

The Town of Oak Island's Code of Ordinances is hereby amended as follows:

Sec. 4-46. - Unrestrained dogs.

(a) It shall be the duty of the owner of the dog to be responsible for the dog on the premises of the owner. If any dog leaves the premises of the owner without a leash, it shall be deemed to be running at large. If any dog found at large cannot be safely taken up and impounded, any necessary action may be taken by the duly sworn officer. If any dog is found unrestrained, the dog's owner may be charged criminally as provided by G.S. 160A-175, and/or subject to civil penalties as provided in the town's fee schedule.

(1) Dogs must be restrained off property with a physical leash. Electronic leashes, electronic collars, or electronic fences do not satisfy the requirement for a dog to be restrained off the dog owner's property.

(b) Subject to [section 4-49\(d\)](#), when signs are placed, erected or installed at public beach accesses giving notice thereof, dogs may be on the beach from October 15 to March 15 from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. without a leash under the following conditions:

(1) Dog(s) shall not be left unattended;

(2) Dog(s) must be under visual and voice control at all times;

(3) Do not allow dog(s) to visit with other beach-goers or dogs without permission;

(4) If a dog exhibits aggression toward other dogs or beach-goers, the owner must put the dog on a leash and remove the dog from the beach immediately;

(5) Owners shall be solely responsible for any injury or damage caused by their dog(s); and

(6) Owners shall properly and promptly remove and dispose of all feces left by their dog(s).

(7) It shall be unlawful at all times for a dangerous or vicious dog to be taken on a public beach access or on the public beach.

(8) Dogs must be restrained off property with a physical leash. Electronic leashes, electronic collars, or electronic fences do not satisfy the requirement for a dog to be restrained off the dog owner's property.

If any dog is found unrestrained in violation of this subsection, the dog's owner may be charged criminally and/or may be fined **\$100.00** per offense with a civil penalty in an amount set out in the fee schedule and maintained at town hall.

(c) It shall be unlawful for any dangerous or vicious dog, or dangerous animal to be kept, harbored, or otherwise maintained within the town without being restrained in accordance with the definition of restraint as spelled out in [section 4-49\(a\)](#). If any dangerous or vicious dog, or dangerous animal is found unrestrained, the owner shall be criminally charged and/or fined \$500.00 per violation.

(Ord. of 11-14-2000(5), art. VI, § 3; Ord. of 2-12-2002, art. VI, § 3; Ord. of 12-9-2003; Amend. of 1-9-2007; Amend. of 2-13-2007(2); Ord. of 4-14-2009; Amend. of 1-11-2011; Amend. of 4-12-2011; Amend. of 1-14-2014; Amend. of 9-9-2014)

Adopted this the 14<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2024.

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Mayor S. Elizabeth White

Attested: \_\_\_\_\_  
Lisa P. Stites, MMC  
Town Clerk