

## **Proposed Changes to the Reading General Bylaws**

### **Article \_\_\_\_: Expand and clarify the definition of Effective Voice Control of an animal**

To see if the Town will vote to amend Section 8.8.1.3 Effective Voice Control as follows:

#### **Effective Voice Control**

An animal shall be deemed to be “under effective voice control” if it is within the handler’s sight, refrains from aggressive behavior, and the handler is carrying a leash. Dogs must not be allowed to jump on, aggressively bark at or approach anyone without their consent, and must come immediately when called. Any dog that behaves in a manner that a reasonable person would believe poses an unjustified imminent threat of physical injury to a person or to another dog is exhibiting nuisance or dangerous behavior as defined by Mass. General Laws c. 140 Section 136A and is not under effective voice control.

### **Article \_\_\_\_: Control of off-leash dogs in the Town Forest**

To see if the Town will vote to amend Section 8.8.3.2 of the General Bylaws by (1) inserting a new Section 8.8.3.2.3, as follows:

#### **Town Forest**

The maximum number of off-leash dogs shall not exceed two per handler in the Town Forest. Any dog that does not remain under effective voice control or exhibits nuisance or dangerous behavior as defined in Section 8.8.1.3 must be placed on a leash or removed from the off-leash area immediately. Dog waste must be removed in accordance with Section 8.8.3.3. Dogs must be leashed when entering or exiting an off-leash area. Visitors who do not abide by these rules may be subject to eviction from the Town Forest and/or receive a fine under Bylaw Section 8.8 Animal Control as follows:

First Offense: \$50

Second Offense: \$100

Additional Offenses: \$300

Enforcing Person: Animal Control Officer

and (2) Renumbering the remaining section accordingly; or take any other action with respect thereto.