

Article 4118(3)

TOWN OF NORTHFIELD

ORDINANCE

MANAGEMENT OF HORSES AND OTHER
DOMESTICATED LIVESTOCK AND ANIMALS

ARTICLE I

AUTHORITY

By the authority conferred to the Town of Northfield by RSA 31:40 I(b) of the New Hampshire Revised Statutes Annotated, 1986, the control and management of horses and other domestic livestock as herein set forth are established.

ARTICLE II

PURPOSE

The purpose of this ordinance is to protect the public from horses and other domesticated livestock which are allowed, by the willful or negligent conduct of the owner or keeper, to run at large so as to place in danger the general public or to otherwise cause damage or destruction to real or personal property of landowners or the general public within the town.

ARTICLE III

DEFINITIONS

DOMESTIC ANIMALS - Domestic animals include horses of either sex including those horses which have been gelded, cows, bulls, mules, donkeys, goats, llamas, and any other animal of any sex which in its common existence is kept or otherwise used as a domesticated animal. This definition does not include those animals which are commonly known to be wild in their ordinary and natural state.

GOING AT LARGE - A domesticated animal as defined above shall be considered "at large" when it has left the real property of the owner, or keeper of said animal if not the owner and has entered onto a public way, public property or the real estate of another without the consent or authority of that person, provided however, that this definition shall not apply to such animals who are at the time they leave the property of their owner or keeper, accompanied by an owner or keeper.

KEEPER - A keeper as defined in this ordinance shall mean a person, other than the legal owner of a domesticated animal as defined herein, who is charged with the responsibility of maintaining and feeding those animals described above on behalf of the owner.

OFFENSE - An offense shall be defined as one (1) instance wherein a domesticated animal as defined above shall be deemed to be "at large".

ARTICLE IV

UNLAWFUL ACT

Any owner or keeper of a domesticated animal as defined herein who willfully or negligently allows a domesticated animal to run at large shall be deemed to be in violation of this ordinance and shall be subject to those penalties as described herein. Any fines collected pursuant to this ordinance shall be for the use of the Town of Northfield. The party or parties deemed to be guilty of violation of this ordinance shall also be liable to the party or parties injured and for damages done by such domesticated animals or animals running at large.

ARTICLE V

PENALTIES

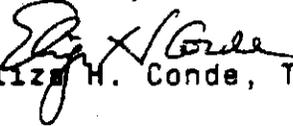
Any person who violates any provision this ordinance shall be liable for a civil forfeiture, which shall be paid to the clerk of the town within 96 hours of the date and time notice is given by any law enforcement officer to the owner or keep in violation of this ordinance. If the forfeiture is paid, said payment shall be in full satisfaction of the assessed penalty. The forfeiture shall be in the amount of \$50.00. Any person who pays a civil forfeiture two times in any year, according to the records of the town clerk, may not pay a civil forfeiture for subsequent violations in that year, but shall have those cases disposed in Franklin District Court and could be subject to a fine of up to \$1,000.00.

ARTICLE VI

ENFORCEMENT

The authority to enforce this ordinance shall be vested in the Animal Control Officer or Officer of the Town of Northfield.

Article passed: March 17, 1990


Eliza H. Conde, Town Clerk