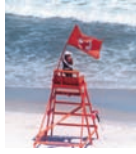


# JAX BEACH BRIEFS



## MAN'S BEST FRIEND

### BE A RESPONSIBLE PET OWNER



Pets are an important part of many people's lives. Pets give unconditional love, are always happy to see you, ever ready to go for a walk or a drive. They love to be patted and think you are the most important person in their universe, which you are. Pet ownership comes with responsibilities. Responsibility to feed them, to take care of their well being, to teach them manners and to obey.

This newsletter is full of ways you can be a responsible Jacksonville Beach pet owner, including city ordinances that pertain to your pet. In a nutshell, the best ways to be a responsible pet owner are:

- Start by having your dog or cat vaccinated every 12 months.
- Register your dog or cat with the City of Jacksonville Beach.
- Always use a leash with your pet when outside your own property.
- If you want to let your dog run free, take him to the City's dog park.
- Always pick up your dog or cat's droppings.

### REGISTER YOUR PET . . . It is the law.

Jacksonville Beach pet owners must register their pets (dogs and cats only) at City Hall each January. The registration fee is \$2. To register, bring a copy of your pet's current rabies inoculation certificate. In exchange for your \$2 you will receive a pet ID tag that must be attached to your pet's collar at all time. The tag number will help identify your pet should it become lost or injured.

The tag number provides the City's Animal Control Officer with a description of the pet, the owner's name, address and phone number. If your pet becomes lost, call Animal Control at 247-6167 and report the tag number. If someone finds your lost pet, or if it is injured and taken to a veterinarian for assistance, they can call Jacksonville Beach Animal Control who can assist in reuniting you with your pet.

Register your pet and save yourself and your pet a lot of unnecessary pain and anguish. What is the price of this peace of mind? Only \$2 . . . plus, it is the law.

### PET OWNERS & NEIGHBORS

Pets are usually a joy to their owners, but often can become a pest to the neighbors. One way to make certain you and your pet are good neighbors is to be a responsible pet owner and follow the City ordinances regarding pets. Domestic animals are not allowed to run loose in Jacksonville Beach . . . this includes cats. All pets must be confined to their owner's property or must be on a leash if on public property.



## BE A THOUGHTFUL PET OWNER



The beach is perfect for taking Fido for his daily exercise. Before you rush off, be aware that the City of Jacksonville Beach has an ordinance regulating dogs on its beaches. Dogs are welcome as long as their owners follow a few simple rules.

- Walk your dog early in the morning or after work. Dogs are only allowed on the beach before 9 AM or after 5 PM. Any other time, you will be fined.
- Keep your dog on a leash at all times. The leash can be no longer than eight (8) feet in length.
- Be certain a current rabies inoculation tag is attached to your dog's collar.
- Think about others! Pick up after your dog. Dispose of your dog's "droppings" properly. If you take your dog, also take a "doggie bag" to pick up your dog's deposits. Children, and adults, go barefoot on the beach and often dig in the sand. Fecal matter poses a serious health threat.

"Disposing properly" means removing all fecal matter from the beach. It does not mean leaving it for the tide to wash away, or burying it in the sand dunes, or dumping it into the trash can. Put it into a plastic bag and dispose of it properly by flushing it, not the plastic bag, down the toilet. For that matter, remove fecal matter from your own lawn and all public areas. When it rains or the sprinkler kicks on, this matter dissolves and runs off into the stormwater drain, drainage ditches, retention ponds, or lakes. Federal law prohibits fecal matter in stormwater run-off. That includes your property as well as public property.

Keep your dog a welcome guest on the beach by helping him mind his manners. It is simple courtesy and . . . it is the law.

## BORN TO BE FREE



Dogs love to run free (so do kids). Unfortunately, neither should be allowed to do so except when in a secure environment. If you want to give your dog that special pleasure of running unleashed, take him to the City of Jacksonville Beach's off-leash dog park: Paws Dog Park.

Paws Dog Park is located in Wingate Park on South Penman Road. The dog park is a fenced public area where dogs can legally run off-leash and play with other dogs while under the supervision of their owners. The park offers two areas: one for large dogs and another for small dogs; automated watering bowls, people benches, poop-bag dispensers, trash bins, people watering fountain, education bulletin board, and is wheelchair accessible. Dogs using the park must be legally licensed, have up-to-date vaccinations, and wear tags.

For more information, check the City's website at [www.jacksonvillebeach.org](http://www.jacksonvillebeach.org) for dog park rules and tips for making your visit safe and fun for both you and your pet.