

ANIMAL CONTROL ORDINANCE

Passed in Sorrento Town Meeting, September 8, 1997

Section 1. Purpose

The purpose of this ordinance is to require that all dogs in the Town of Sorrento be under the control of their owners at all times so that they will not injure persons, damage property or create a nuisance.

Section 2. Definition

At Large: Any dog off the premises of the owner and not under the control of any person by means of personal presence and detention as will reasonably control the conduct of said animal.

Section 3. Animals creating a nuisance by noise.

Anyone owning, possessing or harboring any animal which barks, howls or makes other sounds common to its species, continuously for 20 minutes or intermittently for one hour or more shall be deemed to constitute a nuisance. **EXCEPTIONS:** dogs barking at trespassers or threatening trespass on private property on which dog is situated or any legitimate cause for provocation.

Section 4. Running at Large

The owner of any dog found running at large and impounded by the animal control officer, or person acting in that capacity, shall be subject to an impound fee. All fines so assessed and attorney fees shall be recovered for the use of the Town of Sorrento through District Court.

Section 5. Enforcement and Penalties:

This ordinance shall be enforced by the Animal Control Officer. A violation of this ordinance is a civil violation punished by a fine of not more than \$100.00, nor less than \$25 per offense. Any person charged with a violation of this ordinance may waive court action by paying a fee of \$25 to the Town Clerk in addition to any other applicable fees including licensing or animal shelter fees. All fines so assessed and attorney fees shall be recovered for the use of the Town of Sorrento through District Court.