



# TOWN OF HAMDEN CONNECTICUT

May 15, 2021

## BE A RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNER

If you are a dog owner in the State of Connecticut, state law dictates that a dog six months or older must be licensed, wear a legally purchased dog tag and have a valid rabies vaccination to protect the pet and the humans that surround it. These licenses are obtained in the Town Clerk's offices in the town that the dog & owner resides in at a cost of \$8.00 for a spayed/neutered dog and \$19.00 for an unspayed/un-neutered dog. These annual licenses are valid from June 1 until the following June. **Fines of \$1.00/month occur after the month of June by state law.**

Please remember that dog owners who have not licensed their dogs should do so immediately per state law. A dog without a dog tag and proper rabies vaccination is presumed to be unlicensed, and not protected by law. The fine to a dog owner for failure to license and fee for impoundment is **\$75.00\***, and failure of the owner to vaccinate against rabies is **\$136.00\***.

Many Hamden residents have asked me to address the Dog Defecation Ordinance that has been on Hamden's books since 1979. The ordinance reads: ***"It shall be unlawful for any person to allow or permit any dog to defecate upon any side walk, public street, median divider within public streets, grass or paved strips between streets and sidewalks, public parks, and other public property, unless such person shall remove all feces so deposited by such animal immediately before leaving the area of the area of the defecation."*** There is a \$25.00 fine for each violation.

Many residents are very upset about how discourteous certain pet owners are about not observing the "pooper scooper" law. Not only is it a blatant disregard of another's private property, but it also becomes a serious health issue. Ponder on it for a moment. When animal feces is not removed and properly cleaned up, it certainly is messy if you happen to walk into it. Think of mowing your lawn or street strip, and blowing about all the germs, worms and other nasty health-related issues that come from it. There was recently a letter to the editor where an individual's dog actually contracted fatal illness from feces left behind by another's dog.

CGS 22-364(a) prohibits an "owner or keeper of any dog (from allowing) such dog to roam at large upon the land of another and not under control of the owner", and the fine for allowing dogs to roam freely is **\$92.00\***. Dog owners are liable for prosecution from any damage done by their dog, including damage to shrubs, flowers and trees.

Another issue residents have also complained about are the use of the extended, retractable leashes, which allow dogs to go into another's yard, and then watch as the dog defecates in the middle of someone's lawn. This is considered a breach of private property and safety, especially where there are small children involved.

There are dog information sheets on the Hamden website: [www.hamden.com](http://www.hamden.com). Go under General Government - Depts. M-Z: Town Clerk: Dogs. There is a generalized listing of other statutes under "Other Dog Information", "Dog Licensing", the Hamden Dog Park and other information of interest.

Be a responsible dog owner. License & vaccinate your dog, and be considerate of your "doody" to clean up after your pet.

Vera A. Morrison, Town Clerk  
Town of Hamden

(\*Fees were increased as of 10/1/05 per State of Connecticut)