

**TOWN OF  
MIDDLETON, NEW HAMPSHIRE  
Ordinance**

**Pets in Public Buildings**

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Board of Selectmen by RSA 31-39 "Power to Make By-Laws" the following ordinance is promulgated.

- I. **Purpose:** The purpose of this ordinance is to restrict residents and visitors from bringing dogs, cats and other pets into listed municipal public buildings during normal business hours and during meetings.  
Upon enactment, all dogs cats and other pets will be restricted from entering the listed public buildings and those buildings will be so posted.
- II. **Intent:** The intent of this ordinance is to regulate the access in all municipal public buildings of dogs, cats and other pets to protect public health and safety but to make provisions for access for "guide dogs" and other "service animals".
- III. **Applicability:** The provisions of this ordinance shall apply to the following Town owned buildings and grounds,

The Middleton Town Municipal Building  
The Old Town Hall  
The Middleton Fire Station  
The Middleton Highway Department Building  
Middleton Town Beach (Jones Beach)

This ordinance shall not apply to municipal grounds, parks and other outdoor facilities regulated by any other ordinance.

- IV. **Exemptions:**
  - a. Guide dogs or other Service Animals accompanying individuals with disabilities and especially trained and educated for that purpose, shall be admitted to any building or other property owned or controlled by the Town on the same terms and conditions, and subject to the same regulations, as generally govern the admission of the public to the property. These animals should have the generally accepted identification markings to show that they are formally a guide dog or service animal. The animals are not permitted to run free or roam in a building or on the property and must be in guiding

harness or on leash and under the control of the individual at all times while in a building or on the property.

b. Special events or circumstances, previously approved by the Board of Selectmen as a result of action taken at a board of selectman's meeting.

V. **Enforcement:** Pursuant to the authority granted to the board of Selectman in RSA 41:11 – (a) and RSA 41:11 – (b) any person who violates these regulations shall be guilty of a violation.

VI. **Rationale:** With consideration of Health and Safety Issues:

- a. Animals may spur allergic reaction among employees, volunteers, residents, and visitors
- b. Some employees, residents, contractors and visitors have a genuine fear of dogs, cats, etc, which needs to be respected.
- c. Concerns should an employee, volunteer, resident or visitor be bitten or injured by and animal while in a Town facility.
- d. Spreading of fleas and ticks which can carry disease.
- e. Animals can cause a disruption in the workplace.
- f. Animals can cause damage to a Town facility.

All of these factors put the Town at risk of potential liability.

VII. **Penalty:** Any person found violating this ordinance shall be guilty of a violation and upon conviction thereof, shall be issued a warning for the first offense, subsequent violations shall be punished by a fine of \$100.00.

This action is taken this 7 day of July in the year of 2025.

First reading: 6/9/2025

Second reading: 6/23/2025

A record of return of this action shall be posted immediately upon its enactment with the Town Clerk.

TOWN OF MIDDLETON, NEW HAMPSHIRE BY ITS BOARD OF SELECTMEN