

**TOWN OF BRISTOL, VERMONT  
ORDINANCE TO REGULATE LIVESTOCK RUNNING AT  
LARGE**

**1. Purpose and Authority**

The Selectboard of the Town of Bristol is concerned that Livestock Running at Large causes damage to private property and presents a significant danger to motorists and the general public traveling on Town and State highways. Livestock Running at Large may also transmit communicable diseases to Livestock that is properly fenced and contained. Accordingly, the Bristol Selectboard finds livestock Running at Large in the Town of Bristol to be a public nuisance.

The purpose of this Ordinance is to abate this public nuisance by establishing reasonable regulations for fining the owners of Livestock Running at large and to thereby protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public. This Ordinance is adopted by the Bristol Selectboard under the authority of 24 V.S.A. §2291(14) and (1S). This Ordinance shall constitute a civil ordinance within the meaning of 24 V.S.A. Chapter 59.

**2. Definitions**

For purposes of this Ordinance, the following words and phrases shall apply:

**Enforcement Officer** means any Law Enforcement Officer, Animal Control Officer, or other person designated an Enforcement Officer under this Ordinance by the Bristol Selectboard.

**Livestock** means animals kept or raised for use, profit or pleasure, to include but not limited to; any horse, ~~stallion, colt, gelding, mare,~~ sheep, ~~ram, lamb, bull, steer,~~ heifer, cow, calf, mule, donkey, goat, ~~kid,~~ chicken, ~~hen, rooster,~~ pig, or swine.

**Owner** means any person who owns Livestock or has actual or constructive possession of Livestock.

**Remedial Action** means the action of the Owner of Livestock, as directed by an Enforcement Officer in writing, necessary to securely contain the Livestock on the Owner's property. Remedial Action may include, but is not limited to, construction or repair of fences, gates, pens, corrals, paddocks, sties, barns, sheds, or other structures necessary to contain the Livestock on the Owner's property.

**Run and Large or Running at Large** means off property owned or leased by the Owner and not under the control of the Owner or an agent of the Owner.

**3. Prohibition**

The Owner of Livestock shall not allow, permit, or suffer such Livestock to Run at Large in the Town of Bristol. This prohibition shall not include situations where the owner of the livestock has taken reasonable measures to contain the animal, such as maintaining strong and undamaged fences or pens, and the animal accidentally gets

loose.

**4. Civil Penalty**

A) In addition to completion of the Remedial Action, an Owner that allows, permits, or suffers Livestock to Run at Large in the Town of Bristol shall be subject to a civil penalty of up to \$800.00 per day for each day such violation continues. The Enforcement Officer shall be authorized to act as an issuing municipal official to issue and pursue a municipal complaint for the civil penalty before the Vermont Judicial Bureau.

B) An Enforcement Officer is authorized to recover Civil Penalties and Waiver Fees in the following amounts:

	<u>Civil Penalty</u>	<u>Waiver Fee</u>
First Offense	\$160.00	\$100.00
Second Offense	\$320.00	\$250.00
Third Offense	\$480.00	\$400.00
Fourth Offense	\$640.00	\$550.00
Fifth and Subsequent Offenses	\$800.00	\$700.00

C) In addition to the enforcement procedures herein, the Selectboard may commence a civil action in Superior Court to obtain injunctive or other appropriate relief and may pursue any other remedy authorized by law.

**5. Remedial Action**

A) Within twenty-four (24) hours after the violation, the Enforcement Officer shall give written notice to the Owner, informing the Owner of the violation and the Remedial Action necessary.

B) The Remedial Action shall be completed by the Owner within forty-eight (48) hours of the notice.

C) The Enforcement Officer shall be authorized to enter the Owner's property to inspect fences, gates, pens, corrals, paddocks, sties, or other structures to determine if the Remedial Action has been completed.

D) If the Owner of the Livestock is unknown, the Enforcement Officer shall, within twenty-four (24) hours of the violation, post a notice in the Town Clerk's office, the Town's website, Front Porch Forum, and three (3) public places in the Town. The posted notice shall include a description of the Livestock, the time and place the Livestock was found, and the name, address, and telephone number of the Enforcement Officer. The notice shall be posted for ten (10) days.

E) If the Livestock is not claimed by the Owner after ten (10) days, or the Owner gives notice to the Enforcement Officer of forfeiture of ownership, or the Owner fails to complete the Remedial Action, or the Owner fails to pay any impoundment expenses due to the Town, the livestock may, at the discretion of the Selectboard, be sold or

transferred to a humane society or rescue organization.

F) The proceeds from the sale of the Livestock, if any, shall be turned over to the Owner after payment of any outstanding expenses due to the Town and payment for any damage done by the Livestock, in an amount to be determined by the Selectboard after a public hearing.

**6. Other Laws**

This Ordinance is in addition to all other ordinances of the Town of Bristol and all applicable laws of the State of Vermont.

**7. Severability**

If any section of this Ordinance is held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such finding shall not invalidate any other part of this Ordinance.

**8. Effective Date**

This Ordinance shall become effective sixty (60) days after adoption as provided in 24 V.S.A. §1972. If a petition is filed under 24 V.S.A. §1973, that statute shall govern the taking effect of this Ordinance.

Passed and adopted by the Selectboard of the Town of Bristol, Vermont on the \_\_\_ day of XXXXXXXX, 2024.

LEGISLATIVE BODY

Joel Bouvier, Chair

Michelle Perlee, Vice Chair

Ian Albinson

John "Peeker" Heffernan

Jessica Teets

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

Adoption History:

1. Agenda item at regular Selectboard meeting(s) held on \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Read and approved at a regular Selectboard meeting on \_\_\_\_\_ and entered in the minutes of that meeting which were approved on \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Posted in the following five public places on \_\_\_\_\_.  
*Town Clerk's Office*  
*Holley Hall*  
*Lawrence Memorial Library*  
*Bristol Beverage*  
*Martin's Hardware*
4. Notice of adoption published in *The Addison Independent* newspaper on \_\_\_\_\_ (date published- attach copy of actual paper) with a notice of the right to petition.
5. Other actions (petitions, etc.)  
*Posted on Front Porch Forum and Town Web site.*  
\_\_\_\_\_

Certification of the Town Clerk: I certify this ordinance was adopted as detailed above and filed / recorded on \_\_\_\_\_.