

**Avon Town Council**  
**Ordinance 2017 – 18**  
**Amending Town Leash Law**

Whereas, Chapter 6, Article 3 of the Avon Town Code provides for the regulation of animals; and

Whereas, it is in the best interests of the citizens of Avon for the Town to regulate the control of animals in order to ensure the health, safety and general welfare of persons in the Town; and

Whereas, there is a significant risk of harm to persons in the Town of Avon related to animals, particularly dogs, who are not controlled by the use of leash and are allowed to run at large off of the property of the dog owner; and

Whereas, persons attacked by dogs may suffer significant injuries and death, and the Town of Avon has a significant governmental interest in the regulation of dogs in order to reduce the likelihood of such attacks; and

Whereas, Article 3 of the Town Code regulates the control of dogs in the Town of Avon; and

Whereas, the Town Council finds that changes are necessary to Article 3 in order to provide additional protection to persons in the Town and to reduce the likelihood of attacks of dogs; and

Whereas, Town staff has received reports from citizens regarding dogs that are not properly restrained by a leash, causing the staff to review Article 3 and make recommended changes to the regulation of dogs; and

Whereas, Town staff has recommended certain changes to the Town Code to promote safety and reduce the risk of attack by dogs for persons in the Town; and

**Whereas**, the Avon Town Council believes it is in the best interest of the Town to amend its policy prohibiting dogs from being at-large, so to advance greater citizen safety, mitigate property damage, and to increase citizen's enjoyable use or occupancy of their property.

**Therefore, it is ordained** that § 6-18 and § 6-20 of the Town of Avon Code of Ordinances shall be amended as follows:

**“§ 6-18 DEFINITIONS.**

For the purpose of this article, the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning.

***AT LARGE.*** Any licensed or unlicensed dog found off the premises of its owner not restrained on a leash, and the leash not held and under the direct and immediate control of the owner.

**§ 6-20 AT LARGE PROHIBITED**

No owner of any dog, whether the dog be licensed or unlicensed, will permit a dog off the owner's property without a leash. An owner, when taking the dog off the owner's premises, will hold and have direct and immediate control of the leash.

**§6-32 PENALTIES**

Any person, firm or corporation violating any provision of this Chapter, other than Sections 6-30 or 6-31, is subject to a fine in the amount of \$100 for a first violation, \$200 for a second violation within 12 months of a first violation, and \$500 for a third or other additional violations within 12 months of a first violation. Any person, firm or corporation violating §§6-30 or 6-31 shall be fined \$200 for each offense. A, separate offense shall be deemed committed on each day during or on which a violation occurs or continues. All fines must be paid to the Clerk-treasurer within 30 days of the notice. If the violator appeals the notice, as provided for in 6-33, this 30-day period will be stayed until the resolution of the appeal. If the violator fails to timely pay the fine, the Clerk-Treasurer may authorize the Town Attorney to file an action for the collection of the fine in Town Court. If the Town initiates a case for the collection of a fine, the Town may recover the amount of the fine, reasonable attorney's fees and court costs incurred in the collection case. Nothing in this Section will be construed as a

punishment or criminal penalty. Penalties provided for in this section are civil in nature.

§6-33 APPEALS AND HEARINGS: If a violation occurs, the Town will issue a notice of violation. The violator named in the notice may appeal the notice of violation by filing a written appeal with the Clerk-Treasurer within 15 days of receipt of the notice. Within 30 days of receipt of the appeal, the Town Council will conduct a hearing on the appeal. The Town Council will provide notice of the hearing to the appealing party at least 10 days prior to the hearing. After the hearing, the Town Council will make written findings of fact and conclusions and mail the findings and conclusions to the appealing party. The appealing party may appeal the decision to a court of competent jurisdiction by filing a written appeal within 30 days of the date of the findings and conclusions.

(Ord. 2012-4, passed 3-8-12, Amended by Ord. 2017- , adopted 8- -17.)”

**It is further ordained** that any provision of the Town Code which is not specifically amended by this Ordinance shall remain in full force and effect.

**It is further ordained** that if any part of this ordinance is found to be unenforceable, the remaining provisions of the ordinance will be enforceable.

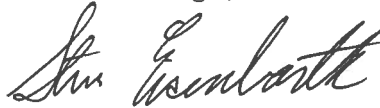
**It is further ordained** that this Ordinance shall be effective upon adoption.

Adopted this 24 day of AUGUST, 2017.

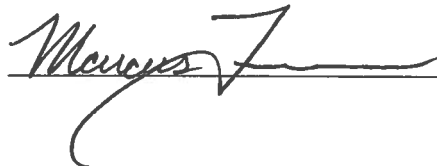
**Avon Town Council:**



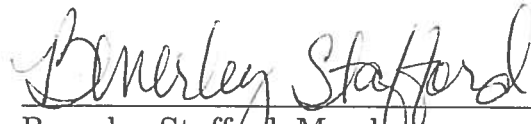
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Aaron Tevebaugh, President

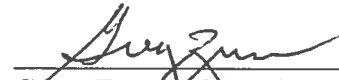


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Steve Eisenbarth, Vice President

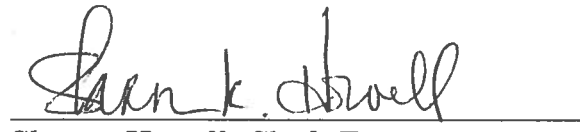


Marcus Turner, Member

  
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Beverley Stafford, Member

  
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Greg Zusar, Member

Attest:

  
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Sharon Howell, Clerk-Treasurer