

Basic Rules of Pet Ownership

The rules are simple:

- Keep your dog and cat confined to your property or under direct control if it is off your property. Acceptable means of confinement include: in your house or inside a fence, pen or other enclosure. "Control" generally means on a leash.
- Pets are not permitted to roam at large off your property; neither are they permitted on the public beaches. Do not permit pets to commit other public nuisances such as chasing or harassing people or vehicles; damaging or destroying property of others; or making excessive, continuous noise disturbing to others.
- You must provide proper shelter, protection from the weather and clean conditions. Wholesome food and water, adequate exercise, and veterinary care must be supplied. Shelter must be of suitable size and weatherproof, with adequate bedding such as blankets, shavings or the equivalent.
- Pet waste must be removed and properly disposed of promptly, both on public and private property. Be a good neighbor: "scoop 'de poop".
- Animals in open vehicles (trucks, etc.) must be confined in a cage or securely tethered by a device that will not permit the animal to fall or jump from your vehicle.
- Incidents of animal abuse, torture, or other cruel treatment will be prosecuted as misdemeanors or felonies, pursuant to Florida Statutes. Persons found guilty are subject to imprisonment and/or fines.
- Merely turning your animal loose if you move is illegal.
- If you or a member of your family is bitten by an animal, or if your animal bites a person or another animal, you should immediately notify the Environmental Health Department (EHD) at 850-595-6700. The EHD will advise you concerning quarantine procedures prescribed by state regulations. If you wish to file a complaint, you may contact Escambia County Animal Control at 850-595-0097.
- Report "found" animals to the Escambia County Animal Shelter at 200 West Fairfield Drive (850-595-3075). The owner may be trying to locate a missing pet. Place a "found" ad in a local newspaper. Most papers will run the ad free of charge.
- Rabies Vaccination: Section 10-8(a) Every owner of a dog, cat or ferret four months of age or older are required by law to have their animal vaccinated against rabies by a licensed veterinarian.
- Animal License tags, Animals to wear tags: Section 10-8 (b) Animal license tags are required by law and shall be purchased at the time of rabies vaccination and attached to a collar or harness. License tags are valid one year from the date of inoculation.

If you have any questions concerning leash laws, trapping feral cats, tethering, roaming animals, etc., please contact Animal Control at 850-595-0097.