

A reminder to all residents that the town of Georgetown has the following Bylaws pertaining to Dogs:

1. Dog Licensing

All dogs 6 months of age or older must be licensed and tagged.

The Town Clerk's Office is the Licensing Authority.

Owners must provide proof of current Rabies Vaccination.

Dog License Fiscal Year is April 1st through March 31st of the following year.

Dog licenses expire March 31st of every year.

All Dog Licenses must be renewed annually during the month of March.

Owners or keepers of 4 or more dogs require a Kennel License instead of individual licenses.

Kennel inspections are required.

An annual inspection of Kennels is conducted by the Animal Control Officer.

Kennel inspections are conducted prior to issuance or renewal of Kennel License.

Late fees apply to owners who license dogs late.

Owners who fail to license dogs shall be fined.

2. Dogs Running at Large (Leash Law)

Whoever permits his dog to go at large without a leash within the town shall be fined.

3. Removal of Dog Waste from Public Property or Property of Others

Any person having care, custody or control of a dog shall be responsible for the removal and sanitary disposal of any feces left by his or her dog in or upon any public property including but not limited to any sidewalk, street, thoroughfare, beach or wetland or upon the property of persons other than the owner or person having care, custody or control of said dog.

Any person having care, custody or control of a dog off the property of the owner or person in custody of the dog shall have in his or her possession a device or equipment to pick up and remove dog feces. Individuals with disabilities aided by service dogs and law enforcement, emergency or rescue officials with dogs carrying out official duties are exempt from this paragraph.

Violators of this Bylaw shall be fined.

If you no longer own or have custody of a dog, it is important that you notify the Town Clerk's Office to have the dog's name removed from the Dog Tag List and avoid potential fines for not licensing your dog. Town Clerk's Office 978 352-5711

Massachusetts Statutes pertaining to Dogs include, but are not limited to the following:

Proof of Vaccination against Rabies – ch.140 s.145B

Dogs 6 months of age or older are required to be vaccinated against rabies.

A Rabies vaccination tag is required to be worn.

Chaining or Tethering dog to a stationary object – ch.140 s.174E

No person owning or keeping a dog shall chain or tether a dog to a stationary object including, but not limited to, a structure, dog house, pole or tree for longer than 24 consecutive hours.

No chain or tether shall weigh more than 1/8 of the dog's body weight.

No dog under the age of 6 months shall be tethered outside for any length of time.