

Section 1. Dogs Running at Large

- a) No person being the owner of or having charge of any dog shall permit it to run at large upon any public place or upon the premises of another. Dogs not confined on the owner's property shall be maintained on a leash of a length no longer than six feet. The name and address of the owner as well as County license and rabies vaccination tags shall be attached to the collars of all dogs.
- b) The running at large of any such animal in or upon any of the places mentioned in this section is prima-facie evidence that it is running at large in violation of this section
- c) This ordinance shall not be applicable to the following: (Assumed under voice control)
 - a. Any vaccinated dog running at large while engaged in any lawful hunting activity;
 - b. Any vaccinated dog running at large while engaged in any lawful training activity; or,
 - c. Any vaccinated dog running at large while engaged in any lawful herding or other farm-related activity.

Section 2. Trespassing Upon or Damaging Property of Another. No person having the possession of a dog shall lead or take such dog upon the private property of another without permission, or knowingly permit any such dog to soil on, damage or destroy yards, flowers or shrubbery of another person or otherwise trespass upon the property of another without permission.

Section 3. Impoundment. The County has established an impound shelter and may keep therein dogs seized under any of the provisions of this ordinance. Any dog found running at large in the County may be seized. The owner or keeper of any dog may retrieve such dog upon paying the fine imposed for the violation of this ordinance, or by posting proper bond pending the trial for the violation of this ordinance, and the impounding fees. If not paid, such dog may be sold and there shall be deducted from the proceeds of such sale

the fine imposed, if any, and the impounding fees, and the residue, if any, shall be paid over to the owner of such dog. If such dog is not sold, it may be properly euthanized (that is, humanely killed by lethal injection) and its body disposed of by the County without liability.

Section 4. Enforcement.

- a) This ordinance shall be enforceable by the County Dog Warden, or assistant(s), or the County Humane Officer(s), whichever the case may be.
- b) The County Dog Warden, or assistant(s), or the County Humane Officer(s), whichever the case may be, shall patrol the County and enforce all ordinances related to dogs, and shall seize on sight and impound any dog found running at large.
- c) When any dog has been seized and impounded, the County Dog Warden, or assistant(s), or the County Humane Officer(s), whichever the case may be, shall forthwith give notice to the owner of such dog, if such owner is known, that such dog has been impounded and that it will be sold or destroyed if not redeemed within five (5) days. If the owner of the dog is not known to the County Dog Warden, or assistant(s); or the County Human Officer(s), whichever the case may be, *(because it is wearing no identification or rabies tag)* he/she shall post a notice at the Monongalia County Canine Adoption Center, which, for the purposes of this ordinance, shall be deemed an extension of the Monongalia County Courthouse. The notice shall describe the dog, and the place where seized, and shall advise the unknown owner that such dog will be given away or destroyed if not redeemed within five (5) days.
- d) Reasonable costs and fees, in such amount as may be determined from time to time by Monongalia County Commission shall be assessed against every dog seized and impounded under the provisions hereof, and in this particular, shall be assessed against

every dog seized and impounded an administrative fee of \$10 plus a fee of \$10 for every day of impoundment.

- e) The owner, keeper or harbinger of any dog seized and impounded under the provisions hereof may, at any time prior to the expiration of five (5) days from the time that notice of the seizure and impounding of the dog shall have been given or posted as required by this section, redeem the same by paying to the County Dog Warden, or assistant(s), or the County Humane Officer(s), whichever the case may be, or his authorized agent or deputy, all of the costs assessed against such dog.
- f) The County Dog Warden, or assistant(s), or the County Humane Officer(s), whichever the case may be, is hereby authorized to issue citations including warnings, if warranted in their discretion, for the violation of any County ordinance pertaining hereto.
- g) Nothing herein shall constitute a waiver of any ordinances that provide for the arrest and fine for any other violation of County ordinances, or state laws, related to dogs.
- h) This ordinance will not pertain to barking dogs, the number of dogs per household or any other aspect of pet ownership save that of dogs running at large and other provisions contained in the law.

Section 5. Penalty and Enforcement. Whoever violates this ordinance, and is found guilty of violating this ordinance, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof, such person shall be subject to a fine of not more than one hundred dollars (\$100.00). The Magistrate Court of Monongalia County, West Virginia, and the Circuit Court of Monongalia County, West Virginia, shall have concurrent jurisdiction with respect to such misdemeanors.

Section 6. Effective Date.

This ordinance shall become effective on and after passage and upon adoption by the Monongalia County Commission.

PASSED by the County Commission on first reading on the 25th day of May, 1995. This ordinance became effective June 22, 1995.

DOG TAX/LICENSE FEES

It is the duty of the County Assessor to collect a head tax of \$3.00 on each dog, six months or older, and to collect an additional \$3.00 per dog in Morgantown, Westover, Star City and Granville. Persons with vicious dogs kept for protection, must pay an additional \$10.00 per dog in addition to the regular dog tax.

The Assessor will issue a metal tag for each \$3.00 tax paid and for each \$10.00 vicious dog tax. The tax tags and tags issued for rabies must be worn by the dog at all times.

Unlicensed dogs found by the County Dog Warden will be impounded. Owners are subject to fines and pound fees in addition to payment of unpaid taxes. The County Commission has directed the Assessor, Sheriff and Dog Warden to strictly enforce all dog laws.

County Commission – 304-291-7257
Thomas Bloom, Commissioner
Edward A. Hawkins, Commissioner
Sean P. Sikora, Commissioner

Canine Adoption Center – 304-291-7267
Call for hours of operation.
Located on:
106 Lockside Drive
Morgantown, WV 26501

For Emergencies Call 9-1-1

LEASH LAW

Restricting dogs from running at large in
Monongalia County, West Virginia



Monongalia County, West Virginia, passed an ordinance effective 6/22/95 restricting dogs from running at large (under the authority of West Virginia Code Chapter 19, Article 20A, Section 8), because: large numbers of dogs were running loose, forming packs in some instances; smaller pets were attacked or killed; children bitten going to and from school; citizens were reluctant to allow their children to play on their own property; citizens felt it necessary to arm themselves with sticks or mace when walking in their neighborhoods; and there were numerous complaints about property damage by dogs running at large.

All dogs owners are urged to protect their animals and themselves from liability by following the ordinance described herein.

Monongalia County Commission
Courthouse, Morgantown, WV 26505

