



LAWS ON PAWS

Responsible pet ownership involves following local laws. Chapter 7-12 of the Chicago Municipal Code governs animal care and control in the City. As a good pet owner and neighbor, here are a couple of key ordinances to keep in mind.

HOLD ON TIGHT!


7-12-030: Animals shall be restrained. Each owner shall keep and maintain his animal under restraint; provided, however, that this section shall not apply to any dog being used for rescue or law enforcement work. It shall be unlawful for any owner to allow his or her animal to cross outside the property line of its owner to any extent, including reaching over or under a fence, or to keep or allow his or her animal to be outdoors on an unfenced portion of the owner's property, unless the animal is leashed and under the control of its owner or another responsible person. In addition, it shall be an unlawful failure to restrain for an animal to attack, bite, threaten, or jump on any person without that person's consent, outside the property of the animal's owner. The provisions of this section shall be a positive duty of the owner and the offenses described herein shall be strict liability offenses.

Any owner who violates any provision of this section shall be subject to a fine of \$300.00, if the violation does not result in severe injury or death to any person or damage to another person's property. If the violation results in severe injury or death to any person, the owner shall be subject to a fine of not less than \$1,000.00 and not more than \$10,000.00. In addition to a fine, the owner may be required to submit full restitution to the victim or may be incarcerated for a period not to exceed six months, or may be required to perform up to 100 hours of community service, or any combination thereof. If the violation results in damage to another person's property, the owner shall be subject to a fine of not less than \$300.00 and not more than \$1,000.00. In addition to a fine, the owner may be required to submit full restitution to the victim. (Prior code § 98-3; Amend Coun. J. 10-2-95, p. 8604; Amend Coun. J. 10-31-01, p. 71774, § 1; Amend Coun. J. 3-31-04, p. 20916, § 3.25)

REMOVE THE DOO!

7-12-420: Removal of Excrement. No person shall appear with a pet upon the public ways or within public places or upon the property of another, absent that person's consent, without some means for the removal of excrement; nor shall any person fail to remove any excrement deposited by such pet. This section shall not apply to a blind person while walking his or her guide dog.

Any person found to have been in violation of this section shall be fined not less than \$50.00 nor more than \$500.00 for each offense. (Prior code § 98-19; Amend Coun. J. 5-14-97, p. 44297)

Woof!  For more information or to report a violation please contact the City of Chicago Non-Emergency Helpline at 3-1-1.

