

TOWN OF BRISTOL, VERMONT

ORDINANCE TO REGULATE LIVESTOCK RUNNING AT LARGE

SECTION 1: TITLE

This ordinance shall be known and may be cited as the "Livestock Running at Large Ordinance."

SECTION 2: PURPOSE

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 (15). This Ordinance shall constitute a civil ordinance within the meaning of 24 V.S.A. Chapter 59.

SECTION 3: 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 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 at 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.

SECTION 4: 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.

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SECTION 5: PENALTIES

- (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 set forth in the "SCHEDULE OF RATES AND CHARGES" (APPENDIX A).

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.

SECTION 6: 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.

SECTION 7: 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.

SECTION 8: SEVERABILITY

If any section of this Ordinance is held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such

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finding shall not invalidate any other part of this Ordinance.

SECTION 9: EFFECTIVE DATE

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

Adopted this [day] of February 2025.

Town of Bristol Selectboard

<u>Joel Bouvier, Chair</u>	_____
<u>Michelle Perlee, Vice-Chair</u>	_____
<u>Ian Albinson</u>	_____
<u>John Heffernan</u>	_____
<u>Jessica Teets</u>	_____

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ADOPTION HISTORY:

Agenda item at regular Selectboard meeting held on **DATE**.

Read and approved at a regular Selectboard meeting on **DATE** and entered in the minutes of that meeting which will be approved on **DATE**.

Posted in public places: FPF, Town website, Town Office, **3 Public locations**

Notice of adoption published in the Addison Independent newspaper on **DATE** with notice of the right to petition.

If no petition is filed, the ordinance becomes effective sixty days after the date of adoption, or at such time following the expiration of sixty days from the date of its adoption as determined by the Selectboard. 24 VSA 1973

Effective date: **DATE**

Within forty days of the adoption of an ordinance by the Selectboard, five percent of the voters may submit a petition to have a meeting to determine whether the ordinance will be disapproved. If the ordinance is not disapproved, it takes effect at the conclusion of the meeting, or at a later date specified in the ordinance. 24 VSA 1973.