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**Sec. 14-28. Dogs not to be off owner's premises except when under control; enforcement.**

- (a) It shall be unlawful for any dog in this county to run at large at any time.
- (b) For the purpose of this section, a dog shall be deemed to be "running at large" while roaming or running off the property of its owner or custodian and not under its owner's or custodian's immediate control; provided, that no dog shall be deemed to be running at large in violation of this section if it shall be engaged in lawful hunting or training for hunting under the direction of its owner or custodian and shall thereafter stray from lawful hunting or training for hunting; or if the dog shall be engaged to assist farming activity, which is defined as raising, managing and using agricultural animals to provide food, fiber, or transportation, provided, that such owner or custodian shall place such dog under his immediate control within a reasonable time.
- (c) It shall be unlawful for the owner of a dog to place such dog or allow it to be placed in the custody of any other person not physically capable of maintaining effective control of such dog.
- (d) A violation of this section may result in such dog being taken into possession by the animal control officer and returned to the owner with a written warning.
- (e) A violation of this section shall constitute a Class 4 misdemeanor for the first offense. But where a warning notice is more suitable given the circumstances, a notice of warning may be issued for the first violation.
- (f) A second violation of this section within one (1) year of a conviction of the first violation shall constitute a Class 2 misdemeanor.
- (g) A third or subsequent violation of this section within two (2) years of conviction of the second or subsequent violation shall constitute a Class 1 misdemeanor.

(Res. of 4-6-15(2015-87), Att.(§ 14-208); Res. of 5-2-22(2022-9), Att.; Ord. of 3-20-23(2023-5), Att.)

State law reference(s)—Code of Virginia, § 3.2-6538 and § 3.2-6539.