

## City of Eupora Dog Leash Ordinance

Ordinance No. 24-05

### An Ordinance Requiring All Dogs to Be Leashed

**Section 1: Purpose** The purpose of this ordinance is to promote public safety and the well-being of both the citizens and dogs within the city limits of Eupora by requiring that all dogs be leashed when off the owner's property.

**Section 2: Definitions** For the purposes of this ordinance, the following terms shall have the meanings respectively ascribed to them:

- a. "Dog" means any member of the canine family, regardless of age or sex.
- b. "Owner" means any person having a right of property in a dog, who keeps or harbors a dog, or who has a dog in his or her care, custody, or control.
- c. "Leash" means a cord, rope, strap, or chain that is securely fastened to the dog and held by the owner or a responsible person.
- d. "Public place" means any street, sidewalk, park, or any other area to which the public has access.

### Section 3: Leash Requirement

- a. All dogs must be securely leashed at all times when in a public place within the city limits of Eupora.
- b. Retractable leashes are permitted; however, the leash must not exceed twelve feet in length.
- c. Dogs must be under the control of their owner or a responsible person capable of restraining the dog at all times while on the leash.

**Section 4: Exceptions** The leash requirement shall not apply to:

- a. Dogs participating in organized and supervised dog training, dog shows, or events in designated areas.
- b. Police or service dogs when performing their official duties.
- c. Dogs within designated off-leash areas approved by the Board of Aldermen.

d. Dogs in designated open public areas and parks specifically allowed for off-leash exercise, provided that the dog is under control of its owner or handler and that no complaints are received from other citizens regarding the dogs behavior.

**Section 5: Penalties** a. Any owner found in violation of this ordinance shall be subject to a fine of \$50 for the first offense.

b. Subsequent offenses shall result in fines of \$100 for each violation.

c. Continued violations may result in the impoundment of the dog and further legal action as deemed necessary by the city authorities.

**Section 6: Enforcement** This ordinance shall be enforced by the Eupora Police Department and other designated city officials.

**Section 7: Severability** If any section, clause, or provision of this ordinance is found to be invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such finding shall not affect the validity of the remaining provisions of this ordinance.

**Section 8: Effective Date** This ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and publication as required by law.

Passed and adopted by the City Council of Eupora on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, **2024**.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Attest: City Clerk

Alderman Gary Voted: \_\_\_\_\_

Alderman Shaw Voted: \_\_\_\_\_

Alderman Tabb Voted: \_\_\_\_\_

Alderman Newton Voted: \_\_\_\_\_

Alderman Gibbs Voted: \_\_\_\_\_