TOWN OF CORINTH
DOG [WOLF HYBRID] CONTROL ORDINANCE

Section 1. Title, Authority, Adoption

A. This ordinance is entitled "Dog [Wolf Hybrid Ordinance]".

B. Authority for this ordinance is found in Titles 20 V.S.A. Sections 3549 and 3550; 24 V.S.A. Sections 1971, 1974a & 2291 (10), 14 & 15 and Title 24 V.S.A Chapter 59.

Section 2. Designation:

This ordinance is designated a civil ordinance pursuant to Title 24 V.S.A. Section 1972.

Section 3. Purpose

It is the purpose of this ordinance to regulate the keeping of dogs [wolf hybrids], to protect public health and safety and to protect the residents' quiet enjoyment of their homes and properties.

Section 4. Definitions:

A. **"Dog"** means any member of then canine species

B. **"Wolf Hybrid" means**

1. An animal that is progeny of a dog and a wolf (Canis lipus or Canis rufus).
2. An animal which is advertised or otherwise described or represented to be wolf hybrid; or
3. An animal which exhibits primary physical and/or behavioral wolf characteristics].

C. **"Owner"** means any person or persons, firm, association or corporation owning, keeping or harboring or who has actual or constructive possession of a dog [or wolf hybrid].

D. **"Running at large"** means that a dog or [wolf hybrid] is not:

1. On a leash
2. In a vehicle;
3. On the owner's property;
4. On the property of another person with the owner's permission;
5. Clearly under the verbal or non-verbal control of the owner or;
6. Under the supervision to hunt legal game, control livestock or in related hunting or agricultural activities such a supervised training.

E. **"Complaint"** shall mean a charge, verbal or written of one or more dogs or [wolf hybrid]. Verbal and written charges shall be recorded and signed using the "dog complaint" form within 24 hours.

F **"Notice"** shall mean a written statement and, if to the owner, to such address as is on file with the Town Clerk or Tax Collector

G. **"Officer or Agent"** shall mean dog officer, police officer, game warden, sheriff, constable, pound keeper or any other person or persons appointed by the Selectboard or any member of the Selectboard if any of the aforementioned officers are not immediately available.

H ."**Vicious dog [or wolf hybrid]** " means a dog [or wolf hybrid] that attacks any person or causes any person to reasonably fear attack or bodily injury from any animal, unless the person is trespassing on the property of the owner of the animal. The term shall also mean any animal which, while running at large, attacks another domestic pet or domestic animal, as defined in 20 V.S.A. section 3541.

I. **"Town"** shall mean Town of Corinth.

Section 5. Disturbances and Nuisances:

A. No dog [or wolf hybrid] shall run at large in the town.

B.. No dog [or wolf hybrid] shall harass or attack other animals or people unless such animals or people are trespassing on the private property of the owner of the dog [or wolf hybrid].

C. A female dog [or wolf hybrid] in heat shall be confined to a building or other secured enclosure, except while under the direct control of the owner.

D. No person shall own, keep or harbor a dog [or wolf hybrid] which disturbs the quiet, comfort and repose of others by frequent, habitual or persistent barking or howling. For the purposes of this section habitual shall mean a period of 30 minutes, day or night. This section may be acted on by any of the officers or agent by any of the officers or agent upon notification in writing by one complainant and one witness. Complainant shall make a reasonable attempt to contact the dog [or wolf hybrid] owner before contacting the town.

Section 6. Cruelty. Any person who tortures, torments, or cruelly beats or mutilates or kills any pet will be in violation of this ordinance and will be fined $200 and such pet shall be confiscated by the officer or agent of the town. Any person who kills a dog will pay disposal cost as well..

Section 7. Collar and License

A. Each dog [or wolf hybrid] shall be licensed according to the State of Vermont and shall wear a collar or harness with the current license attached. An animal which is visiting from out of state must wear a collar or harness with a current license from its home state attached.

B. A dog [or wolf hybrid] which is found without a collar or harness and license shall be immediately impounded under authority of 20 V.S.A. section 3806 and shall be managed under provisions of that statute.

Section 8. Humane Care of Dogs [and wolf hybrids}. All dogs [wolf hybrids] shall be furnished with clean and safe facilities sufficient to protect the animal and the public health. Any dog {or wolf hybrid} determined by an "officer or agent" to be without such clean and safe facilities may be impounded.

Section 9. Enforcement. This is a civil ordinance and shall be enforced by any authorized officer or agent of the town.

Section 10. Impoundment.

A. Any dog [or wolf hybrid] found running at large in the town may be apprehended by an officer or agent and impounded, whether or not a complaint has been received.

B. Upon complaint the officer/agent shall investigate, and shall, if possible, apprehend and impound any dog [or wolf hybrid] running at large.

C. Any dog [or wolf hybrid] which is determined by an authorized officer or agent of the town to be a vicious dog [or wolf hybrid] which presents an imminent danger to people or other animals shall immediately be impounded.

D. Any dog [or wolf hybrid] which is apprehended for a third or subsequent violation of any provision of this ordinance shall be impounded.

E. The dog pound for the Town of Corinth is the Central Vermont Humane Society, 504 Mekkelsen Hill Road, Barre Vt. or such other place that may be designated by the Selectboard .

Section 11. Notice of Impoundment and Release From Impoundment.

A. The officer or agent who impounds a dog [or wolf hybrid] shall, within 24 hours, give notice to owner thereof, either personally or by written notice at the owner's dwelling. Such notice shall inform the owner of the nature of the violations, the location of the animal and the steps which are necessary to have the animal returned to the owner.

B. If the owner is not known, notice of impoundment shall be posted at the Town Clerk's office as well as other areas in the town or as required by state statute.

C. Impounded animals shall be released to the owner only after payment of all penalties and impoundment fees, including license fees for unlicensed dogs, and after remedial action by the owner. Remedial action shall include but is not limited to such actions as providing a collar and current license and providing a plan for compliance with the provisions of this ordinance and state law.

Section 12. Penalties and Costs. Unless otherwise specified in the ordinance the penalties and fines will be as follows:

A. First offense written warning including consequences of future violations.

B. Second offense	Municipal ticket; $25.00 full penalty/$15.00 waiver penalty.
C. Third offense	Municipal ticket, 50 full penalty/$35.00 waiver penalty.
D. Subsequent offenses	Impoundment & impoundment costs, plus Municipal ticket; $100.00 full penalty/$75.00 waiver penalty.

E. Impoundment costs shall be set annually by the Selectboard.

Section 13. Other Laws. This ordinance is in addition to all other ordinances of the Town of Corinth and all applicable laws of the State of Vermont.

Section 14. Severability. If any section of this ordinance is held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such finding shall not invalidate any other part of this ordinance.

Section 15. Effective Date. This ordinance shall become effective 60 days after its adoption by the Corinth Selectboard. If a petition is filed under 24 V.S.A. section 1973, that statute shall govern the taking effect of this ordinance.

Section 16. Notice. This ordinance shall be entered into the minutes of the town records and shall be posted in at least five conspicuous places in town. A concise summary of it shall be published in a newspaper of local distribution within 14 days of its adoption within fourteen days of its adoption accompanied by information as to where the full text of it may be examined, the right of voters to petition for a vote, and the name, address and telephone number of a person who is available to answer questions about it.

Date adopted November 12, 2001

John H. Learmouth Jr.

Gregory D. Thurston

Francis J. Rodrigue

Selectboard, Town of Corinth