

POLICY OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Response to Nuisance and Vicious Dog Complaints

The Board of Selectmen of the Town of Uxbridge (herein "Board") hereby establishes the following policy regarding responses to nuisance and vicious dog complaints, pursuant to Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 140, Sections 157 and 158.

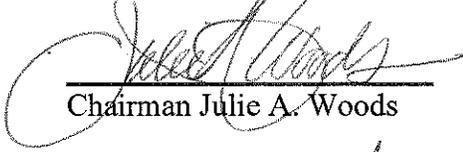
The Animal Control Officer shall adhere to the Uxbridge Police Department Directives and procedures handling animal complaints in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws, Uxbridge General Bylaws, and administrative regulations promulgated by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture, and Division of Animal Health.

The Board, as opposed to the Animal Control Officer or other official must, after investigation of a complaint and hearing on the matter, "make such order concerning the restraint or disposal of such dog as may be deemed necessary." As such, the Board shall exercise its rights under the statute to hold a hearing in accordance with the statute. The complaint process shall be as follows:

1. A complaint must be made in writing to the Board that a dog owned or harbored within the Town of Uxbridge is a nuisance by reasons of vicious disposition, excessive barking or other disturbance.
2. Upon receipt of such written complaint, the Board shall investigate, or cause to be investigated, such complaint. This investigation may include an examination under oath of the complainant. Based on the evidence collected during the investigation, the Board may order the "restraint or disposal" of the dog, as may be necessary.
3. Within ten (10) days of such order, the owner or keeper of the dog may petition in the District Court praying that an order be reviewed. The court may reverse the order if they feel it was made without proper cause or in bad faith.
4. The decision of the District Court is binding upon all parties.

This policy hereby amends and clarifies the Uxbridge Police Department Directive(s) as presented to the Board of Selectmen at their meeting on October 2, 2006.

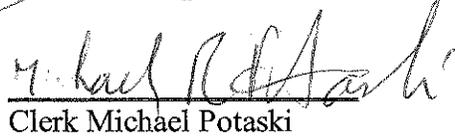
This policy was voted and approved by the Board of Selectmen on February 25, 2008.



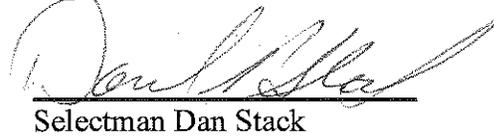
Chairman Julie A. Woods



Vice Chairman Kevin Kuros



Clerk Michael Potaski



Selectman Dan Stack