

## BE A RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNER

While visiting City-owned parks, please obey all posted signs. Dog bags and containers are provided throughout our parks so you can properly dispose of your dog's waste. Remember to always:

- clean up after your dog;
- keep your dog on a leash; and,
- have your dog under your control.

**DOGS ARE NOT PERMITTED**  
in children's play areas, near athletic fields, or in pavilions occupied by others.

**DOGS MUST BE KEPT**  
on an unbreakable leash not exceeding six feet in length.



**IF YOU OWN A PET,  
PLEASE FOLLOW THE RULES  
OF OUR CITY, COUNTY AND STATE.**

Guidelines for Dogs & Dog Owners  
in the Parks of the City of Hagerstown



Department of Parks and Engineering  
Parks and Recreation Division  
351 North Cleveland Avenue  
Hagerstown, MD 21740

301-739-8577 ext. 169  
parks&rec@hagerstownmd.org  
www.hagerstownmd.org



**DOGS ARE PERMITTED** in City-owned parks provided they abide by the Washington County Animal Control Ordinance and the following guidelines.

## Guidelines for Behavior of Dogs and Owners in our Parks

Dogs and their custodians must obey the **Animal Control Ordinance** as adopted by Washington County (Ordinance # 2012-33, effective January 1, 2013) or be subject to the penalties/fines in that Ordinance. The City of Hagerstown recommends that all dog owners review the Ordinance at Washington County's website: [www.washco-md.net](http://www.washco-md.net) and go to County Ordinances.

We emphasize the following guidelines for the behavior of dogs and their owners in the parks of the City of Hagerstown ('Articles' referenced are from the Animal Control Ordinance.)

- 1 Dog owners/custodians are legally responsible for their dogs and any injuries** caused by their dogs. Dog owners/custodians must have control of their dogs at all times.
- 2 Dogs must be leashed at all times** (Article V, Section 27). Leashes are to be a maximum of six (6) feet in length.
- 3 Dog owners/custodians must immediately clean up after their dogs** (Article V, Section 28).
- 4 Dog owners/custodians must remain in the permitted perimeter areas of the park.**
- 5 Dogs with a known history of or who exhibit dangerous behavior are prohibited** (Article V, Section 35, 36 and others).
- 6 Dogs must be healthy, fully immunized, de-wormed, licensed and wearing ID tags.**
- 7 Children under age 12 that are custodians for a dog must be closely supervised by the adult.**
- 8 Dogs in heat are prohibited** (Article V, Section 30).
- 9 Only two (2) dogs per custodian are allowed.**

## Washington County Animal Control Ordinance

### Section 28 Animal Waste

It shall be unlawful for any owner or custodian to allow his or her animal or any animal under his or her care to defecate on public property unless the owner or custodian of the animal immediately thereafter removes and disposes of any waste in a sanitary manner.

### Section 27 Animal at Large

No owner shall allow an animal to be at-large. *At-large is any animal off the premises of the owner, and not under the immediate control, charge or possession of the owner or other responsible person capable of physically restraining the animal.*

**Violation of any section of the Washington County Animal Control Ordinance has civil penalties as follows:**

**1st Offense = \$25**

**2nd Offense = \$100**

**3rd and Subsequent Offense = \$250**



**VISIT OUR DOG PARK** in Fairgrounds Park\* if you want to let your dog enjoy some **OFF-LEASH** exercise and socialization.

*\* The designated DOG PARK area is the ONLY area where dogs are permitted to be off-leash.*

## License and Vaccinations

Washington County Animal Control Ordinance (Section 47) and Maryland State Law requires all dogs over the age of four (4) months to be immunized against rabies.

Washington County Animal Control Ordinance (Section 15 (a)) requires any person owning, keeping, harboring, or having custody of any dog four (4) months or older to obtain a license. Section 20 (a) requires all license tags to be worn at all times by the dog when off its property.

## Zoonotic Diseases

While it is not likely everyone will get sick, there are many diseases and germs that can be transmitted from animals to humans. To help prevent the spread of germs, wash your hands after contact with an animal and remove all waste that your dog deposits on public property. **Some dog related diseases include:** campylobacteriosis, cryptosporidiosis, tapeworm, giardiasis, hookworm, leishmaniasis, rabies, ringworm, salmonellosis and roundworm.

## Penalty for Violations of the Guidelines for Behavior of Dogs and Owners in our Parks

### Section 87-6 of the City Code

Any dog owner, custodian, or other individual who violates any of these guidelines shall be guilty of a municipal infraction and shall be subject to a fine not to exceed \$50 for each violation. If an individual is convicted of violating any of these guidelines, and is subsequently convicted of another violation hereof, said individual shall be subject to a fine not to exceed \$100 for each violation.

### Enforcement

Humane Society of Washington County Animal Control:  
301.733.2060 x203 (After Hours 301.790.7577)

### Disturbances

Hagerstown Police Department: 301-790-3700