**Summary of Ordinances Regarding Dogs on Beaches**

**Town Ordinances – Southern Coast of Maine**

The following summary of ordinances related to dogs on beaches was prepared from information taken from municipal websites unless otherwise noted. The towns from Old Orchard Beach to Ogunquit are those in the area that currently have piping plover activity according to the Audubon Society. While South Portland’s Willard Beach is not known to have had piping plover activity, the South Portland ordinance is included because it is a large, neighboring municipality with an intensively used, yet relatively small, beach area.

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| **Municipality** | **More or less****restrictive 1** | **Summary of Ordinance** |
| Old Orchard Beach | Less | No dogs on the beach between 10am and 5pm from Memorial Day to Labor Day. No other restrictions noted. (Town website) |
| Saco | Less | Dogs must be kept on leashes on beaches from 9am to 5pm in July and August. At all other times, dogs must be on leash or under their owners' control in all public places. (Story in 09-05-12 *Portland Press Herald* notes that Council rejected an ordinance that was very similar to Scarborough’s current ordinance.) (City website; PPH story, 09-05-12) |
| Kennebunk | Less | In all public places, dogs must be leashed at all times or under voice control of owner with leash carried in owner’s hand. From June 15 to Labor Day, no dogs permitted on beach from 9am to 5 pm. |
| So. Portland | Less | * May 1 - Sept. 30: Dogs are allowed off-leash under voice control 7am to 9am and 7pm to 9pm. No dogs on the beach 9am – 7pm.
* Oct. 1 - April 30: Dogs allowed on the beach off-leash under voice control 6am – 9pm.
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| Scarborough(current ordinance) | -- | * June 15 – Sept. 15: Sunrise to 9am: Dogs may be unleashed and under voice control. From 9am to 5pm: Dogs prohibited from the beach. After 5pm: Dogs permitted on beach if leashed.
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| Wells | More | * April 1 – June 15: Dogs must be leashed at all times.
* June 16 – Sept. 15: (a) prior to 8 am: not specified, (b) 8am to 6pm: dogs not allowed on beach, (c) 6pm to 8pm: dogs allowed on leash. (Town Police website)
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| Biddeford | More | No unleashed dog is allowed on any of the city's public beaches. Dogs may not use any part of the city's beaches between the hours of 9am. and 5pm from May 25 [yes, May 25] to Sept. 15 of each year. (City website) |
| Kennebunkport | More | Dogs must always be leashed on town beaches. Dogs are not allowed on Town beaches between the hours of 8am to 6pm from June 15 to Sept 15. |
| Ogunquit | More | Dogs are not permitted within the entire Ogunquit Beach Area, from the Main Beach to the Moody Beach Town Line from April 1 to Sept. 30. No other restrictions noted. (Town website) |

**Analysis:** The ordinances of Old Orchard Beach, Saco, Kennebunk and South Portland (4 towns) are generally less restrictive than Scarborough’s, while those of Biddeford, Kennebunkport, Wells and Ogunquit (4 towns) are generally more restrictive. It is fair to say that Scarborough’s current ordinance with respect to dogs on Town beaches is right in the middle of the range of restrictiveness of the peer municipalities reviewed.

**Note 1**: Evaluation of whether each city/town’s dog ordinance is more or less restrictive than Scarborough’s current ordinance. No attempt has been made to rank the municipalities within the categories of more or less restrictive.

**Draft 09-11-13(1124)** / tth