



Animal Control Newsletter



Town of Sterling - May 2015

ANIMAL CONTROL REMINDER!

Animals shall not be allowed on the beach and picnic areas of Sholan Park. Violators are subject to a fine of \$25 for each bylaw offense.

This section shall not apply to service animals, defined by **ADA** as any guide dog, signal dog, or other animal individually trained to provide assistance to an individual with a disability.

This section shall be enforced by the Animal Control Division of the Town of Sterling.

It shall be the duty of every owner of an animal, or anyone having an animal in their possession or custody, to exercise reasonable care and to take all necessary steps and precautions to prevent any animal from being a nuisance and to protect people, property, and animals from injuries or damage which might result from their animal's behavior, regardless of whether such behavior is motivated by mischief, playfulness, or ferocity. In the event that the owner or keeper of any animal is a minor, the parent or guardian of such minor shall be responsible to ensure that all provisions of this bylaw are complied with.

While on property. It shall be the duty of every owner of any animal, or anyone having any animal in his possession or custody, to ensure that the animal is kept under restraint and that reasonable care and precautions are taken to prevent the animal from leaving, while unattended, the real property limits of its owner, possessor, or custodian, or the real property limits of another person with the knowledge and express permission of the owner of such property. Suggested methods to restrain an animal include the following: to provide that it is securely and humanely enclosed within a house, building, fence, pen, or other enclosure out of which it cannot climb, dig, jump, or otherwise escape on its own volition, and for such enclosure be securely locked at any time the animal is left unattended; to provide it is securely and humanely restrained by chain, cable and trolley or other tether of sufficient strength to prevent escape; or to provide for it to be on a leash and under control of a competent person, or if it is off leash it shall be obedient to that person's commands and that said person is present with the animal any time it is not restrained.

While off property or at large. It shall be the duty of every owner of any animal or anyone having an animal in his possession or custody to ensure that the animal is kept under restraint and control at all times while the animal is off the real property limits of the owners, possessors or custodian. For the purpose of this section, an animal is deemed under control when it is securely confined within a vehicle, parked or in motion; it is properly confined within a secure enclosure with permission of the owner of the property where the enclosure is located; it is securely restrained by a leash or other device held by a competent person; or it is under the **direct control** of the owner.

BLACK BEAR INFORMATION



Black Bears are now active and seeking food.

It is time to take down bird feeders. Bears will often ignore natural foods such as skunk cabbage and head to a bird feeder for an easy meal. To avoid this problem, **Mass Wildlife** is asking property owners to be proactive by removing feeders and other food sources promptly. Once a bear gets food from a feeder, garbage can, or open compost, it will revisit the site and look for similar foods in other yards.

There are at least 4,000 Black Bears in Massachusetts and their range is expanding eastward. Take action now, by securing trash and removing bird feeders, to help avoid conflicts with bears now and in the future. If food such as bird seed, pet food, or trash are easy for Black Bears to find, conflicts can arise that pose hazards to both bears and people.

For more information on black bear go to Division of Fisheries and Wildlife Webpage www.mass.gov/bears and watch the video.

The animal control officer of Sterling!

wants to remind residents if you do see a black bear in your yard you can scare it off by making any loud noise, Such as banging pots/pans together turning a radio on loud, use a air horn, Car Horn, whatever you have to make available to make noises.

The black bear will run off and head into the woods to get away, but sometimes they can go up a tree because they get scared, so if this does happen leave the black bear alone and it will eventually come down when things are quiet.

ACO REMINDER

The Animal Control Officer (ACO) of Sterling wants to remind residents that failure to license a dog/dogs in the Town of Sterling may result in a criminal complaint being issued against you at the Clinton District Court. The deadline was April-15 so if you have not licensed your dog/dogs please do ASAP.