

CITY OF DOVER

CITY OF DOVER - ORDINANCE

Agenda Item#:

Ordinance Number: **O – 2025.10.22 -**
Ordinance Title: Muzzling of Vicious Dogs
Chapter: 69 Dogs
Section: 18 Muzzling and Restraining Dogs

The City of Dover Ordains:

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this ordinance is to update the City of Dover’s ordinance on Dogs in accordance with an update to RSA 466:39.

2. AMENDMENT

Chapter 69 entitled “Dogs” is hereby amended by adding Section 69-18, “Muzzling and Restraining Dogs”

a. THE FOLLOWING ARE ADDED:

§ 69-18 Muzzling and Restraining Dogs

- a. The owner or keeper of any dog(s) deemed “vicious” pursuant to NH RSA 466:31, II(g) shall be required to have said animal(s) muzzled and/or restrained when in public, regardless of whether said animal(s) is attached to a leash or under the physical control of said owner or keeper. Penalties for violations of this chapter shall not exceed \$50.
- b. The owner or keeper of any dog(s) deemed to have violated RSA 466:31 II (a) –(f) shall be required to have such dog restrained when in public, regardless of whether said animal(s) is attached to a leash or under the physical control of said owner or keeper. Penalties for violations of this chapter shall not exceed \$50.

3. TAKES EFFECT

This ordinance shall take effect upon passage and publication of notice as required by RSA 47:18.

TO BE REFERRED TO PUBLIC HEARING ON NOVEMBER 12, 2025

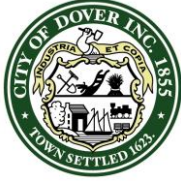
AUTHORIZATION

Approved as to Funding: Daniel R. Lynch
Finance Director

Sponsored by: Mayor Robert Carrier

Approved as to Legal: Jennifer Perez
Form and Compliance: Deputy City Attorney

Recorded by: Jerrica Vansylyvong-
Bizier
City Clerk

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DOCUMENT HISTORY:

First Reading Date:	Public Hearing Date:
Approved Date:	Effective Date:

DOCUMENT ACTIONS:

VOTING RECORD		
Date of Vote:	YES	NO
Mayor Robert Carrier		
Deputy Mayor Dennis Shanahan		
Councilor April Richer, Ward 1		
Councilor Robert Warach Ward 2		
Councilor Anthony Retrosi, Ward 3		
Councilor Debra Hackett, Ward 4		
Councilor Fergus Cullen, Ward 6		
Councilor Linnea Nemeth, At Large		
Councilor Lindsey Williams, At Large		
Total Votes:		
Ordinance does does not pass.		

ORDINANCE BACKGROUND MATERIAL:

A change to RSA 466:39 went into effect September 30, 2025 granting cities and towns authority to regulate the muzzling of vicious dogs as defined in RSA 466:31, II(g). This ordinance will allow the City of Dover to require the owner(s) of dogs deemed “vicious” pursuant to NH RSA 466:31 to be muzzled and/or restrained when in public, regardless of whether the animal(s) is leashed. This authority was granted to local municipalities under NH RSA 466:39 effective September 30, 2025. Penalties for violations of this ordinance shall not exceed \$50.00.