

AN ORDINANCE REGULATING UNRESTRAINED DOGS

WHEREAS, a number of citizens living in and around the Town of Charlotte Court House are dog owners, and

WHEREAS, a number of dogs have been seen running without restraint throughout the Town, causing property damage and generally being a nuisance, and

WHEREAS, the Town Council finds that such unrestrained dogs constitute a nuisance while running at large and in order to assure the peaceful atmosphere enjoyed by its citizens,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, that the following Ordinance shall become effective immediately:

1. It shall be unlawful for the owner of a dog, whether such dog is licensed or not, to allow such dog to run at large within the Town limits. For purposes of this section, a dog shall be deemed to run at large while roaming or running off the property of its owner and not under its owner's immediate control.
2. The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this section, shall have the following meanings:
 - a) *Dog* means every dog, regardless of sex, size or age.
 - b) *Owner* means every person having a property right in a dog or who keeps or harbors a dog, or has a dog in his care, or who acts as custodian of a dog, whether for hire or *gratis*.
3. In accordance and under the authority of Virginia Code 3.2-6538, (1950), as amended, violation of this ordinance shall result in a civil penalty in lieu of criminal sanctions. Any violation of this ordinance shall result in a fine of \$50.00 and a processing fee of \$28.00, for a total of \$78.00, to be paid to the Town of Charlotte Court House. Prior to the date fixed for trial, said civil penalty may be paid at the Municipal Building for Charlotte Court House. Nothing in this ordinance shall be construed to operate as a waiver of the Town's right to seek injunctive, declaratory or other equitable relief as provided under Virginia Code section 3.2-6538, (1950), as amended.

Adopted this 19th day of November, 2012.

Andrews Aye

Jones Aye

Dunn Aye

Parsons Aye

Haskins Aye

Watkins Aye



Stephen D. Walker, Mayor

ATTEST:



Karen K. Price, Clerk of Council