

Animal Services Laws

ANIMAL SERVICES OFFICERS MAY ENTER PREMISES

Section 6.08.040: Animal Services Officers are authorized to enter upon the lands or premises where the animal is kept for the purpose of seizing or impounding an animal if it is found to be in violation of any County, State or Local law pertaining to licensing, vaccination, care or treatment, or to ascertain if a violation exists.

DOGS MUST BE LICENSED

Section 6.12.180: No person shall own, keep, maintain, or harbor any dog over four months old, within the city limits unless such dog is licensed as required by law.

DOGS MUST BE VACCINATED

Section 6.12.140: Any dog over the age of four months shall be vaccinated with an approved rabies vaccine by a licensed veterinarian as prescribed by the State Department of Public Health.

INSPECTIONS

Section 6.12.050: Inspections— upon demand of the Animal Services Officer, the owner of any dog shall permit the inspection thereof at all reasonable times as may be necessary for enforcement purposes and shall display the tag or license certificate for that dog.

BARKING DOGS

Section 6.32.110: Excessive barking (disturbing the peace). A dog must not be allowed to bark continuously at any time of the day or night for fifteen minutes or more duration providing no persons are trespassing or the dog was not being teased or provoked in any matter. "Barking" includes howling, crying, baying or any other noise.

LEASH LAW

Section 6.12.050 : No owner or custodian of any dog shall allow such dog to remain at large on any property without restraint by means of a leash. No owner or custodian of any dog shall maintain such dog on private property unless the property is fenced in such manner as to restrain the dog or the dog is secured within a structure, or the dog is restrained by means of a leash, rope, chain or secure fence. Furthermore, no owner or custodian of any dog shall allow such dog to remain upon the private property of another without the consent of the property owner.

FEMALE DOG IN "HEAT"

Section 6.12.080: Except for the purpose of exercising under strict control, an owner shall not permit any female dog in "heat" (breeding condition) to run at large at any time and must be kept inside a house, garage, building or other closed structure.

The Facts

- ◆ Nationally, 2,795 Letter Carriers were bitten by dogs while on duty.
- ◆ In 2001-2002, 53 dog bites were reported in Lathrop.
- ◆ Insurance companies have paid \$250 million a year in nation-wide dog bite liability claims.
- ◆ The Centers for Disease Control report that dog attacks rank as the #1 health hazard for children under twelve.

Centers for Disease Control and the United States Humane Society showed the following dogs to be the most likely involved in injury-causing or fatal attacks.

- ◆ Rottweilers
- ◆ Pitbulls
- ◆ German Shepherds
- ◆ Huskies
- ◆ Alaskan Malamutes
- ◆ Doberman Pinschers
- ◆ Chow Chows
- ◆ Great Danes
- ◆ Saint Bernards
- ◆ Akitas



Animal Shelters & Advocates for Animals

Pets & Pals
982-5073

State Humane
408-647-8897

HSUS
916-344-1710

American Humane Assc.
800-227-4645

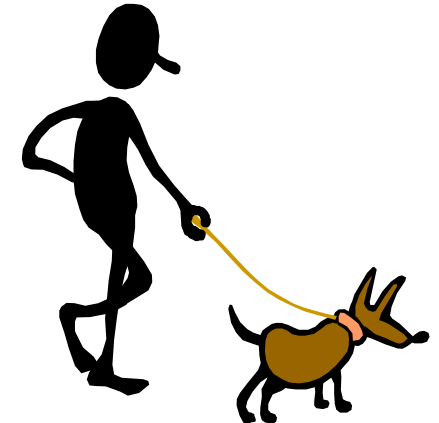
Check your local listings for other organizations.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Lathrop Animal Services
941-7240



Responsible Pet Ownership



A Guide for Dog Owners & Pet Lovers



Animal Services Department
390 Towne Centre Dr. Lathrop, CA 95330

Safety

Don't run past a dog. A dog's natural instinct is to chase and catch prey.

If a dog threatens you, don't scream. Avoid eye contact; try to remain motionless until the dog leaves, then back away slowly until the dog is out of sight.

Don't approach a strange dog, especially one that's tethered or confined.

Avoid touching a dog that you don't know.

Animals may attack if they are:

- ◆ Protecting their puppies; their yard or children
- ◆ Threatened
- ◆ In pain, injured/ill
- ◆ Surprised
- ◆ Bothered while eating
- ◆ Frustrated for being chained or tied up
- ◆ Teased
- ◆ Excited, nervous or "playing"

A dangerous dog may show the following warning signs:

- ◆ Ears are erect, the body stiff or tense, and the tail is stiff or moving rapidly
- ◆ Growling, snarling, or snapping
- ◆ Staring straight ahead
- ◆ Baring teeth or curled lips
- ◆ Hair standing on end

Don't go into yards or homes until you are sure all pets have been restrained.

Report stray dogs and dog packs to Animal Control as soon as possible.

If you are knocked down, curl up into a ball, cover your head and neck; "Play Dead."

If a dog should attack you, try to keep something between you and the dog, such as a purse, backpack or a book.

Report any violations to your local Animal Services Department, Sheriff's or Police Department.

Dog Owner Tips

Keep your pet(s) restrained. Free-roaming, pets face many dangers (cars, other animals, disease, etc.) and cause many problems (destroying property, breeding, etc.).



Provide Identification. If your pet ever gets loose, proper identification can help ensure a safe return.

Walk your dog daily. Dogs need exercise. Depending upon their age and temperament, they should have freedom to play in a fenced area or be walked on a leash. Teach your dog to stay in the yard.



Take your dog to a veterinarian at least once a year for vaccinations and a check-up.

Spay your female and/or neuter your male

Excessive Barking: First determine what is causing your dog to bark— neighbors, another dog, kids teasing the dog, cats, etc. Boredom, fright or strange noises cause most excessive barking. Solution: 1) Set the dog up in a situation that causes him to bark; 2) Hide where the dog can not see you; 3) When he begins to bark, shake repeatedly a soda can filled with a half-dozen pennies telling the dog in a stern voice, "No Barking;" 4) Then take hold of the dog's slip collar and give him a good correction; 5) Follow-up by telling him how you want him to behave; initiate a down-stay and make him remain in a down-stay until you tell him he can get up (15 minutes is sufficient); 6) Continue steps 1-5 until the dog has learned that excessive barking is not tolerated, and always praise positive behavior. To prevent your dog from barking while you are away, walk him early in the morning and late at night, and keep him in the house during the day. Put him in the yard only when he needs to go outside for relief and scold him when he starts barking. Praise your dog when he/she remains silent.



Some More Tips...

On Veterinarians

In addition to providing adequate food, water, exercise, and shelter for your pet, you should be sure your pet gets an annual checkup from a veterinarian. The vet will advise you to what vaccinations your pet will need, as well as any specific treatments for your pet's well-being. Between visits, check your pet regularly for any abnormalities in its fur, eyes, ears, mouth, skin, etc. Alert your veterinarian if you spot anything unusual, if your pet changes its eating or drinking habits, or if your pet's behavior changes.

On Cats

Cats are quite adaptable and can be very happy living completely inside. Cats that are allowed to wander outside face dangers that "indoor" cats don't: accidents, illnesses, poisons, attacks by other animals. For the love of your cat, keep it indoors.

On Dogs

A well-behaved dog is a pleasure to have around. Start your dog out right by training it to live in harmony with you. There are many dog trainers and obedience schools around that can help you train your dog. You can even do it yourself, but you must be consistent, patient and clear in your demands. The investment you make now in your dog's training will pay off in many years of happiness together. If you don't teach your dog the basics ("housebreaking", heeling, sitting, etc.) you're not giving your dog a fair chance to please you.

On Fleas

Because Lathrop has a temperate climate, fleas can be an aggravating problem all year round. In addition to being a nuisance, fleas can also cause more serious health problems in your pets, such as tapeworms and infections caused by flea allergies. So do your best to keep your pet home and flea-free. Pet shops carry many products for the treatment of fleas on your pet and in your home. Vacuuming frequently and combing your pet with a special flea comb will also help minimize the flea population. Diligent and regular flea treatments will help