



## **Ordinance #249**

### **REGULATION POLICY**

#### **DOGS AT RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND ATHLETIC FIELDS**

##### **SECTION I: PURPOSE**

This ordinance regulates the presence of dogs at Canton recreational facilities and athletic fields along with specifying the responsibilities of dog owners.

This policy is not intended to limit the ability of dogs to accompany citizens when utilizing common areas of Canton recreational facilities and athletic fields for recreation and observing athletic events. The policy does prohibit dogs from active areas of specific recreational facilities and athletic fields to limit sanitary and safety concerns as well as prevent possible damage to town property.

##### **SECTION II: DEFINITIONS**

A) OWNER – Any person having control or purporting to have control over a dog; the person named in the licensing records of any dog as the owner; the occupant of the premises where the dog is usually kept if such premises are other than the premises of the owner as shown on the licensing record, or any person in possession of, harboring or allowing any dog to remain about their premises for a period of three (3) consecutive days or more. The parent or guardian of an owner under eighteen (18) years of age shall be deemed the owner as defined herein. If a dog has more than one owner, all such persons are jointly and severally liable for the acts or omissions of an owner under these Regulations.

B) RESTRAINED - Under the physical control of an owner via a leash or lead.

##### **SECTION III: PROHIBITIONS/PERMISSIONS**

A) Dogs, both restrained and unrestrained, are strictly prohibited from the areas reserved for team or individual uses at the following recreational facilities:

1. Bowdoin Field
2. Van Gemeren Fields
3. Stan Krzanowski Softball Field
4. High School track and artificial turf field
5. High School Softball Field
6. Bicentennial Field at DPW facility
7. Cherry Brook Primary School Playscape facility
8. Mills Pond Park Tennis Courts
9. Mills Pond Park basketball Courts
10. Mills Pond Park Pool and Splash Pad facilities
11. Mills Pond Park skateboard park
12. Mills Pond Park Baseball and Lacrosse/Soccer Fields when in use by sport teams

13. Mills Pond Park children's playground and outdoor fitness facility
14. Mills Pond Park pavilions during summer camp hours
15. Canton Intermediate School playground.

B) Properly restrained dogs are permitted in the common areas of the above described recreational facilities (viewing areas, bleachers etc.) but not in the areas reserved for team or individual athletic uses.

#### **SECTION IV: CLEAN-UP AND DISPOSAL**

A) It shall be prohibited for any person to permit a dog to be on the common areas of Canton recreational facilities and athletic fields unless such person has, in his or her immediate possession, an appropriate means of removing animal waste.

B) No person owning or having custody or control of any dog shall knowingly, or through failure to exercise due care or control, permit such dog to defecate or commit any other nuisance and allow such nuisance to remain thereafter on common areas of Canton recreational facilities and athletic fields. A person shall not be considered in violation of this Section if the person has necessary equipment, i.e., shovel, bag, etc., readily available and does take immediate and necessary action to accomplish the lawful and sanitary removal and disposal of such waste.

#### **SECTION V: ENFORCEMENT**

A. Enforcement Personnel: These Regulations are enforceable by the Canton Animal Control Officer, Canton Police Department or any other persons or entities designated by the Board of Selectmen.

B. Penalty: Any person who violates the provisions of this ordinance shall receive a citation and pay a fine pursuant to Chapter 15 of the Town Ordinances.

#### **SECTION VI: EXEMPTIONS**

Properly credentialed service dogs are exempt from this policy.