbors, or keeps the dog.
- E. “Running at large” means off the owner’s legal premise and not under the control of the owner or some other person.
- F. “Stray dog” means a dog running at large whose owner is unknown.
- G. “Town” means the Town of Forest in St. Croix County, Wisconsin.
- H. “Untagged” means a valid license tag is not attached to a collar that is kept on the dog whenever the dog is outdoors, unless the dog is securely confined by the owner in a fenced area or confined on the owner’s legal premise.
- I. “Wis. Stats” means the Wisconsin Statutes, including successor provisions of cited statutes.

SECTION V – RESTRICTIONS ON DOGS

Except as provide in Section 6, no person may do any of the following:

- J. Allow any dog owned by that person to run at large in the Town.
- K. Allow any dog owned by that person to be untagged in the Town.
- L. Allow any dog owned by that person to be abandoned in the Town.

SECTION VI – EXEMPTIONS FROM SECTION 5 COVERAGE

- A. A dog that is actively engaged in the Town in a legal hunting activity, including training, is not considered to be running at large if the dog is monitored or supervised by a person, and the dog is on land in the Town that is open to hunting or land on which the person has obtained permission to hunt or train a dog. Training may include dog trials or other dog

related outdoor events occurring in the Town where these events have been approved by the Town Board or its designee.

- B. A dog that is used by a law enforcement agency as defined in s. 165.83 (1) (b), Wis. Stats., in the Town to perform law enforcement functions is not considered to be running at large or untagged for purposes of this ordinance.
- C. A dog that is untagged and kept in the Town for educational or scientific purposes as determined by the town board of the Town shall not be considered untagged for purposes of this ordinance.
- D. A dog that is untagged and is kept in the Town for the blind, deaf, and mobility impaired as determined by the town board of the Town shall not be considered untagged for purposes of this ordinance.

SECTION VII – DOG LICENSE TAX

- A. Except for dogs that are kept only for educational or scientific purposes, the owner of a dog more than 5 months of age on January 1 of any year, or 5 months of age within the license year, shall annually, or on or before the date the dog becomes 5 months of age, pay the dog license tax and obtain a license.
- B. The Town Board shall annually by resolution set the amount of the dog license tax in accordance with s. 174.05 (2), Wis. Stats.
- C. The license year commences on January 1 and ends on the following December 31.
- D. A late fee of \$5 shall be collected from every owner of a dog 5 months of age or over, if the owner fails to obtain a license prior to April 1 of each year, or within 30 days of acquiring ownership of a licensable dog or if the owner fails to obtain a license on or before the dog reaches licensable age. All late fees received or collected shall be paid into the town treasury as revenue of the town.

SECTION VIII – TOWN AUTHORITY

- A. An officer of the Town shall attempt to capture and restrain any dog running at large or any untagged dog.
- B. Any person, including town officers and employees, may take into custody any dog running at large in the Town but shall timely deliver the dog to the Town Chairman, to provide care, treatment, or disposal of animals.
- C.
 - a. If the identity of the owner of a dog taken into custody under this ordinance is known or can be determined the town clerk shall provide written notice to the owner that the dog is in the Town's custody and informing the owner that if the owner fails to claim the dog, have the dog properly tagged and pay the cost of impoundment and care incurred by the Town within 7 days after receipt by a dog's owner of the dog will be considered abandoned. No dog in custody of the Town shall be returned to the owner, or an agent of the owner, unless the dog is properly tagged and all custody, care, vaccination, and treatment costs incurred by the Town are fully paid by owner or agent of owners.
 - b. If the identity of the owner of a dog taken into custody under this ordinance is not known or cannot be determined with reasonable diligence, the dog shall be considered a stray.
- D. The Town and its officers and agents shall comply with Chapters 173 and 174, Wis. Stats.
- E. All persons in the Town shall fully cooperate with the Town regarding dogs in the Town and shall answer frankly, fully and truthfully all questions of the Town relative to dog ownership, possession, and keeping of a dog or dogs within the Town.

- F.* Unclaimed stray dogs remaining in the custody of the Town for 7 days and abandoned dogs remaining in the custody of the Town for 7 days after issuance of the notice to the owner under Subsection E. may be released to a person other than the owner, in accordance with s. 173.23 (1m) (a), Wis. Stats. euthanized under s. 173.23 (1m) (c), or released for scientific or research purposes under s. 174.13, Wis. Stats.

SECTION IX – PENALTY PROVISIONS

Any person, partnership, corporation, or other legal entity that fails to comply with the provisions of this ordinance shall, upon conviction, pay a forfeiture of not less than \$100.00 nor more than \$1,000.00, plus the applicable surcharges, assessments, and costs for each violation. Each day a violation exists or continues shall be considered a separate offense under this ordinance. In addition, the town board may seek injunctive relief from a court of record to enjoin further violations.

SECTION XI – SEVERABILITY CLAUSE

If any provision of this ordinance or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or applications of this ordinance that can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end, the provisions of this ordinance are severable.

SECTION XII – EFFECTIVE DATE

This ordinance is effective on publication.