

CARE AND HANDLING OF PETS

August 2022-2023

BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR!! No one wants to step in or clean up someone else's dog's feces. No one wants to feel threatened by a dog off-leash and no one wants to listen to a dog's incessant barking.

The Dallas City Code, Section 7 covers in great detail the regulations that govern pet ownership in the Dallas City limits. Adherence to these regulations is not only a City of Dallas requirement; it is also courteous and respectful of your neighbors and neighborhood. The three most important issues for our neighborhood are:

- **POOPER SCOOPER LAW: YOU ARE REQUIRED TO CLEAN UP AFTER YOUR PET.** The City Code requires the owner, or a person having care, custody, or control of a dog, to remove in an immediate and sanitary manner any feces created by their dog on public property, or any private property not owned, leased, or controlled by them. It further requires those individuals to have in their possession a device for the safe and sanitary removal and disposal of feces. See City Code Section 7-4.8.
- **LEASH LAW: YOU ARE REQUIRED TO HAVE YOUR PET ON A LEASH AT ALL TIMES.** An owner of an animal commits an offense if he fails to restrain the animal at all times in a fenced yard, in an enclosed pen or structure, or by a tether or leash. See City Code Section 7-3.1.
- **DISTURBANCE LAW: YOUR NEIGHBORS SHOULD NOT BE DISTURBED BY A DOG BARKING EXCESSIVELY AT ANY TIME DAY OR NIGHT.** Noise made by any animal is considered unreasonable if it continues for more than 15 minutes or exceeds the sound pressure level allowed in a residential district. A person who is disturbed by an animal who unreasonably barks, howls, or makes other unreasonable noise may file a disturbance complaint with Dallas Animal Services. See City Code Section 7-7.4.

If you experience neighbors in violation of any of these ordinances, you should first discuss the problems with the resident. If that doesn't remedy the situation, contact the ACC Chairperson. Violations can also be reported to the City by dialing 3-1-1. There are other remedies available, including contacting the City Attorney's office at (214) 670-4439.

The City Ordinances can be found at this website: <https://dallascityhall.com/departments/dallas-animal-services/Pages/Pet-Laws.aspx>