



Town of Bristol
Town Administrator
1 South Street
P.O. Box 249
Bristol, VT 05443
(802) 453-2410 ext. 22
townadmin@bristolvt.org
www.bristolvt.org

May 29, 2020

CERTIFIED MAIL

Kevin Irish
269 Notch Road
Bristol, VT 05443

Subject: Complaints of dog running at large and alleged attack

Dear Mr. Irish:

We received two complaints from a neighbor on Notch Road that two dogs on your property were running at large, bit the neighbor's leashed dog, and/or exhibited threatening or aggressive behavior toward the neighbor's dog and son.

In the first instance, reported on April 23, 2020, a dog identified only as a Jack Russell Terrier was running at large, crossed the road, and bit the neighbor's leashed dog on more than one occasion. In the second instance, reported May 28, 2020, a black lab dog was running at large, crossed the road, and exhibited threatening behavior toward the neighbor's son and leashed dog. The neighbor's son attempted to fend off the aggressive dog, and was met with a verbal threat from an apparent tenant on your property.

Further, no dogs have been registered in your name or anyone at this address in the past three years.

This would constitute three violations of the Town of Bristol Dog Ordinance (copy enclosed): Section 125-3 of the Bristol Dog Ordinance requires all dogs more than six months old to be registered on or before April 1 each year; Section 125-5 prohibits running at large; and Section 125-6 prohibits vicious dogs.

Section 125-3 of the Ordinance and specifically states: "[a] person who is the owner of a dog more than six months old shall annually on or before April 1 cause the dog to be licensed as required by 20 V.S.A. § 3581-3582. The failure of a dog owner to comply with that statute, shall constitute a violation of this ordinance and violation of 20 V.S.A. § 3550 (a), authorizing a municipality to impose a civil penalty of up to \$500 per violation." In response to the impacts of COVID-19, the registration deadline was extended to May 5, 2020, which has passed. It is our understanding there may be at least three dogs on the premises. This would apply to each dog. Please register the dogs immediately but no later than June 12, 2020, or provide evidence that they are no longer on the premises. Information about registration fees and forms is available at the Town Clerk's Office by calling 453-2410 or by e-mail at clerk@bristolvt.org.

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In As defined in Section 125-2 of the Town of Bristol Dog Ordinance, this dog could be considered to be a vicious dog if it "... causes reasonable fear of bodily injury by attacking or threatening to attack any domestic animal or any person, except a person who is in the act of committing unlawful (criminal) trespass or other criminal act upon the private property or person of the owner or keeper of the dog."

Section 125-5 of the Bristol Dog Ordinance specifies that dogs running at large is a violation of the Ordinance, as defined in Section 125-2.

If we receive another complaint or otherwise find that the situation has not been rectified, a public hearing will be scheduled before the Selectboard in accordance with Section 125-9 and/or fines will be issued in accordance with Section 125-15 of the Dog Ordinance. A dog running at large may also be impounded. We hope none of that will be necessary and you will assist us in correcting the situation.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 453-2410.

Sincerely,



Valerie Capels
Town Administrator

Enc.

C: Selectboard
Cale Pelland, Dog Warden
Bruce Nason, Police Chief