



Town of Portsmouth

2200 East Main Road / Portsmouth, Rhode Island 02871

Kathleen Viera Beaudoin
Town Clerk

March, 2008

(401) 683-2101

ATTENTION ATTENTION ATTENTION

THE TOWN OF PORTSMOUTH HAS A LEASH LAW !!!

In 1985 the General Assembly enacted a strict Statute governing VICIOUS ANIMALS & ANIMALS RUNNING AT LARGE. The penalties are severe. You may wish to consult the Rhode Island Statutes.

The following excerpts appearing below are portions of an Ordinance regulating the "Running at large of Animals" and in amendment to Chapter 3, Sec. 2, of the Portsmouth Town Code. It is the intent that they help to inform you of Town regulations regarding dogs. (A complete copy is available for inspection at the Office of the Town Clerk or the Animal Control Officer.)

Sec. 3-6 (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to allow or permit any animal to trespass on private or public property so as to damage or destroy any property or thing of value and the same is hereby declared to be a nuisance ...

(b) The keeping or harboring of any dog or other animal or fowl whether licensed or not, which habitually howls, yelps, barks or causes noises ... is hereby declared to be a public nuisance and each day shall constitute a separate offense.

Sec. 3-9 It shall be unlawful for any resident of the Town of Portsmouth to keep more than three (3) licensed dogs at a single-family residence, except as provided by the Animal Control Officer. This provision shall not apply to licensed kennels.

Sec. 3-13 No person, being the owner or keeper of a dog or having the charge or custody of a dog, shall allow such dog to run loose off its owner or keeper's property within the Town of Portsmouth unless such dog is properly leashed and said leash is controlled by the owner or keeper of such dog.

Sec. 3-14 (c) Notwithstanding the provisions of this ordinance, any person who immediately notifies the Animal Control Officer that their dog has escaped from restraint and requests assistance in bringing the dog under control or restraint shall not be punished or liable for a fine, charge or fee pursuant to this Chapter for failure to properly restrain a dog ...

Sec. 3-16 CONFINEMENT OF DANGEROUS VICIOUS ANIMALS AND FEMALES IN HEAT (ask for paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section).

Sec. 3-17 (a) Every animal which bites a person shall be promptly reported to the Animal Control Officer and shall thereupon be securely quarantined ...

Your dog's license will expire on **APRIL 30, 2008**. For your convenience we will be licensing dogs at the Rabies Clinic, by mail, or, if you prefer, in the Town Clerk's Office. You will need to send the following:

- Fill out and sign the Application Card
- Valid proof of rabies vaccination (this will be returned to you with your license and tag) **(WE DO NOT KEEP CERTIFICATES ON FILE, YOU MUST PRESENT THE CERTIFICATE EACH YEAR)**
- **IF YOUR DOG'S CURRENT RABIES VACCINATION EXPIRES BEFORE MAY 1, 2008 IT CANNOT BE ACCEPTED.**
- **\$8.00 licensing fee (checks should be made payable to the Town of Portsmouth)**

PLEASE NOTE: Ordinance #92-2-25B requires a **\$5.00 late fee** if renewals are not received by **APRIL 30, 2008**.

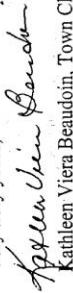
FOR YOUR INFORMATION: The Rhode Island Veterinarian's Assn. is sponsoring a Rabies Clinic at the Portsmouth Fire Station on Saturday, **April 5, 2008**, from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Animals should be either in cages or on a leash. Their fee is **\$10.00** and they require **payment in cash**. Please remember to bring your valid Rabies Certificate with you, and

ALSO, for your convenience we will be licensing dogs at the Rabies Clinic.

ALSO: The Animal Control Officer is Betsy Hanson & she may be reached at 643-0136.

ALSO NOTE: Pursuant to RIGL 4-13-31, Compulsory rabies vaccination. **ALL CATS MUST BE VACCINATED TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF RABIES. CATS DO NOT NEED TO BE LICENSED. However, they have to maintain identification at all times, see enclosed law (RIGL 4-22-2, (d)).**

Very truly yours,


Kathleen Viera Beaudoin, Town Clerk

Enclosures

RHODE ISLAND GENERAL LAWS

CHAPTER 4-13 entitled "DOGS"

4-13-31. Compulsory rabies vaccination.

(1) For the purpose of preventing the introduction of rabies when rabies appears in any nearby area and its appearance creates a threat of introduction into Rhode Island, or for the suppression, or for the control of rabies, the board shall make regulations requiring compulsory vaccination of dogs, cats, ferrets or any other domestic animal as deemed necessary against rabies in a manner specified by it in any area or areas within the State of Rhode Island, which are deemed necessary to prevent that introduction, or for the purposes of suppression and control.

(9) A person who fails to have each dog, cat and/or ferret owned or kept by said person vaccinated against rabies violates the provisions of this Chapter.

(f) Any veterinarian or any person directed by a veterinarian who vaccinates a dog, cat, or ferret against rabies must issue a rabies vaccination certificate to the animal's owner. This certificate shall meet the minimum standards approved by the board, which include: the veterinarian's name, the veterinarian's practice name, address and telephone number; the pet owner's name and address, the pet's name, species, age, coloration and sex; the rabies vaccine manufacturer's name; the date of inoculation and the signature of the doctor who administered or directed the administration of the rabies vaccine. For dogs, cats, and ferrets, there shall be a record kept which lists the number of the rabies tag issued in conjunction with the rabies vaccination certificate.

4-13-32. Penalty for violation of rabies suppression provisions.

Any person violating the provisions of 4-13-29 and 4-13-31 shall be charged with a misdemeanor and fined not less than two hundred dollars (\$200.) nor more than five hundred dollars (\$500.) for each offense or be imprisoned for not less than ten (10) days nor more than thirty (30) days.

CHAPTER 22 – CAT IDENTIFICATION PROGRAM

4-22-2. (d)

"Identification" means: a traceable form of identification such as (1) a collar and a flat or hanging tag worn by a cat which includes the current name, address and telephone number of the owner, or (2) a rabies vaccination tag, or (3) an ear tag issued by a licensed veterinarian or by a licensed animal shelter or licensed municipal pound, or (4) a registered microchip which is used in conjunction with a visible collar and tag or in conjunction with a faceted, reflective ear stud, or (5) a tag from a licensed animal shelter or licensed municipal pound, or (6) a tattoo registered with the National Dog Registry or other similar national tattoo service, or (7) a cat license issued by a Rhode Island city or town, or (8) a collar incorporating embroidery as a type of information labeling rather than a hanging or flat tag or (9) in the case of feral cats, a tipped or notched ear in conjunction with a microchip or any of the above other forms of identification. The intent is to allow flexibility in the types of identification available for cats and to incorporate other types of cat identification in the future as they are developed. (As of 1/1/2000).

Rev. 1/1/08



PET REGISTRATION FORM

OWNER NAME _____ UNIT NO. _____

ADDRESS _____ NUMBER: DOG(S) _____ CAT(S) _____

PET BREED _____ COLOR _____ WEIGHT _____ Vaccinated _____

PET BREED _____ COLOR _____ WEIGHT _____ Vaccinated _____

I understand the Ferry Landing Rules, the Rhode Island General Laws and the Town of Portsmouth Town Code regarding pets and hereby agree to abide by them.

OWNERS SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

Please submit this FORM to: Premier Property Management, 26 Valley Road STE 203, Middletown, RI 02842