TOWN OF SWANZEY
Town Ordinance

CONTROL OF DOGS

This ordinance recognizes the need for regulation of the control of dogs to assure the health and safety of the citizens, property owners, and visitors of the Town of Swanzey.

Removal of feces.

(a) *Definition.* For the purpose of this section, the reference to a mechanical or other device shall include, without limitation, a pooper scooper, a trowel, a shovel, a plastic bag or other appropriate container.

(b) *Duty to dispose.* It shall be the duty of each person who owns, possesses or controls a dog to immediately remove and dispose of any feces left by his/her dog on any sidewalk, street or other public area. It shall further be the duty of each person who owns, possesses or controls a dog to immediately remove and dispose of any feces left by his/her dog on any private property neither owned nor occupied by said person, unless said private property owner or occupant agrees otherwise.

(c) *Duty to possess means of removal/disposal.* No person who owns, possesses or controls such dog shall appear with such dog on any sidewalk, street, park or other public area without the means of removal of any feces left by such dog, such as a mechanical or other device for the removal of excrement, nor shall such owner or person in control fail to expeditiously remove any such excrement deposited by the dog in any such place. Furthermore, no person who owns possesses or controls such dog shall appear with such dog on any private property neither owned nor occupied by said person without the means of removal of any feces left by said dog, unless said private property owner or occupier agrees otherwise. Disposal of such feces shall be in a manner consistent with all applicable laws.

(d) Dogs are not permitted on the town's Richardson Park property. Dogs are also precluded from the public access/boat launch area at Wilson Pond adjacent to the lower dam except while being loaded into or from a boat utilizing the boat launch to access Wilson Pond.

(e) *Enforcement/fines for violation.* This section shall be enforced by the Swanzey Police Department. Violation of this regulation shall be punished by a fine of fifty dollars ($50.00) for each occurrence.

(f) *Exemption.* Compliance with this regulation is not required by any handicapped person who, by reason of his/her handicap is physically unable to comply with this section. This article shall not apply to hearing and sight-impaired guide dogs owned or employed by citizens.