

**TOWN OF STARKSBORO, VERMONT**

**PUBLIC NOTICE OF  
1) INVESTIGATION OF VICIOUS DOG  
COMPLAINT AND HEARING PURSUANT TO  
STARKSBORO'S ORDINANCE REGULATING  
DOGS AND WOLF-HYBRIDS AND 20 V.S.A. §§ 3546 AND 3807, AND  
2) NOTICE OF IMPOUNDMENT**

**SENT BY CERTIFIED MAIL, RRR  
AND FIRST CLASS MAIL**

Shawn Pomainville  
261 Robert Young Road  
Starksboro, VT 05487

**1) Notice of Hearing**

You are hereby notified pursuant to the Town of Starksboro's Ordinance Regulating Dogs and Wolf-Hybrids ("Ordinance"), Section 8 (Impoundment) and Section 9 (Investigation of Vicious Dogs) and 20 V.S.A. §§ 3546 and 3807, that the Starksboro Selectboard shall conduct a hearing on May 12, 2026, at 5:30PM to determine whether a dog, believed to be known as "Cash", while under your actual or constructive possession as owner, has bitten a person while the dog was off the premises of its owner or keeper. You are hereby notified that, based upon a written complaint dated April 20, 2026, of an attack by your dog occurring on April 15, 2026, in the vicinity of 660 Dan Sargent Road, a hearing will be held to determine whether violations of Sections 4, 5, 8 and 9 of the Ordinance, and 20 V.S.A. §§ 3581 (failure to register), 3546 (biting without provocation and running at large) and 3804 (failure to maintain proof of vaccination for rabies) have occurred. The Starksboro Selectboard will also consider at the hearing what, if any, fines, penalties, injunctive and other remedies authorized by law will be imposed.

Please be advised that a copy of the Ordinance is attached and delivered herewith for your reference. A copy of the written Complaint dated April 20, 2026, may be obtained by contacting the Starksboro Town Office during normal office hours.

You are hereby notified that the Starksboro Selectboard shall conduct the hearing pursuant to Section 9 of the Ordinance and in compliance with 20 V.S.A. § 3546 on May 12, 2026, at 5:30PM at the Starksboro Town Offices located at 2849 Route 116 in Starksboro. Persons may attend in person or via remote/audio connection using the following web address:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84357732325?pwd=REINV2Y1Ym9GVkZSMXRFOEdnQTQzQT09>

At that place and time, you are invited to attend and provide evidence in the form of sworn testimony, documentation or other tangible information concerning the April 15, 2026, incident. The Starksboro Selectboard shall also hear testimony concerning the status of the dog believed to be known as "Cash" as to registration and vaccination history as well as other information

relevant to the facts of the incident and an appropriate protective order, if any, as the facts and circumstances of the case require, including without limitation, that the dog be disposed of in a humane way, muzzled, chained, or confined as well as the imposition of fines, penalties or costs pursuant to 20 V.S.A. § 3550 or the Ordinance.

**2) Notice of Impoundment**

Pursuant to Section 8 of the Ordinance, any dog may be immediately impounded if the dog:

1. has been determined by an Enforcement Officer to be a “potentially vicious dog,” which presents an imminent danger to people or other animals;
2. has reportedly bitten a person off the premises of its owner;
3. is in violation of State licensing law;
4. has an unknown rabies vaccination history or is suspected of having been exposed to rabies;
5. is running at large;
6. is an unconfined dog in heat; or
7. is found without a collar or harness and license.

Pending the hearing scheduled for May 12, 2026, you are hereby informed pursuant to Section 8 of the Ordinance that your dog believed to be known as “Cash” is hereby ordered to be immediately delivered, seized and impounded as being a potentially vicious dog that has reportedly bitten a person off the premises of the owner, while in violation of the State licensing law, and has an unknown rabies vaccination history. Please take immediate steps to contact Michelle Fuller, Starksboro’s Animal Control Officer at [mfuller0408@gmail.com](mailto:mfuller0408@gmail.com) or by calling (802) 343-4914 to arrange for the delivery and impoundment of your dog known as “Cash” or to make other arrangements satisfactory to the Animal Control Officer to secure and physically restrain your dog pending a Selectboard Decision and Order of the above-referenced investigation and hearing.

You may direct any questions you have regarding the above to the undersigned at the Starksboro Town Office or James F. Carroll, Esq., counsel for the Town of Starksboro, at (802) 388-6711.

TOWN OF STARKSBORO

/s/ Michelle Fuller  
Michelle Fuller,  
Starksboro Animal Control Officer

/s/ Eric Cota  
Eric Cota, Vice Chair  
Starksboro Selectboard

Date: 05/01/2026

cc: James F. Carroll, Esq. (via e-mail)  
Amy McCormick, Town Clerk (via e-mail)  
Shawn Pomainville c/o [kvanvlie@middlebury.edu](mailto:kvanvlie@middlebury.edu)