

If someone has a complaint they can reach us at 363-6609 between the hours of 7:30am -6pm. After that all emergencies are handled through MetroSafe. Animal Control Officers are available from 7:30am- 11pm.

Under **LMO 91.002 Restraint Required**, owners are required to keep their dogs properly restrained.

**Proper restraint** means on the property of the owner or a property where the dog is allowed. The dog also must be in a secured enclosure or under direct control of its owner. The dog does not technically have to be on a leash if on its property as long as the owner has control of the dog. If off the property the dog must be restrained by a lead or leash and under control of person physically able to control the dog.

If a dog does any of the following the owner can be cited for **LMO 91.004 Owner to Control Animals; Nuisances Prohibited**.

(a) Allowing or permitting an animal to habitually bark, whine, howl, mew, crow or cackle in an excessive or continual fashion or make other noise in such a manner so as to result in a serious annoyance or interference with the reasonable use and enjoyment of neighboring premises.

(b) Allowing or permitting an animal to damage the property of any person other than its owner or caretaker, including but not limited to getting into or turning garbage containers or damaging gardens, flowers, plants or other real or personal property or leaving fecal material on the property of another person.

(c) Allowing or permitting an animal to molest, chase, snap at, attack or attempt to attack passers-by, vehicles, domestic pets or livestock.

(d) Allowing or permitting an animal to habitually or continually roam or be found on property of other than its owners or caretakers, trespassing school grounds, parks or the property of any person.

(e) Allowing or permitting an animal to be housed or restrained at a distance, that, in the discretion of the animal control officer, poses a threat to the general safety, health and welfare of the general public.

(f) Allowing or permitting an animal to be maintained in an unsanitary condition.

(g) Allowing or permitting an animal to habitually charge in an aggressive manner a fence separating from another property when the usual residents are taking pleasure in such property without provoking such animal.

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If a dog is observed by an officer not properly restrained it may be impounded and or the owner could get fined or sent to court. If sent to court on a restraint violation the owner could receive up to a \$250 fine.

The consequences for LMO 91.004 will vary depending on what the severity of the violation but the animal can be impounded and or the owner could get fined or sent to court.

If Metro Animal Services does not see the offenses listed above including restraint, the complainant can fill out a witness statement and the owner of the dog may be issued a civil penalty based on the evidence presented in the statement. The fine for the civil penalty is \$150 for the first offense with the max of a \$1000 fine.

If a dog bites a person or attacks another animal the owner could be fined with a civil penalty or sent to court depending on the severity of the bite/attack, history of the owner, availability of witness, and the circumstances surrounding the bite or attack.

The dog owner could be charged with LMO 91.150 Dangerous/Potentially Dangerous Dog a Class A Misdemeanor. If found guilty the dog could be impounded and the owner would have to meet several restrictions including a dangerous dog license that starts at \$250, a sign must be posted at their residence that they own a dangerous dog, a fine up to \$500.

All dogs, cats and ferrets must also be licensed. The cost of the license is \$9.00 for altered animals and \$50.00 for unaltered animals. Failing to license their pets can lead to fine up to \$250. Metro animal licenses and rabies tags are not the same thing. This is a common mistake.

Adam Hamilton  
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Metro Animal Services  
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