Local Law #1 of 1994

A LOCAL LAW ENTITLED “DOG CONTROL AND LICENSE FEE LOCAL LAW”

Section 1 TITLE

This Local Law shall be entitled "DOG CONTROL AND LICENSE FEE LOCAL LAW. "

Section 2 DECLARATION OF POLICY

It is hereby determined by the Town Board of the Town of Watson that the health, safety and wellbeing of persons and property in the Town will be promoted by restraining the uncontrolled behavior of licensed and unlicensed dogs and it is the intent of this Local Law to do so. Additionally, collection of a separate fee payable to the Town of Watson for licensing of dogs is in the best interests of the residents of the Town.

Section 3 DEFINITIONS

The term "owner" as used in this Local Law shall mean:

A. A person who owns or has the right to custody or possession of a dog; or
B. A person who has actual custody and control of or who harbors a dog or who is otherwise responsible for a dog; or
C. A person who is the head of a household within which a dog is harbored or kept where it is claimed that the dog is owned by a minor or any other person residing in such a household.

The term "running at large" as used in this Local Law shall occur when a dog shall be upon public or private lands, when not accompanied by an owner of such dog , without the consent of the owner of such lands.

Section 4 RESTRICTIONS

It shall be unlawful for any owner of any dog in the Town of Watson to allow such dog to:

A. Run at large; or
B. Be on the lands of others for any purpose where permission by the owner of such lands has been withheld; or
C. Engage in habitual loud howling or barking; or
D. Chase, jump on, menace or otherwise harass any person so as to cause fear of bodily harm or injury. Such conduct shall include the conduct of a dog while on the property of the owner of the dog or upon the property of another with

the property owners' consent where the person placed in fear is a pedestrian upon a path or walkway regularly used by the public for pedestrian traffic; or

E. Attack, chase, harass, molest, worry, injure or kill deer, cattle, horses, poultry or other domestic animals including other dogs .

F. Furthermore, it shall be unlawful for any owner or harborer to keep more than three (3) dogs over the age of four (4) months per premises without a Town Kennel permit. The fee schedule for a Town Kennel Permit shall be as follows:

4 - 10	$25.00
11 - 20	$50.00

The fee shall increase by $50.00 for every ten (10) dogs over the number of 20; shall be in addition to the licensing fee for each dog included; and shall be renewable annually on the anniversary of the initial issuance.

The issuance of a Town Kennel Permit shall be contingent upon compliance with all applicable New York State Agricultural & Markets Laws.

Section 5 LICENSE FEE

In addition to the license fees provided by Section 110 of the Agriculture and Markets Law, there is hereby imposed an additional license fee of fifty cents payable to the Town for each dog license issued by the Town Clerk, which license fee shall commence April 1, 1994.

Section 6 PRESUMPTION

The fact that a dog is running at large shell be presumptive evidence that the dog has been permitted to be at large with the knowledge of the owner.

Section 7 PENALTIES

Any person convicted of a violation of this Local Law shall be deemed to have committed a violation and shall be subject to a fine not exceeding Two Hundred Fifty Dollars ($250.00) and/or imprisonment for a period not exceeding fifteen (15) days.

Section 8 ENFORCEMENT

This Local Law shall be enforced by the Dog Control Officer of the Town of Watson and such officer shall have all the powers conferred upon dog control officers by Article 7 of the Agriculture and Markets Law of the State of New York. Upon receipt of a signed written complaint, and provided the Dog Control Officer has reasonable cause to believe there has been a violation of this Local Law, the Dog Control Officer may issue and serve an appearance ticket for such violation. Other police officers or peace officers otherwise authorized by the

Laws of the State of New York to enforce laws, may also enforce this Local Law upon receipt of a signed written complaint alleging such a violation.

Section 9 EXEMPTION

The provisions of this Local Law relating to Town kennel 1 permits shall not be applicable to Town kennel 1 permits that are in existence on the effective date of this Local Law, for a period of one year after the effective date of this Local Law. Upon the expiration of one year from the date of this Local Law, provisions relating to Town kennel 1 permits shall be applicable to kennels that exist as of the date of this Local Law.

Section 10 EFFECTIVE DATE

This Local Law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the New York State Department of State.