



Austin/Travis County Health & Human Services Department

1156 West Cesar Chavez, Austin, Texas 78703



In response to public safety concerns, new regulations affecting dog owners have been implemented in Travis County. Highlights of the new law are listed below. The new regulations are available at www.co.travis.tx.us or you may call 311 and request a copy.

- It is the responsibility of each Owner to effectively restrain the Owner's dog, which means the dog must either be kept securely on the Owner's property or, if not on owners property, on a leash of a length that will allow for direct control of the dog by the handler in control of the dog
- Each stray or unrestrained dog, at the time the dog is stray or unrestrained, may be impounded.
- If, at the time the officer arrives, the dog has returned to the Owner's property, the officer may issue a citation to the owner, if a sworn statement supports the complaint.
- Upon issuance of 3 citations to the owner regarding the same dog for failure to restrain under section 52.005 the officer shall impound the dog.
- It is recommended that every dog be wearing an appropriate collar with an identification tag that provides contact information for the owner so that the owner can be contacted should their dog become lost.
- A dog may be declared dangerous if it attacks or commits an act or acts on a person, livestock, domestic animal, or fowl (without provocation in a place other than an enclosure in which the dog was being kept that was reasonably certain to prevent the dog from leaving the enclosure on its own) that either causes bodily injury to a person or causes a person to reasonably believe that the dog will attack and cause bodily injury to that person.

Note: The requirement to vaccinate all dogs and cats against rabies at 4 months of age, and then revaccinate each year, or receive a 3 year vaccine remains in affect in accordance with state law.