



PRESS RELEASE

**** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ****

December 11, 2020

Dog Control Code Amendments

Warrenton, OR – On November 10, 2020 the Warrenton City Commission passed an amendment to the Dog Control Ordinance which went into effect today. The amendment clarifies some of the definitions in the ordinance and requires the use of leashes on all City Trail Systems and in all City Parks, with a few exclusions.

The changes were prompted by citizen concerns about various incidents where people using the trails and parks were confronted, attacked, and injured by unrestrained dogs. Many people mistakenly believed that Warrenton had a traditional “Leash Law” but we did not. Instead, leashes were only “required” for dogs that have been declared as a “Dangerous Animal” per City Code or who had exhibited certain behavior and were deemed a “nuisance animal.”

All dogs were required to be under “control” of their keeper which included “voice control.” “Voice Control” is defined as, “...the complete control by such person in the immediate vicinity of the animal. If the animal creates a nuisance or acts unlawfully as defined in this code, such acts will in and of themselves determine that the animal was not under voice control.”

The code amendment still allows “voice control” but also now requires leashes to be used on the City Trails and Parks. The complete version of Ordinance No. 1245 is attached to this press release with the changes colored “red”. The following are new provisions of the ordinance:

- A “Physical Control Device” (strong collar connected to a leash or tether) **is required** on ALL Warrenton Trail Systems and in ALL Warrenton Parks/Facilities. **The dog can be “off-leash” in a park while the keeper and dog are engaged a recreational activity (ball/frisbee chasing, etc.) or engaged in a professional training activity.**
- The **dog does not need to be on a “Physical Control Device” when:**
 - Inside the fenced area of the Warrenton Dog Park.
 - When being used to legally hunt in designated hunting areas.
 - When being used to control or protect livestock or other agriculture activities.
 - When on the premises of the keeper or when the dog is under “complete voice control” of the keeper.
- **A leash/physical control device is REQUIRED to be carried by the keeper at ALL TIMES whenever they are off of their premises, even if not required to be in use.**

Warrenton Public Works is currently in the process of getting signs for the Trails and Parks stating that leashes are now required. The WPD will be working to educate people for a period of time and then will have the option of issuing a citation. The maximum fine when citing someone for having a “Dog at Large” is \$500.

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