

A Message From  
Simsbury Animal Control  
Officer Mark Rudewicz



## Connecticut Dog Laws

**Sec. 22-357. Damage to person or property.** If any dog does any damage to either the body or property of any person, the owner or keeper, or, if the owner or keeper is a minor, the parent or guardian of such minor, shall be liable for such damage, except when such damage has been occasioned to the body or property of a person who, at the time such damage was sustained, was committing a trespass or other tort, or was teasing, tormenting or abusing such dog. If a minor, on whose behalf an action under this section is brought, was under seven years of age at the time the damage was done, it shall be presumed that such minor was not committing a trespass or other tort, or teasing, tormenting or abusing such dog, and the burden of proof thereof shall be upon the defendant in such action.

**Sec. 22-362. Annoyance by dogs on highway.** Any person owning or having the custody of any dog accustomed to go out on any highway and growl, snap, bite or otherwise annoy any person or domestic animal lawfully using such highway or chase or interfere with any motor vehicle so using such highway, shall be fined not less than twenty-five nor more than fifty dollars or imprisoned not more than thirty days for the first offense or both and for each subsequent offense shall be fined not less than fifty or more than one hundred dollars or imprisoned not more than sixty days or both.

**Sec. 22-363. Nuisance.** No person shall own or harbor a dog or dogs which is or are a nuisance by reason of vicious disposition or excessive barking or other disturbance, or, by such barking or other disturbance, is or are a source of annoyance to any sick person residing in the immediate vicinity. Violation of any provision of this section shall be an infraction for the first offense and such person shall be fined not more than one hundred dollars or imprisoned not more than thirty days or both for each subsequent offense and the court or judge may make such order concerning the restraint or disposal of such dog or dogs as may be deemed necessary.

(363) holds the severest penalty for dogs. For repeated offenses of 363 (or 362 or others), a court or judge may Order that the dog be put to death, thus paying with its life for its owner's negligence in training and control of the dog. Obedience training is advisable for good behavior and to make each dog "a good pet neighbor."

**Sec. 22-364. Dogs roaming at large.** No owner or keeper of any dog shall allow such dog to roam at large upon the land of another and not under control of the owner or keeper or the agent of the owner or keeper, nor allow such dog to roam at large on any portion of any public highway and not attended or under control of such owner or keeper or his agent, provided nothing in this section shall be construed to limit or prohibit the use of hunting dogs during the open hunting or training season. The unauthorized presence of any dog on the land of any person other than the owner or keeper of such dog or on any portion of a public highway when such dog is not attended by or under the control of such owner or

keeper, shall be prima facie evidence of a violation of the provisions of this section. Violation of any provision of this section shall be an infraction.

The biggest source of annoyance and concern to non-dog owners is "roaming." Free to run?? Free to be hit on highways, shot, stolen, trapped, poisoned, infected, mutilated, or lost!!

**Chap. 248**, Sec. 14-226 states that **drivers who injure or kill a dog** must stop at once, render assistance, and report the injury to the owner, or if unable to find him, to the police, giving name, address, oper. lic.#, location and description of dog, etc. Violation of this law is an infraction.

**Sec. 22-350** declares **dogs to be personal property and subject to larceny**. Sec. 22-329, 22-351, and 53-247 spell out various penalties for neglect, theft, cruelty, injury, or killing of dogs, some as high as \$1,000 and/or 6 mo.-3 years imprisonment. Criminal. and civil suits are allowed.