

**TOWN OF SENNETT  
LOCAL LAW NO. A-2026**

**Dog Control and Licensing Law within the Town of Sennett**

**BE IT ENACTED** by the Town Board of the Town of Sennett, as follows:

**SECTION 1 TITLE:**

The title of this Local Law shall be “Dog Control and Licensing Law within the Town of Sennett.”

**SECTION 2 AUTHORITY:**

This Local Law is enacted pursuant to the provisions of (Chapter 59; Part T of the Laws of 2010) Article 7 of the Agriculture and Markets Law and Municipal Home Rule Law Section 10 of the State of New York.

**SECTION 3 PURPOSE:**

The Town Board of the Town of Sennett, County of Cayuga hereby finds and declares that the purpose of this Local Law is to provide for the regulation, licensing and identification of dogs.

**SECTION 4 DEFINITIONS:**

All terms not specifically defined herein shall have the meaning assigned to such terms within Section 108 of the Agriculture and Markets Law of the State of New York.

**As used in this Chapter, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:**

**AGRICULTURE AND MARKETS LAW** – The Agriculture and Markets Law of the State of New York in effect as of the effective date of this Chapter, as amended by this Chapter, and as thereafter amended.

**ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER** – That person or his or her authorized representative designated as such by the Town Board of Sennett.

**DOG** – means male and female, licensed and unlicensed, members of the species canis familiaris.

**IDENTIFICATION TAG** – a tag issued by the Town Clerk which sets forth the identification number together with the name of the Town and State, the telephone number of the Town Clerk and any other information deemed necessary by the Town Clerk.

**OWNER** – Any person, firm, partnership, trustee, association or corporation owning, keeping, harboring or otherwise maintaining an animal. Animals owned by minors shall be deemed to be in the custody and control of the minor's parents or head of the household where such minor resides.

**PERSON** – A person, partnership, corporation, association or other organized group of persons, business entity, municipality or other legal entity.

**RESIDENT** – (A person) an individual who maintains a residence within the Town of Sennett, County of Cayuga, State of New York.

**RESTRAINT (LEASH LAW)** – A dog must be controlled by a leash having a maximum length of six (6) feet while off the owner’s premises. A dog is considered under restraint if it is controlled by a leash having a maximum length of six (6) feet, within a vehicle being driven or parked on the street, or within the property limit of its owner or keeper with a restraint or fencing, or upon the premises of another with the consent of such other person and restrained or confined to a fenced area. A retractable leash may be used as a restraint that the retractable leash is set and locked at six (6) feet when the dog is in the immediate vicinity of the person or is on a sidewalk area.

**RUN AT LARGE** – means to be in a public place or on private land without the knowledge, consent and approval of the owner of such lands.

**TOWN** – means the Town of Sennett, County of Cayuga, and State of New York.

**SECTION 5 LICENSING OF DOGS:**

No person shall own or possess a dog within the Town unless such dog is licensed and identified as provided in Article 7 of the Agriculture and Markets Law and laws of the Town.

All dogs within the Town that are four (4) months of age or older, unless otherwise exempted, shall be licensed within thirty (30) days of acquiring said dog. No license shall be required for any dog which is under the age of four months and which is not at large.

The owner of each dog required to be licensed shall obtain, complete and return to the Town Clerk of the Town a dog license application together with the license application fee, any applicable license surcharges and such additional fees as may be established by the Town.

**SECTION 6 LICENSES ISSUED BY ANIMAL SHELTERS AND POUNDS:**

The Town does not allow the licensing of dogs by a shelter. The shelter MUST send the adoptive dog owners to the Town Clerk of the Town in which the dog will be harbored for licensing.

**SECTION 7 LICENSING GRACE PERIOD FOR DOGS LICENSED IN NEW YORK CITY OR OUTSIDE NEW YORK STATE:**

Any Dog harbored within the Town which is owned by a resident of New York City or licensed by the City of New York, or which is owned by a non-resident of New York State and licensed by a jurisdiction outside the State of New York, shall for a period of thirty (30) days be exempt from the licensing and identification provisions of this Local Law.

**SECTION 8 PROOF OF VACCINATION OF RABIES:**

Each license shall be accompanied by proof that the dog has been vaccinated against rabies or a statement from a licensed veterinarian that such vaccination would endanger the dog’s life in which case vaccination shall not be required.

**SECTION 9 TERM OF LICENSE AND RENEWALS:**

Each license issued pursuant to this Local Law, shall be valid for a period of one year and shall expire on the last day of the last month of the period for which it was issued. No license shall be issued for a period expiring after the last day of the eleventh month following the expiration date of the current rabies certificate for the dog being licensed.

**SECTION 10 FEES:**

**(A) Individual Dog License Fee:**

\$7.50 for a spayed or neutered dog.

\$15.50 for an unsprayed or unneutered dog.

<b>Type of Dog</b>	<b>State Assessment</b>	<b>Local Fee</b>	<b>Total Fee</b>
Spayed or Neutered	\$1.00	\$7.50	\$8.50
Unsprayed or Unneutered	\$3.00	\$15.50	\$18.50

**(B) State Mandated Animal Population Control Surcharge:**

Each individual dog license for a spayed or neutered dog shall be subject to an Animal Population Control Surcharge in the amount of \$1.00 payable at the time the dog license application is filed.

Each individual dog license for an unsprayed or unneutered dog shall be subject to an Animal Population Control Surcharge in the amount of \$3.00 payable at the time the dog license application is filed.

**(C) Purebred License:**

The Town will no longer issue Purebred or Kennel Licenses. All dogs will be licensed individually according to the fee system stated above.

**(D) Dog Enumeration Surcharge:**

Each dog found to be unlicensed during a Town dog enumeration, shall be subject to a \$5.00 dog Enumeration surcharge payable at the time the application is filed to license said dog.

**(E) Replacement Tag Fee:**

A replacement tag fee of \$3.00 shall be charged to offset the costs associated with the provision and replacement of identification tags.

**(F) Fee Exemptions:**

There shall be no fee for any license issued for the following: guide dog, hearing dog, service dog, war dog, working search dog, detection dog, police work dog, or therapy dog as those terms are defined in Section 108 of Article 7 of the New York State Agriculture & Markets Law.

Each copy of any license for such dogs shall be conspicuously marked “Guide dog”, “Hearing dog”, “Service dog”, “Working Search dog”, “War dog”, “Detection dog”, “Police Work dog”, or “Therapy Dog”, as appropriate, by the Clerk.

**(G)** The fee for a dog license issued pursuant to this Chapter may be amended from time to time by the Town Board by resolution.

**(H)** All fees will be used in funding the administration of the Dog Control Law of the Town.

**(I)** Records of all dog licenses issued shall be kept by the Town Clerk

**SECTION 11 ISSUANCE OF LICENSE; IDENTIFICATION TAG:**

(A) Upon validation by the Town Clerk of the Town of Sennett, a dog license shall be issued and a record of its issuance retained in the office of the Town Clerk of the Town. Such record shall be made available to the State Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets, or successor thereof.

(B) No license shall be transferable. Upon transfer of ownership of any dog, the new owner shall immediately apply for a new license for the dog. A license cannot be transferred to another dog.

(C) Change of Ownership, Lost of Stolen Dogs. Upon transfer of ownership of any dog, the new owner shall immediately make application for a license for such dog. The original issued identification tag shall remain the same for the life of the dog.

In the event of a change of ownership of any dog which has been assigned an official identification number or in the event of a change of address of the owner of record of any such dog, the owner of record shall, within ten (10) days of such change, notify the Town Clerk.

If any dog which has been assigned an official identification number is lost or stolen, the owner of record shall, within ten (10) days of the discovery of such loss or theft, notify the Town Clerk.

In the case of a dog's death, the owner of record shall so notify the Town Clerk either prior to renewal of license or upon the time of such renewal.

(D) Identification tag.

i. The Town Clerk shall assign a Town permanent official identification number to a dog when it is first licensed. Such identification number shall be carried by the dog on an identification tag which shall be affixed to the collar of the dog at all times.

ii. An identification tag is not required to be worn while the dog is participating in a dog show.

iii. The official permanent identification number shall constitute the official identification of the dog to which it is assigned, regardless of changes of ownership, and the number shall not be reassigned to any other dog during the lifetime of the dog to which it is assigned.

iv. No tag carrying an identification number shall be affixed to the collar of any dog other than the one it has been assigned.

v. At the time a dog is first licensed, one identification tag shall be furnished to the owner at no additional charge. Any replacement tag shall be obtained by the owner at the owner's expense. Any person wishing to replace a tag previously issued shall pay the sum of \$3.00 to the Town Clerk for a replacement tag.

**SECTION 12 PENALTIES:**

Any owner in violation of this Local Law shall be liable for a civil penalty of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) for a first violation; and One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) for a second violation and One Hundred Twenty-Five Dollars (\$125.00) for each subsequent violation.

In addition to the penalties imposed under this Chapter, any person may be subject to fines and penalties for violations of the New York State Agriculture and Markets Law Article 7 and such person may be subject to the penalties contained in §118 of the state law.

**SECTION 13 CONFINEMENT OF DOGS IN HEAT:**

All owners of female dogs in heat shall keep such dogs confined in such manner as to not be in contact with other dogs (except for intentional breeding purposes) and so as to avoid creation of a nuisance by attracting other dogs.

**SECTION 14 ENFORCEMENT:**

- A. This chapter shall be enforced by any animal control officer, peace officer, when acting pursuant to special duties, or police officer.
- B. Notwithstanding the existence of any other enforcement procedure or remedy, the Town Animal Control Officer shall be authorized to seize any dog that is unlicensed or any animal that in his or her judgment is a danger to public health, welfare or safety.
- C. The Town Board may from time to time by resolution amend this Chapter to allow for leash requirements in other designated areas of the Town of Sennett upon the posting of signage clearly indicating such leash requirements.

**SECTION 15 SEIZURE; IMPOUNDMENT; REDEMPTION AND ADOPTION:**

- A. Any dog found in violation of the provisions of this chapter may be seized pursuant to the provisions of § 117 of the Agriculture and Markets Law.
- B. Every dog seized shall be properly cared for, sheltered, fed and watered for the redemption period set forth in § 117 of the Agriculture and Markets Law.
- C. Seized dogs may be redeemed by producing proof of licensing and identification pursuant to the provisions of Article 7 of the Agriculture and Markets Law and by paying the following seizure fee to the Town Clerk:
  - (1) For the first seizure: \$25.00.
  - (2) For a second seizure of the same dog, within one year from the first seizure: \$50.00.
  - (3) For a third seizure of the same dog, within one year from the first seizure: \$75.00.
- D. If the owner of any unredeemed dog is known, such owner shall be required to pay the seizure fees set forth in Subsection C of this section, the impoundment and storage fees of the animal shelter keeping said dog and the euthanization fee, if applicable, whether or not such owner chooses to redeem his or her dog.
- E. Any dog unredeemed at the expiration of the appropriate redemption period shall be made available for adoption or euthanized pursuant to the provisions of § 117 of the Agriculture and Markets Law.
- F. Other animals shall be impounded and disposed of in the same manner as dogs, except that in no event shall the costs of seizure, impoundment, redemption, and euthanization be less than the actual costs incurred by the Town.
- G. The applicant for any permit to keep or possess a dog, within the Town of Sennett, shall at the time of application pay to the Town the following fees:

<b>H. Type of Dog</b>	<b>State Assessment</b>	<b>Local Fee</b>	<b>Total Fee</b>
Spayed or Neutered	\$1.00	\$7.50	\$8.50
Unspayed or Unneutered	\$3.00	\$15.50	\$18.50

- I. There shall be no fee for any license issued for any guide dog, hearing dog, service dog, war dog, working search dog, detection dog, police work dog or therapy work dog as those terms are defined in §108 of Article 7 of the New York State Agriculture and Markets Law.
- J. The fee for a dog license issued pursuant to this Chapter may be amended from time to time by the Town Board by resolution.

**K. Enumeration Fee:** When the Town Board determines the need for a dog enumeration, a fee of \$15.00 will be assessed to all dogs found unlicensed or renewed at the time the enumeration is conducted.

**SECTION 16 REPEAL OF INCONSISTENT LOCAL LAWS OR ORDINANCES:**

This Local Law shall supersede all prior inconsistent Local Laws, Ordinances, Rules and Regulations relative to the licensing of dogs within the Town. All prior inconsistent Local Laws, Ordinances, Rules and Regulations shall be, upon the effectiveness of this Local Law, null and void and will repeal the entirety of Town of Sennett Local Law #1 of 2011 (“Dog Licensing and Control Law”)

**SECTION 17 SEVERABILITY CLAUSE:**

The provision of this Local Law are declared to be severable, and if any section, subsection, sentence, clause or part thereof is, for any reason, held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a Court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of any remaining sections, subsections, sentences, clauses or part of this ordinance.

**SECTION 18 EFFECTIVE DATE:**

This Local Law shall take effect immediately upon its filing in the office of the Secretary of State.

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