

To Leash or not to leash...

Beverly Hills is an active community with exceptional outdoor activity opportunities and a health conscious lifestyle. Beautiful streets, gardens and a state of the art Dog Park invites both humans and our four legged friends to explore and enjoy the great outdoors. Moreover, walking your dog is a great way to include exercise in your busy day.

As with most cities in California, Beverly Hills adopted animal control regulations designed to keep animals safe and healthy by encouraging co-existence and interaction in the community in a safe and orderly manner. The City of Beverly Hills provides animal control services through the City of Los Angeles Department of Animal Services. The West Los Angeles Animal Care Center that services our community is conveniently located only 4.2 miles away at 11361 West Pico Blvd in West Los Angeles; they are open Tuesday thru Saturday.

These animal control regulations require adherence to rules whose aim is to ensure the safety of your pet and that of other citizens. For example, in addition to maintaining a current dog license, dogs must be kept on a leash at all times when on public property. When on private property, dogs must be under the care and control of their owners at all times. The use of a leash will benefit you, your neighborhood, and your pet. There are many good reasons to keep your dog on a leash. In addition, remember that while walking your dog please be sure to pick up after it. This will ensure that the surrounding community and environment is kept free from unsanitary conditions.



So as our community begins to gear up to enjoy the beautiful weather and explore the outdoors, here are a few things to keep in mind when walking and looking after your dog (Courtesy of the Bill Foundation):

- It's a good neighbor policy to prevent your dog from trespassing on your neighbor's property during your walk. It also keeps your dog from jumping on people you encounter, ensuring that your dog has the chance of being properly introduced.
- A leashed dog is a better companion because a well-trained and leash-obedient dog is a pleasure to walk with.
- Walking your pet on a leash will prevent the spread of disease: your pet is less likely to become exposed to Parvo or distemper because you can restrain your pet from sniffing the droppings of other animals.
- A leash is commonly referred to as "Your Pet's Lifeline" because it helps protect your pet from vehicular traffic and unrestrained animals. Accidents or animal bites are greatly reduced when responsible pet owners obey the leash law.
- An obedient and well-behaved dog is a positive reflection of its owner.

- Re-locating your dog into another household is easier if your dog is already obedient and leash-trained.
- Walking your dog on a leash is a great way to positively reinforce and reward your dog: your dog will associate the leash with something pleasant and will begin to respond to the site of the leash with a wagging tail.
- A leash is an excellent identification tool, symbolizing that the dog has an owner, and enabling anyone who sees the leash, collar or identification tag attached to the collar, to find you if you and your pet become separated.
- It is a great relief to wildlife because it prevents your dog from chasing and coming into contact with other animals and wildlife such as squirrels, possums, raccoons, etc.
- It is the law! The law is in place to protect other members of the public and your pet from injury.

Other considerations to take into account while at home with your pet:

- Keep your pet food and water clean and in a protected area.
- Do not leave pet food in bowls for extended periods of time because it will attract other unwanted critters such as vermin, cockroaches, ants, etc.
- Monitor your dog frequently to ensure it is safe.
- Take steps to control excessive dog barking. Unwarranted barking is not only a nuisance to the surrounding neighbors, but can be harmful to your dog's health: it can be an indicator and potential cause of stress.
- Accustom your dog to the normal, everyday activity in your neighborhood and your home; it will help provide a sense of continuity and ultimately make for a more enjoyable pet.

For more information related to animal control, pet adoption and care services, you may contact the West Los Angeles Animal Shelter at (888) 452-7381 or visit them Tuesday through Saturday at:

West Los Angeles Animal Care Center
11361 W. Pico Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90064
<http://www.laanimalservices.com/shelters/>

For information related Code Enforcement or if you wish to report a problem, please contact us at 310-285-1119 or submit an online issue via the [AskBev](#)