

Animal Care & Control

Health and Human Services

Be Safe. Be Legal. Use a Leash.

Animal Care and Control

A leash is a great way to protect your pet from the dangers of the outside world such as cars, wild animals, and other people's pets. By keeping your pet on a leash, you are also acting as a good neighbor.

Adopting a Pet

The municipal ordinance (Title 17) requires that a person who owns an animal, such as a dog or cat, shall control it at all times. In a public place, with some exceptions, the municipal ordinance requires that an owner shall have his/her animal under control and shall not allow it to roam neighborhoods or have access to other people's property.

Lost Pets

Licensing Your Dog

Owner Surrendering Pets

Controlling an animal means to simultaneously monitor, direct, and restrict an animal's movement and activities in a humane manner.

Animal Bites

Animals and Disaster Preparation

Control by leash means to control an animal by securely attaching a leash, chain, or an item which is physically capable of restraining the animal, including electronic collar, to the animal which is in the secure possession of a person physically and mentally capable of monitoring, directing, and restricting the animal's movements and activities.

Barking Dogs

Donations

Employment

Control by command means to control an animal by visual or audible commands, or a combination thereof, to which the animal responds promptly and accurately. Control by command is only allowed if the following criteria are met:

Forms and Brochures

Licensing Your Animal Facility

- The animal is engaged in an activity that precludes it from accomplishing that activity if restrained, AND

Off-Leash Dog Areas

- The animal is in an area normally associated with that activity, AND

Leash Law

- The activity is conducted in a manner that minimizes impact with the general public.

Scoop the Poop

Spaying and Neutering

All three of the above criteria must be met in order for a pet to legitimately be off-leash in public. Examples of allowed activities may include dog agility trials, retriever training, and throwing/catching a Frisbee. The code doesn't allow for off-leash dog walking unless the pet is in a designated off-leash dog park space.

Trapping Loose Domestic Animals

Download the brochure "Responsible Pet Ownership and the Law" here (PDF)

Vaccinations

Volunteering

Animal Control Advisory Board

Animal Control Hearings Office

Health and Human Services Divisions

- Administration
- Cemetery
- Direct Services
- Public Health Initiatives & Partnerships

Related Links

[Live Pet Camera](#)

[Pet ID Video "ACATamy Award"](#)

[Pet Spay or Neuter Video "Get Real"](#)

[Pet Licensing Video "Bling"](#)

[Pet Licensing Video "Let's See Some ID"](#)

[Strategic Plan: Animal Care & Control \(PDF\)](#)

[Municipal Animal Law Amended 5-26-15 \(AO 2015-55\)](#)

[Municipal Animal Law Amended 7-14-15 \(AO 2015-74\)](#)

[Municipal Animal Law \(Title 17\) \(54-page PDF\)](#)

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Off-Leash Dog Areas

In 2003, a number of areas were established for off-leash dog activity in Anchorage. The designated areas are within the following locations:

- University Lake Park
- Far North Bicentennial Park (North Gasline Trail)
- Russian Jack Park
- Connors Bog
- South Anchorage Sports Park (Future American Legion Fields)

Off-Leash Dog Areas - Rules and Regulations

- Dogs must be legally licensed and have a current rabies vaccination.
- Dogs must be leashed upon entering and leaving the off-leash dog areas.
- Classified dogs and female dogs in heat are prohibited.
- The owner or custodian of the dog must remain in the dog area with the dog.
- Dogs must be under control as defined in Title 17.
- Dog feces must be cleaned up by the dog owner or custodian.
- Holes dug by dogs must be filled by the dog owner or custodian.
- Owners or custodians are responsible for all actions of their dogs.

Additional Rules and Regulations for Specific Areas

Connor's Bog

- Off-leash activity shall be restricted to the designated area once ski-joring trails are groomed.

University Lake

- Specific trails within this park may be closed to off-leash use on a seasonal basis. Such trails will be clearly posted.

Good Petiquette

Areas designated for off-leash dog use are shared by many park users including skiers, walkers, runners, bikers, and others. Because these areas are truly multi-use, it is important to exhibit courteous behavior or "good petiquette". There are some simple things that can be done to make off-leash areas enjoyable for all users including:

- Always carry a leash (if you need it, you have it).
- Bring poop scoop bags from home to clean up after your pet. Please help by picking up extra. Even responsible dog owners get distracted.
- Keep you dog in sight and under control at all times.
- Control excessive barking.
- Off-leash areas are shared for a variety of activities so please be respectful of other users. Keep your dog controlled and from interfering with other people and their dogs (especially leashed ones).
- Properly dispose of all garbage in cans or take it home with you.
- Remember, you are fully responsible for your dog and his actions.

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Dog Parks

[Urban Dog Etiquette \(Adobe pdf\)](#)

[Far North Bicentennial](#)

[University Lake](#)

[Russian Jack](#)

[Connors Bog](#)

[South Anchorage Sports Pk](#)

[Off-Leash Dog Brochure Rules and Area Maps \(Adobe.pdf\)](#)

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Licensing Your Dog

Did you know that all dogs over the age of four months are required to be licensed and wear their current license tag?

Why does your dog need to be licensed?

- A license provides Identification if your dog is lost.
- License fees help support the services of Anchorage Animal Care and Control, including reuniting lost pets with their family.
- Dogs with a license tag will be given initial veterinary stabilization if they come to us injured.
- Local veterinarians are generally more willing to invest in emergency treatment for animals wearing a license tag.

Purchasing a License

- Purchase online
- Purchase by mail
- Purchase in person at the shelter or check with your veterinarian to see if they are a license vendor

Dog licenses may be purchased for one, two, or three years. The license period cannot exceed the rabies vaccine expiration date. A license is only valid if the dog's rabies vaccination is current.

Owners of four or more dogs are required to obtain a multi-animal facility license. [Click here](#) for more information on facility licensing.

You can download our Individual and Facility Licensing brochure [here](#).

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