

BEXLEY LEASH LAW

One of the more common complaints that the Bexley Animal Control deals with is unleashed dogs. Leash Law violations continue to be a significant problem in the City despite efforts to educate dog owners about the Bexley Leash Law through education and the use of warnings.

Section 618.01(c) states: “No owner, keepers or harbinger of any dog shall permit it to go beyond the premises of the owner, keeper or harbinger unless the dog is on a leash, cord or tether of not more than six feet in length, which is controlled by a person of such age, size and discretion that he is capable of preventing the dog from approaching any person or other animal in a menacing fashion.”

Violation of this section is a 4th degree misdemeanor and carries a maximum penalty of a \$250.00 fine and potential jail time.

These are a few comments commonly used to counter leash law warnings:

- Why should I leash my dog? He’s really well trained
- My dog is leashed; the shock collar is my invisible leash.
- My dog loves everyone.

Leashed dogs convey an impression of safety to passersby who have fears related to dogs.

Leashes are reassuring to elderly persons who may like dogs but who are unable to handle being accidentally bumped or knocked down by a dog.

Leashes are reassuring to former dog bite victims.

Leashes are reassuring to other dog owners who may not welcome a “visit,” however friendly, from another dog.

Many dog owners are good judges of “character” in other dogs and can quickly judge the friendliness of another dog just by looking at them and assessing that dog’s body language and demeanor. It’s a mistake to assume that all people have this ability. In fact, there was a fatality in this state when a passerby observed two dogs unleashed. In fear, she stepped away from the dogs into the path of an oncoming vehicle. Dog owners should think of their leash as a security blanket to other people.

Not only does the leash act as a reassurance to other people that your dog is safe and under control, but the leash protects your dog too. There have been many highly trained and wonderfully behaved dogs that were killed by traffic when the lure of a squirrel, treat, or new friend caused them to cavort into the roadway. Also, the leash may help protect your dog from fights with other animals or other dogs.

The American Kennel Club states, “Strong enforcement of leash laws...will promote responsible dog ownership and prevent tragedies from occurring.” The American Veterinary Medical Association states, “Enforcement of restraint laws is essential if the incidence of dog bites is to be reduced.”

As a result of our inability to gain compliance with the Leash Law through education and warnings it has become necessary to increase enforcement of this law as violations are observed.