



RNRA
RIVER NORTH
RESIDENTS
ASSOCIATION



Greetings neighbors. As the warm weather approaches, the RNRA Board would like to enlist your support and assistance with an important local issue; dog protocol in public spaces.

We are enthusiastic supporters of responsible pet ownership and proud of the fact that River North is widely seen as a pet-friendly community. It goes without saying that the overwhelming majority of local pet owners routinely comply with all applicable regulations, but with so many dogs in the neighborhood, even a small percentage of infractions can create a big impact so we want to take this opportunity to remind everyone about the rules for the safety and comfort of humans and pets alike.

Registration

Municipal Code 7-12-140 requires all dogs four months and older be registered with the City of Chicago. This is a requirement for access to boarding and daycare facilities as well as all Chicago Park District dog-friendly areas. It also helps to reunite lost dogs with their families by calling 312-744-DOGS with the registration number on the dog's tag. Registration only costs \$5.00 for most sterilized dogs and requires a current rabies vaccination. **The fines for violation run from \$30.00 to \$200.00.**

Leashes

Municipal Code 7-12-130 requires that all dogs, except for rescue and law enforcement animals, be restrained and under the control of the owner or another responsible party at all times when in the public way. The only public places in the city where this does not apply are designated "dog-friendly" areas. It is also unlawful for any owner to allow his or her unleashed animal to cross outside the property line of its owner to any extent. **The fine for violation is \$300.00.**

Waste

Municipal Code 7-12-420 requires that everyone who brings a pet into a public space, other than blind persons with guide dogs, must have some means for the removal of excrement and must remove any excrement deposited by the pet. **The fines for violation run from \$50.00 to \$500.00.**

Detailed information on all pet-related ordinances can be found at <http://chicityclerk.com/legislation-records/municipal-code>

Ward Park and Ohio Place Park

A. Montgomery Ward Park is comprised of two sections; north and south, which are divided by the terrace located directly west of the cul-de-sac at the end of Erie Street. The north section of the park is comprised entirely of on-leash and off-leash dog-friendly areas. The south section, which includes the children's playground, is off limits to dogs at all times by Park District rules.

Another public off-leash facility, this one owned by the City of Chicago rather than the Park District, is located just three blocks away on Ohio Street between Orleans and Kingsbury. When combined with the north section of Ward Park, this equates to nearly two acres of public space dedicated to dogs and dog owners within River North. Most Chicago communities have none.

When these spaces were developed, a lot of thought was given to the needs of various constituencies, including dog owners, the parents of young children, elderly and disabled people, joggers, cyclists and ordinary adults who just want a safe, clean, comfortable place to enjoy the outdoors. Such allocations of public amenities are never perfect, but the Park District, Aldermen Natarus and Reilly, Friends of the Parks and the RNRA take some pride in the fact that serious effort was made to consider and address the needs of the entire community.

Please Help Spread the Word

When dogs are improperly unleashed or allowed into prohibited public areas, it can create an unsafe and/or uncomfortable experience for both animals and people. Uncollected pet waste is unsightly, attracts rodents and spreads disease. Please help us protect and enhance the quality of life for all River North residents by respectfully encouraging pet owners to follow the rules.

Thank you!

RNRA Board
rnrachicago.org