

Louisville Metro Animal Ordinance

Note: This is a portion of the latest Animal Ordinance for Louisville Metro. It was passed by the Metro Council on December 19, 2006 and approved by Mayor Jerry Abramson on January 4, 2007.

Ordinance No. 233, Series 2006

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE LOUISVILLE/JEFFERSON COUNTY METRO GOVERNMENT [THE COUNCIL] AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION I. LMCO Chapter 91 is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

GENERAL PROVISIONS

§ 91.001 DEFINITIONS.

For the purpose of this chapter, the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning.

ALTERED ANIMAL. Any animal that has been spayed or neutered.

ENCLOSURES.

(1) **ENCLOSURES FOR DOGS AND PUPPIES.**

(a) Enclosures for dogs and puppies shall be a fence or structure of sufficient height and construction to prevent the animal from leaving the owner's property. The fence or structure must be in good repair and fit to ground level or a fabricated structure that prevents the animal from digging out. Gates and doors must fit properly and must be locked or secured by a latch that prevents the animal from opening the gate or door.

(b) Property enclosed by a buried wire which produces a signal received by a device attached to a collar worn by the dog or puppy which prevents the animal from leaving the property of the owner will be considered a proper enclosure, provided the device and signal are working and the animal does not leave the property unrestrained. Such property must be clearly marked with a sign prescribed by MAS, posted next to the driveway or entry to the property. The enclosure must contain proper shelter from the weather. **This type of enclosure is not acceptable for a female in heat, for unaltered dogs,** dangerous dogs, or potentially dangerous dogs.

RESTRAINT.

(2) For puppies and dogs, RESTRAINT shall mean on the premises of the owner and confined in a secure enclosure, or accompanied by the owner on the owner's property and under his/her direct control. If off the premises of the owner, the animal must be restrained by a

lead or leash and under the control of a responsible person physically able to control the dog, or except for unaltered dogs, dangerous dogs, and potentially dangerous dogs, accompanied by a responsible person into an enclosed “off-leash” area designated by the Kentucky Department of Parks or the Metro Department of Parks and in conformance with all regulations and/or requirements imposed as a condition of utilizing such “off-leash” area by such Departments of Parks, or their designees.

(3) In addition to the requirements of Section 2, above, under this definition, RESTRAINT for unaltered dogs, dangerous dogs, and potentially dangerous dogs shall mean as follows:

(i) that dangerous dogs and potentially dangerous dogs are at all times securely muzzled when off the premises of the owner. The muzzle shall be made in such a manner that will not cause injury to the dog or interfere with its vision or respiration, but shall prevent it from biting any human or other animal; and

(ii) **that owners of unaltered dogs**, dangerous dogs, and potentially dangerous dogs shall not allow the dog to be outside an enclosure as defined in this chapter unless the dog is confined to a secure cage, or is chained, leashed, and is under the control of a person physically able to restrain the dog.

(iii) **that a lead or leash for an unaltered dog shall not exceed four feet in length.**

§ 91.002 RESTRAINT REQUIRED.

All animals shall be kept under restraint at all times, as defined in this chapter, except as otherwise provided herein, and any deviation or violation thereof is strictly prohibited.

§ 91.011 SANITARY DISPOSAL OF ANIMAL FECES REQUIRED.

(A) It shall be unlawful for any owner or person in charge of a dog, cat, ferret, or other four-footed mammal, poultry or other fowl to permit such animal to be on school grounds, metro parks or other public property, or on any private property other than that of the owner or person in charge or control of such animal without the permission of the owner of said property, or on any streets, sidewalks, highways, or rights-of-way of the Metro Government other than duly designated bridle paths, unless the owner or person in charge of such animals:

(1) has, in his or her possession, a suitable device for the picking up, collection and proper sanitary disposal of the animal feces or manure.

(2) **immediately** removes all feces deposited by such animal(s) and disposes of same in a sanitary manner.

(B) This section shall not apply to blind or visually impaired persons accompanied by an assistance dog.

Louisville Dog Ordinance Frequently Asked Questions

Restraint Specific

Is there a leash law? Yes.

As it applies to Puppies & Dogs:

If you are in your own yard with your puppy or dog the animals should either be confined in a secure enclosure or accompanied by the owner and under his/her direct control.

If you are off premise with an altered dog, (where permission has not been granted) the dog must be restrained by a leash or lead and under the control of a person who is physically able to control the dog.

Unaltered dogs are required to be kept on a leash that is no longer than four feet.

Dangerous & Potentially Dangerous dogs are also required to be kept on leash that is no longer than four feet and muzzled.

Can keep my dog in my yard on a chain?

A dog may not be exclusively restrained to a fixed point chain between the hours of 8 am and 6 pm or for more than an hour at a time in any eight hour period.

Can I use an invisible fence to restrain my dog?

Yes, if your pet is altered. No, if it is not.