



Complaints have been received from residents of the community regarding dog waste in our town. There has been an increased volume of dog waste that has been found in common areas owned by the Town as well as on the sidewalks and private front and side lawns of residents who do not own dogs.

This is a reminder that the Town of Bridgton does have a Dog Control Ordinance in place that addresses the sanitation requirements for dog owners. Dog waste removal is required by law and enforcement includes fines for non-compliance. The applicable excerpt of the ordinance is noted below.

Town of Bridgton Dog Control Ordinance

Section 10. Sanitation Requirements by Dog Owners

A. Any person who, as defined by this Ordinance as an owner of a dog, shall be responsible for failing to promptly remove and properly dispose of their dog's feces left on any sidewalk, street, beach or publicly owned property or private property other than the property of the owner of the dog or of a person who has consented to the presence of the dog on his/her property.

B. A dog shall be considered a nuisance if it defecates on any public or private property, other than the owner's or keeper's property and the owner and or the keep shall be obligated to remove and properly dispose of such wastes promptly from any such public or private property.

A dog shall be considered a nuisance if it gets into or opens any garbage bags, bins or other containers and/or causes the garbage to be strewn in the immediate area. The owner and or keeper of the dog shall be obligated to properly clean up the strewn garbage.

This section does not apply if it occurs on the property of the dog(s) owner or to a dog accompanying any handicapped person, who, by reason of his/her handicap, is physically unable to comply with the requirements of this section.

Section 11. Enforcement

It shall be the duty of all Municipal Police Officers to enforce all the provisions of this Ordinance. Further, there shall be appointed an Animal Control Officer(s) who shall have the prime responsibility of enforcing this Ordinance.

Section 12. Penalties

Any person found in violation of any of the provisions of this Ordinance shall be guilty of a civil violation and liable to punishment by a fine not to exceed fifty (\$50.00) for the first offense. A second or subsequent offense shall result in a one hundred (\$100.00) fine to the owner and or keeper of the dog(s). Upon notification to the owner or keeper and the persistence of the violation, each day shall constitute a separate offense and subject the owner or keep to the fine as stipulated for a second or subsequent offense for each day the violation exists. All fines collected shall be recovered to the use of the Town of Bridgton and deposited in a separate account as required by M.R.S.A Section 3945 (Use and License Fees Retained by Municipalities).

A copy of the full ordinance can be found [here](#)