

**TOWN OF HARWINTON
ORDINANCE REGULATING DOGS ON TOWN PROPERTY**

SECTION 1. AUTHORIZATION.

This ordinance is adopted pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes, Sections 7-148(c)(6)(A), §7-148(c)(7)(D) and §7-148(c)(10) as amended.

SECTION 2. DOGS ON TOWN PROPERTY.

- A. No person owning or having the care, custody, possession, or control of a dog shall permit or allow such dog to enter or remain in any Town park or on public property except:
1. Where such dog is attached to a secure leash held continuously in the hand of a responsible person capable of controlling it, provided:
 - a. Leash length shall not exceed eight (8) feet within 250 feet of the parking areas.
 - b. Retractable leash mechanisms are allowed so long as their use is in compliance with the requirements of this ordinance; or
 2. Where such dog is confined to a motor vehicle; or
 3. In such area designated by the Recreation Commission or the Board of Selectmen as a training and exercise grounds, subject to the rules and regulations therein as may be prescribed.
 4. Any dog brought to any Town park or on public property shall be duly licensed and properly vaccinated for rabies and distemper.
- B. No person owning or having the care, custody, possession or control of a dog shall:
1. Fail to have in his/her possession the equipment necessary to remove his/her dog's fecal matter when accompanied by said dog in any park or public property;
 2. Fail to remove the fecal matter deposited by his/her dog in any park or public property before the owner leaves the immediate area where fecal matter was deposited.
- C. No person owning or having the care, custody, possession, or control of a dog shall permit or allow such dog to enter the Harwinton Recreation Sports Complex behind the Town Hall or the adjacent basketball courts and the playscape, or the tennis courts, at the Harwinton Conservation/Recreation Area at any time.

SECTION 3. ENFORCEMENT.

Any person owning or having the care, custody, possession, or control of a dog who does not comply with the provisions of this ordinance shall be guilty of an infraction, the penalty for which shall be a fine of fifty dollars (\$50.00). This ordinance may be enforced by any law enforcement officer, including the Animal Control Officer and Assistant Animal Control Officer, and any other duly authorized representative of the Board of Selectmen. In addition, any authorized enforcement officer may order any person acting in violation of this ordinance to leave the property. The Board of Selectmen shall post the Harwinton Recreation Sports

Complex, the Harwinton Conservation/Recreation Area, the basketball courts, the playscape and the tennis courts accordingly.

SECTION 4. EXCEPTIONS.

This ordinance does not apply to:

1. Police officers and their service animals during the official performance of their duties, including but not limited to search and rescue.
2. Persons with disabilities utilizing assistance animals, provided the dog is on a leash and wears a harness or orange-colored leash that makes it identifiable as a guide dog, and the owner or keeper has a license and dog tag issued pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes, Section 22-345.

SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This ordinance shall take effect fifteen days after publication of a summary of its provisions in a newspaper having a circulation in the Town of Harwinton pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes, Section 7-157(b), and replaces the Ordinance Prohibiting Dogs at the Harwinton Recreation Sports Complex.

Adopted by town meeting: May 15, 2012.

Published in the Waterbury Republican, on May 17, 2012.

Effective date: June 1, , 2012.

Harwinton Town Records: Volume 8, Pages 19 - 20.