

## Cabot does have a “Leash Law” for Dogs & Cats

Virtually every city has a leash law. The law requires that dogs and cats be kept on a leash at all times when outside the home or a “physical” barrier. Even while on private property, they must be under physical control of their owners. The intent of the law is to protect the health and safety of the public and to protect your pet.

Citizens of Cabot, both adults and children, have the right to safely enjoy their yards, streets, parks, and neighborhoods. Just because a pet is “friendly” to you and your family does not ensure that it will not become startled, scared, or just not appreciate someone else trying to pet, feed, or pick them up. This typically results in a dangerous situation for both pet and person.

The use of a leash will benefit you, your neighborhood, and your pet. There are many good, personal, reasons to keep your dog on a leash and here are just a few.

1. It's a great good neighbor policy, preventing your dog from trespassing on the 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.
2. Improved companionship. A well trained and leash-obedient dog is a pleasure to walk with.
3. Walking your pet on a leash will prevent the spread of disease. It is less likely that your dog will be exposed to Parvo or Distemper. A leashed dog can be restrained from sniffing the droppings of other animals.
4. A leash is commonly referred to as "Your Pet's Lifeline," protecting your pet from traffic and unrestrained animals. Accidents or animal bites are greatly reduced when responsible pet owners obey the leash law.
5. An obedient and well behaved dog is a positive reflection of its owner.
6. Re-homing your dog into another household is 100% easier if your dog is obedient and leash trained.
7. It's a great way to reward your dog. Your dog will immediately respond with a wagging tail the moment he or she sees you holding the leash.
8. If your pet does pull away from you it's a great identification tool, symbolizing that the dog has an owner, and enabling someone who sees the leash and identification tag attached to the dog's collar to find you if you and your pet should you become separated.
9. It's a great relief to wildlife, keeping your dog from chasing squirrels, deer, and other wildlife.
10. It's the law! The law is in place to protect other members of the public and your pet from injury.

If you see dogs running loose please contact the Cabot Animal Control at 501-843-2021.