

## **REGULATION POLICY**

### **DOGS AT PARKS AND ATHLETIC FIELDS**

#### **SECTION I: PURPOSE**

The purpose of this document is to provide regulations pertaining to the presence of dogs at the Town of Pelham parks and athletic fields and the related responsibilities of their owners.

This policy is not intended to limit the ability of dogs to accompany citizens when utilizing common areas of Town of Pelham parks and athletic fields for recreation and observing athletic events. The policy does seek to specify that no dogs are allowed on athletic areas (fields, courts, playgrounds, courses etc.) in order to limit sanitary and safety concerns as well as prevent possible damage to athletic fields.

#### **SECTION II: DEFINITIONS**

A) ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER - The Pelham Animal Control Officer or Pelham Police or any other persons or entities which the Board of Selectmen has authorized to enforce the provisions of these Regulations and/or those adopted by the Town.

B) ANIMAL CONTROL FACILITY - A suitable place or places in Pelham or other neighboring community as designated by the Animal Control Officer, in which dogs taken into custody pursuant to these Regulations and are impounded.

C) AT LARGE – For the purposes of these Regulations shall mean not physically controlled by a human being by means of a leash or lead held by the human being.

D) DOG - Any animal of the canine species.

E) LEASH OR LEAD - A thong, cord, rope, chain, or similar tether which holds a dog in restraint, and which is not more than six (6) feet in length.

F) OWNER - Any person having control or purporting to have control over a dog, the person named in the licensing records of any dog as the owner, the occupant of the premises where the dog is usually kept if such premises are other than the premises of the owner as shown on the licensing record, or any person in possession of, harboring or allowing any dog to remain about their premises for a period of three (3) consecutive days or more. The parent or guardian of an owner under eighteen (18) years of age shall be deemed the owner as defined herein. If a dog has more than one owner, all such persons are jointly and severally liable for the acts or omissions of an owner under these Regulations, even if the dog was in the possession of or under the control of a keeper at the time of the offense.

G) RESTRAINED - Under the physical control of an owner via a leash or lead.

#### **SECTION III: LEASH REQUIREMENTS**

A) No person shall exercise or walk a dog at Town of Pelham parks and athletic fields without benefit of a substantial leash with proper handhold of no more than six feet (6') in length. Said dog is to be in the charge of a person competent to keep such dog under control so as to prevent the dog from wrongfully harming, damaging, or threatening to harm or damage any person or public or private property.

#### **SECTION IV: PROHIBITIONS/PERMISSIONS**

A) Dogs, both restrained and unrestrained, are strictly prohibited from the defined athletic fields, courts and building facilities on the following properties, whether an athletic event is occurring or not:

1. Muldoon Park fields and playground areas
2. Raymond Park fields and playground areas
3. Veterans Park courts/fields, playground area and beach
4. Lyons Skate Park and playing field
5. Lyons basketball courts
6. Newcomb Field in Golden Brook Park
7. Raymond Athletic Fields at 1201 Mammoth Rd
8. Village Green
9. Meetinghouse Park and Town Common

B) Dogs, both restrained and unrestrained, are strictly prohibited from the Town Beach.

D) Properly restrained animals are permitted on the common areas of Town of Pelham parks and athletic fields subject to the provisions of these regulations.

#### **SECTION V: CLEAN-UP AND DISPOSAL**

A) It shall be prohibited for any person to permit a dog to be on Town of Pelham parks and athletic fields common areas unless such person has, in his or her immediate possession, an appropriate means of removing animal excreta.

B) No person owning or having custody or control of any dog shall knowingly, or through failure to exercise due care or control, permit such dog to defecate or commit any other nuisance and allow such nuisance to remain thereafter on Town of Pelham parks and athletic fields or common areas. A person shall not be considered in violation of this Section if the person has necessary equipment, i.e., shovel, bag, etc., readily available and does take immediate and necessary action to accomplish the lawful and sanitary removal and disposal of such nuisance.

#### **SECTION VI: ENFORCEMENT**

A) *Enforcement Personnel:* These Regulations are enforceable by the Animal Control Officer and/or the Pelham Police Department.

B) In addition to Town stated penalties, enforcement personnel may impound dogs at Town of Pelham parks and athletic fields in violation of the above provisions. In such cases, owners shall be subject to payment of any and all expenses incurred at the animal control facility, including but not limited to shelter, food, and any other expenses as may be required for the care of the dog during confinement.

#### **SECTION VIII: PENALTIES**

Any person who violates the provisions of these regulations could be guilty of a violation and could be subject to penalties as provided under New Hampshire law, and those stated by the Pelham Board of Selectmen Town Ordinance, subject to a One Hundred (\$100.00) Dollar fine.

## SECTION IX: WAIVERS

Properly credentialed service dogs are exempt from this policy.

The Pelham Board of Selectmen has the right for cause shown, to make special exceptions and/or waive any portion of the regulations.

## SECTION X: SEVERABILITY

If any provision of these Regulations is held to be invalid, other provisions and sections shall not be affected, and to this end, the provisions and sections hereof are declared to be severable.

## REGULATION POLICY DOGS AT PARKS AND ATHLETIC FIELDS

Adopted by the Board of Selectmen on November 7, 2023.



Kevin Cote – Chair



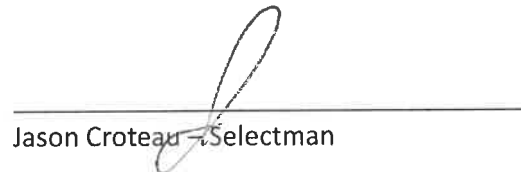
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Heather Corbett – Selectmen



Charlene Takesian – Selectman



Jason Croteau – Selectman



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