

Control / Licensing of Household Pets



Douglas County Animal Services | 4000 Justice Way | Castle Rock, CO 80104 | Ph: 303-660-7529 | www.dcsheriff.net

On March 12, 2019 the Board of Douglas County Board of County Commissioners adopted changes to the Resolution for Control and Licensing of Dogs and Pet Animals in unincorporated Douglas County R-019-029. The major changes to the Resolution include:

- Number of Household Pets (which creates consistency with existing regulations);
- Noisy Pets or Barking Dogs;
- Aggressive Animal or Potentially Dangerous Animals;
- Dangerous Animals.

Why is it important to understand why changes were made to the control and licensing of household pets in unincorporated Douglas County?

The changes in the Resolution for Control and Licensing of Dogs and Pet Animals are essential for encouraging responsible pet ownership within unincorporated Douglas County while providing the necessary regulation to resolve domestic animal and human conflict when it arises. The Resolution creates consistency between the Animal Resolution and the Douglas County Zoning Resolution, as well as the protection of the public and the safety of the animals. The previous resolution was passed in 1998 and amended in 1999. During the past twenty years, the human and pet population in Douglas County has increased. When human animal conflicts arise, now more than ever, the community expects timely and effective resolution.

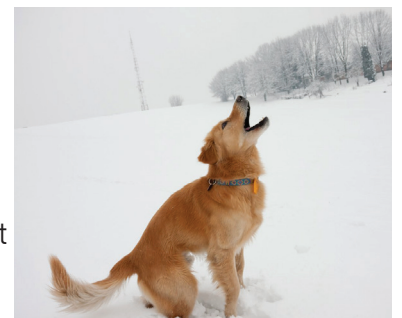
What changes were made:

This is a brief summary of the adopted changes:

- **Number of Household Pets** - This does not affect the number of household pets a residents may own in unincorporated Douglas County. The changes defer to existing Douglas County Zoning Resolution, Section 24 - Animals, which established the number of animals that may be owned based on the property's zone district and size.
- **Noisy Pets** - Changes were made to limit excess noise from household pets in an objective, reasonable and enforceable manner. These include: a new definition of what constitutes a violation; requires a witness or corroborating evidence prior to a citation being issued; allows for mediation training of the pet and owner as a component of resolution; and Animal Enforcement Officers or Deputies may directly address a violation without a citizen complaint, when warranted.
- **Aggressive Animal or Potentially Dangerous Animal (PDA)** - This approach employs two standards for managing animals that have displayed aggressive behavior and/or caused injury to persons or domestic animals.

The first component is titled Potentially Dangerous Animals (PDA) and includes a domestic animal that:

- Approaches a person in an apparent attitude of attack, or
- Causes injury less than serious bodily injury to any person, or
- Attacks a domestic animal



Animal Regulations

The County Court now has the tools to address the behavior which include containment requirements, training, behavior modification, wearing of a leash and/or muzzle, and other useful tools designed to change and/or manage the undesired behavior.

Individuals found guilty of a violation must register the animal with Douglas County Animal Services as a PDA. If owners comply with the requirements imposed by the court and have no additional violations for a 24-month period, the owner may be relieved of the requirement to maintain the PDA registration. This approach has proven extremely effective in modifying and/or managing the root behavior that created the unsafe situation, thereby helping to prevent a reoccurrence. A non-domestic animal is generally considered to be an animal not normally adapted to live and breed in a tame condition.



- **Dangerous Animal (DA)** - Is an animal that presents a threat to public safety as demonstrated by:
 - Previously adjudged as a PDA and is involved in a second or subsequent violation of PDA
 - Causes serious bodily injury to any person
 - Causes the death of a domestic animal

License, Vaccination and Identification

Douglas County requires pet owners have a current rabies vaccination, tag and certificate for dogs four months and older. The certificate must be issued by a licensed vet. Dogs must always wear their rabies tags.

Douglas County Animal Services recommends you put an identification tag on your dog with your name, address and telephone number on it. It's also a good idea to microchip your pet. If animals are wearing proper identification and they are not repeat offenders, control officers will try to return the dogs to their owners. If they can't find the owners, they will take the dogs to The Buddy Center, located at 4556 Castleton Court, Castle Rock, CO 80104. When you pick up your dog, you'll have to pay fines and fees associated with the impoundment. It is less stressful for your pet and less expensive for you to properly identify your animal so that when they are lost, can be reunited more quickly.

Spayed or neutered pets are more likely to enjoy good health and a long life. Spaying or neutering also:

- Reduces disease, infection, and cancer of pets' reproductive systems
- Prevents inappropriate spraying or marking
- Reduces pet overpopulation

Still need more information?

Do you still have questions or need more information? If so, please visit www.dcsheriff.net/animals/ or contact Douglas County Animal Services at 303-660-7529 or via email at animals@dcsheriff.net

