

PATRICIA A. FISHER  
Chief of Police  
7 Morgan Avenue  
Newbury, MA. 01951



ORI-MA 0052200



EMERGENCY: 911  
TEL: (978) 462-4440  
BUS. FAX: (978) 463-3056  
[www.newburypolice.org](http://www.newburypolice.org)

To: Dog owners in the Town of Newbury  
From: Ipswich Regional Animal Control  
Re: **Piping Plovers and Dog Ownership in Newbury**

## **ABOUT PIPING PLOVERS**

Piping Plovers are listed as a threatened species both in Massachusetts and on the Federal Endangered Species List. The current population decline is due to increased development and recreational use of beaches. Nesting sites near beaches are often accidentally stepped on or crushed by people and vehicles. Piping Plovers are easily frightened and will abandon their nests if they feel threatened by humans or dogs, leaving their chicks or eggs exposed to hot sun or predators. PETS may also harass or kill the birds, or destroy nests.

## **WHAT IS THE TOWN OF NEWBURY DOING TO HELP?**

The Town of Newbury is thoughtfully engaged in Plover preservation in partnership with Mass Audubon, residents may see volunteers on the public beaches observing and collecting Plover data from March-September. These volunteers may ask you to leash your pet, or stay away from a fenced-off area due to an active Plover nest. As a Town we are committed to this responsibility and want to include our residents in the efforts.

## **WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?**

- Newbury Town Bylaw c46-6 prohibits dogs from being on the beach between May 15 – September 15 between 8:30am – 5:30pm.
- We recommend keeping dogs on leashes while on the public beach from March-September
- Should you walk your dog off leash be aware of fencing and posted signage, keep your dogs out of those areas.
- Educate your friends and family on the importance of keeping dogs away from Plovers, eggs, and nesting sites.

## **WHAT HAPPENS IF A PIPING PLOVER IS “TAKEN”?**

The term “Take” or “Taken” for this purpose is the intentional or unintentional harassment, injuring or killing of a Piping Plover. Further, to “take” incorporates the loss of eggs or damage to a nest. There are several State and Federal Laws pertaining to the protection and take of Piping Plovers, fines range from \$500.00 to \$200,000.00. Individuals can be fined if their dog is found to be responsible for the “take” of a Piping Plover. The Town can also be found responsible should the “take” of a Piping Plover, eggs, or nest occur on Town land.

## **CONCLUSION**

As a Town, we want both our two-and-four-legged residents and guests to enjoy our beautiful public beaches, however we have seen an increase in dog interactions with Plovers. In an effort to educate our residents and

guests, you will see signs at our beach accessways and we are sending this letter to all residents in Town who register their dogs. For more information, please visit <https://www.townofnewbury.org/conservation-commission/pages/info-dogs-public-beach>

We appreciate your cooperation and understanding.

*Megan Sousa*

Megan Sousa  
Chief Animal Control Officer / Animal Inspector  
Ipswich Regional Animal Control