

## Chapter 7

### ANIMALS

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**[HISTORY: Adopted by the Town of Casco as indicated in article histories. Amendments noted where applicable.]**

ARTICLE I  
Dog Control

[Adopted by Town Meeting 1-14-2012 by Art. 3; amended in its entirety 1-18-2022 by Art. 6]

**§ 7-1. Purpose.**

The purpose of this article is to control dogs throughout the Town of Casco in the interest of health, safety and general welfare of its residents.

**§ 7-2. Definitions.**

As used in this article, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

AT LARGE — Off the premises of the owner and not being under the control of any person by means of personal presence and attention or ability to manipulate and command the conduct of the dog.

ATHLETIC FIELDS/FACILITIES — Areas and facilities that are under the Town's care, custody and control that are designated and used for the conduct of athletic or other Town-sanctioned events.

DANGEROUS DOG — Shall have the same meaning as 7 M.R.S.A. § 3907, Subsection 12-D.

DOG — Both male and female whether neutered or not.

DOG WASTE — Feces (also called "stool"); the solid waste that is left after food is digested.

LEASH — A physical tether designed to be used as a lead that is attached to the dog's collar and not more than eight feet in length; includes the use of retractable leads that shall be extended no more than eight feet while in Town parks, designated trails and others areas where the eight-foot designation is in effect. A leash is not an electronic collar device or any other electronic device that can be used to control behaviors.

OWNER — Any person, firm, association or corporation owning, keeping or harboring a dog.

PARK — Any area under the Town's ownership and/or care, custody and control that has been designated and used as a public gathering place by the public where a playground may or may not exist.

PLAYGROUND — A public area contained within a Town park that is managed by the Town that has play structures such as swings, slides and climbing structures.

SERVICE ANIMALS — As defined under the Maine Human Rights Act (5 M.R.S.A. § 4551 et seq.) and the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act.

**§ 7-3. License required.**

All dogs kept, harbored or maintained by their respective owners in the Town of Casco shall be licensed and tagged in accordance with the requirements of 7 M.R.S.A. § 3921.

**§ 7-4. Disturbing the peace; dangerous dogs.**

It shall be a violation of this article for an owner or keeper of a dog to cause or permit such dog to unnecessarily annoy or disturb any person by continued or repeated barking, howling, or other loud or unusual noises any time during the day or night. This section shall not apply to state-licensed kennels operating in the Town of Casco as the date of this amendment. It shall be violation of this article for an owner to cause or permit a dog to be a dangerous dog. This section shall not apply to dogs engaged in herding livestock or to agricultural guard dogs engaged in protecting livestock or warning the owners

of danger to the livestock. For purposes of this section "livestock" shall have the same meaning as in 7 M.R.S.A. § 3907, Subsection 18-A. A first violation of this section shall result in a warning to the owner or keeper of the dog. A second violation shall be subject to a penalty of no less than \$100 nor more than \$250 and any subsequent violation shall be subject to a penalty of no less than \$250 nor more than \$500. In the event that the Town is the prevailing party in an action under this article, it shall be entitled to an award of its reasonable attorney's fees, expert witness fees, or any other associated costs.

**§ 7-5. Running at large.**

Dogs at large, except when used for hunting, shall be subject to the provisions of 7 M.R.S.A. §§ 3911 to 3913 and 3915.

**§ 7-6. Leashing of dogs on public property.**

The owner, keeper or any other individual who has responsibility of a dog shall keep such animal controlled by a leash when such animal is on the property of a Town park, walking trail, community center, playground, and other designated Town properties.

**§ 7-7. Locations where dogs or pets are prohibited.**

- A. Dogs and other pets are prohibited from Town beaches and Town athletic fields/facilities, including during athletic events and other special events utilizing said facilities/areas.
- B. Service animal exemption. Restrictions to access shall not be imposed on people with service animals; however, the handler is responsible for the immediate cleanup of any waste from the service animal. Further, service animals shall be under the control of the handler at all times.
- C. Dogs and other pets may be permitted in these areas for special circumstances and as approved by the administration of the Town on a case-by-case basis.
- D. Dogs and other pets are prohibited from Casco Days Park during the two weeks preceding and the days of Casco Days.
- E. Pet prohibited sign wording.

**PETS PROHIBITED**

For the safety of your pet and people using this area, pets are prohibited on all athletic fields and are not allowed at this facility during athletic events and other sanctioned and special events unless so authorized by Casco Selectboard.

**§ 7-8. Dog waste.**

All dog owners and keepers are required to immediately and properly dispose of their dog's solid waste deposited on any property, public or private, not owned or possessed by that person.

**§ 7-9. Severability.**

If any provision of this article is for any reason held invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed a separate provision and the remaining provisions of this article shall remain in full force and effect.