

# TOWN OF BRAINTREE

## IN COUNCIL

ORDER NO: 13 006

DATE: March 5, 2013

ORDERED: Town Clerk

### CHAPTER 6-100: Dogs & Other Animals

THE TOWN CLERK HAS SUBMITTED TO THE BRAINTREE TOWN COUNCIL CHAPTER 6-100 ORDINANCE FOR THE TOWN OF BRAINTREE.

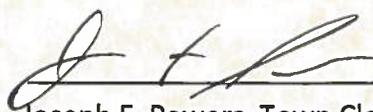
**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF BRAINTREE THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL VOTE TO AMEND ITS GENERAL ORDINANCES BY REPEALING THE EXISTING CHAPTER 6-100, DOGS AND OTHER ANIMALS, AND INSERTING IN ITS PLACE THE REVISED CHAPTER 6-100, DOGS AND OTHER ANIMALS, AS ATTACHED HERETO AND AS ON FILE IN THE OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK.**

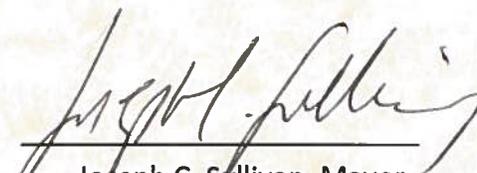
YEAS: Bowes, Clifford, DeNapoli, Dingee, Joyce, Kokoros, Mullaney, Powers, Ryan  
NAYS: Bowes, Clifford, DeNapoli, Dingee, Joyce, Kokoros, Mullaney, Powers, Ryan  
ABSENT: Bowes, Clifford, DeNapoli, Dingee, Joyce, Kokoros, Mullaney, Powers, Ryan

Passed in Council: March 19, 2013  
Presented to Mayor: March 21, 2013  
A True Copy, Attest:

MARCH 28, 2013

Date Approved

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Joseph F. Powers, Town Clerk

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Joseph C. Sullivan, Mayor



**Chapter 6-100 Dogs and Other Animals**  
(Former By-law Chapter6.04)

**SECTION 6.100.010 Purpose**

The purpose of this Ordinance is to protect the health, safety and welfare of all the inhabitants who frequent and live in the town. It is further the purpose of this ordinance to prevent the needless health hazards caused by dog bites and dog feces upon public and private properties and to comply with Chapter 193 of the Acts of 2012. (Prior code § 63-1)

**SECTION 6.100.020 Definitions**

Where otherwise not defined by this Chapter, the definitions contained within M.G.L., c.140, §136A and Chapter 193 of the Acts of 2012 shall apply. In addition, the following terms shall have the following meanings when used in this Chapter:

LEASH – Chain or line no longer than six feet long.

OWNER – Any person issued a license in accordance with the provisions of G.L. c. 140, §137 for a dog owned or kept within the Town.

PERSON – Any individual, partnership, company or corporation, association, trust or similar organization.

RESTRAINT – An animal shall be deemed to be under restraint if on the premises of its owner or keeper in a way that it may not leave the premises without its owner or keeper, such as confined by fence, leash, runner or other form of restraint; if outside the premises of the owner or keeper, it is accompanied by a person who shall have the animal under control by holding it firmly on a leash.

**SECTION 6.100.030 Dog License Required**

No person shall own or harbor a dog in the Town, which dog is not duly licensed as required by M.G.L., c.140, §137 through 138 inclusive. The fee for said licenses shall be established by the Town Council and posted in the Office of the Town Clerk as follows:

Intact Dog:	\$15.00
Spayed or Neutered Dog:	\$10.00
Service Animal:	No Charge
Substitute Tag:	\$5.00

(Prior code § 63-7)

**SECTION 6.100.040 – Personal Kennel License**

Any reference within this Chapter to a “Kennel” or “Kennel License” is meant to refer to a Personal Kennel as defined under M.G.L., c.140, §136A.

The Town of Braintree, operating under its Zoning Bylaws and/or Ordinances does not allow for the operation of commercial boarding or training kennels or commercial breeder kennels as defined under M.G.L., c.140, §136A.

Licenses issued for Personal Kennels shall be issued in packs of five (5) license tags. Each pack of five (5) licenses shall be priced at \$50.00.

Nothing under this section shall prohibit any owner of more than 4 dogs from purchasing individual dog licenses as described in Section 6.100.030 nor shall it prohibit an owner or keeper of less than 4 dogs, 3 months or older, who does not maintain a personal kennel from securing a Personal Kennel License under this section as outlined in M.G.L., c.140, §137A.

**SECTION 6.100.050 – Violations of Section 6.100.030**

Whoever violates Section 6.100.030 shall be assessed a penalty of \$50.00 which shall be paid to the Office of the Town Clerk.

**SECTION 6.100.060 Leashing Required**

The owner or keeper of any dog or dogs shall at all times keep such dog or dogs under restraint while in the physical limits of the Town. (Prior code § 63-4)

**SECTION 6.100.070 Animal Nuisances Designated**

An owner shall exercise proper care and control of his animals to prevent them from becoming a public nuisance. Excessive or untimely barking, molesting passersby, chasing vehicles, habitually attacking people or other domestic animals, trespassing upon school grounds, or trespassing upon public or private property, or in such manner as to damage property, shall be deemed a nuisance. (Prior code § 63-5)

**SECTION 6.100.080 Quarantining Dogs that Bite or Diseased Animals**

Any dog which bites a person or any domesticated animal, which, upon inspection, appears to be affected with a contagious disease, shall be quarantined for not less than ten (10) days in accordance with General Laws Chapter 129, Sections 21, 22 and 24. If the inspector of animals requests other confinement, the owner shall surrender the animal for the quarantine period. The second dog bite that takes place is sufficient reason for the inspector of animals to request other confinement. The owner of any dog or animal so quarantined shall pay any charges associated with the care and custody of the dog or animal quarantined. Whoever is the owner or keeper of a dog found guilty of biting a person shall be punished by a fine in accordance with the penalties of Section 6.100.180. (Prior code § 63-6)

**SECTION 6.100.090 Dogs Running At Large -Impoundment and Reclamation**

Dogs running at large will be impounded. If the owner is known, notice shall be given within three days to such owner. If the owner is unknown, disposition of a dog shall be as provided under General Laws, Chapter 140, Section 15IA. The owner or keeper of any dog so impounded may reclaim such dog upon payment of the dog license fee, if it is then unpaid, and upon payment of the following maintenance and administrative charges:

- A. A daily boarding rate of \$25.00 for each day dog is held in the pound;
- B. Any penalty as stated in G.L. c. 140, §167; and
- C. Receipts under this section shall be turned over to the Town Treasurer/Collector. (Prior code § 63-10)

**SECTION 6.100.100 Complaint Against Unresponsive Owner or Keeper**

In addition to any other statutory authority contained in General Laws, Chapter 140, the animal control officer may enter a complaint before the M a y o r for the purpose of obtaining an order with respect to the control or disposition of dog found to be uncontrollable or whose owner or keeper is unresponsive to any other penalties contained in the ordinance. (Prior code § 63-11)

**SECTION 6.100.130 Dog Feces**

No person who owns or harbors a dog within the Town shall allow such dog to defecate on private property, other than that of its owner or keeper, or on a public sidewalk, or on other public areas. If a dog defecates on property other than that of the owner or keeper, the owner of the dog shall be responsible for the immediate removal of the feces. (Prior code § 63-14)

**SECTION 6.100.140 Confinement of Female Dogs in Heat**

Every female dog in heat (season) shall be confined in a building or secure enclosure in such a manner that such female dogs cannot come into contact with another animal except for planned breeding. (Prior code § 63-15)

**SECTION 6.100.150 Termination of Ownership - Notification**

Any person who no longer owns or harbors a dog in the Town shall notify the Town Clerk immediately. (Prior code § 63-16)

**SECTION 6.100.160 Disposal of Dead Animals**

Disposal of household pets, such as dogs and cats and other domesticated animals that have died, and the ownership of which can be established, is the sole responsibility of the owner and must be disposed of in accordance with the General Laws of the Commonwealth.(Prior code § 63-17)

**SECTION 6.100.170 Feeding Wild Animals**

No person shall feed any wild animals, including without limitation raccoons, homeless dogs or cats, except birds through freestanding bird feeders or bird feeders attached to a private residence, or except as provided herein. The Health Department may issue permits for the establishment of feral cat feeding stations for the feeding of homeless cats on property in areas which are located at least 200 feet from any residence, church, school, business, or other structure for human habitation, as well as 200 feet from any park, playground, parking lot, or other open area used or intended for use by the public, provided that the owner of the property on which the feral cat feeding station is located grants written permission from the Health Department and/or its agents, Braintree Police Officers, and Braintree Animal Control Officers to enter upon the property for the purpose of inspecting and monitoring such feral cat feeding station. (ATM 5-15-2001 Art. 51 (part))

**SECTION 6.100.180 Violation - Penalty**

The Animal Control Officer is authorized to seek a complaint against the owner or keeper of a dog or other domesticated animals, or other person who violates any provision of G.L. c. 140 by imposing such penalties as proscribed under said G.L. c. 140. If not proscribed by G.L. c. 140, violations of the provisions of this Ordinance are as follows:

First offense: \$50.00

Second offense: \$75.00

Third offense: \$100.00

For each subsequent offense a fine of one hundred dollars (\$100) shall be imposed for each offense so committed in the same calendar year. The Braintree Police Department is also authorized to enforce the provisions of this Ordinance. (ATM 5-15-2001 Art. 51 (part); ATM 5-14-1996 Arts. 21, 22; prior code § 63-3)

**SECTION 6.100.190 Displaying Non-domesticated Animals for Entertainment**

No living non-domesticated animals shall be displayed for public entertainment or amusement in circuses, carnivals or similar entities on property by the Town of Braintree, or Town-owned property under lease, or on private property. As used in this paragraph, "displayed" shall include, but is not limited to, animal acts, performances, and competition. (ATM 5-16-2001 Art. 62)