

## Policy for Impoundment of Dogs

Any dog impounded by the Animal Control Officer(s) shall as soon as is reasonably possible be transported to the designated Town Pound and held there as per the Johnson Dog Control Ordinance and this policy.

The impounding Animal Control Officer shall within twenty-four (24) hours, if possible, give notice to the owner or person having care of such dog (if known), either in person, by telephone, by written notice left at his dwelling-house, or by written notice mailed to the last known address of the owner, of the impoundment of such dog and the procedure for redemption.

If the owner or address is not known, the ACO shall post a notice at the Town Clerk's Office for a minimum of one week (which shall include 5 "business days"). The notice shall contain a description of the dog, date time and place impounded and information about redemption.

The owner of an impounded dog, or his agent carrying written authorization, may reclaim such dog, only upon payment of the penalties, charges and daily boarding fees due, as established by the Selectboard. It shall be the duty of the ACO to insure that all penalties and charges have been paid before authorizing the release of an impounded dog.

If not claimed after one week and after proper posting as above (which shall include 5 "business days") the ACO shall be authorized to sell, give away, or dispose of the dog in a humane manner. Unless otherwise authorized in writing by the Selectman, all impounded dogs shall be given to the North Country Animal League, but not before the required seven day period, for adoption or humane destruction and not given away or sold to any other person or entity.

If any impounded dog is unlicensed the ACO may, at his/her discretion, release the impounded dog into the custody of the owner or agent, solely for the purpose of obtaining required immunizations and to license such dog as required by Dog Control Ordinance.

If the owner or agent, who has been granted custody as above, fails to license the dog within 5 business days of release into their custody the ACO shall assess additional fines as allowed by Ordinance and re-impound and humanely destroy the subject dog.

Adopted by the Johnson Selectboard 17th day of February, 2003.