

ASHFORD HOLLOW PET TALK

We love our own pets, but we don't always love our neighbor's pets – and sometimes with good reason. Please help your pet to be a good Ashford Hollow citizen by following the City of Houston pet laws. Houston's Bureau of Animal Regulation and Control may be reached at 713-229-7300 or BARC@houstontx.gov.

LEASH LAW: Dogs and cats may not run at large in Houston. "Running at large" means going on public or private property without the owner or another person having direct physical control of the animal, i.e. on a leash. When animals are not on a leash they must be otherwise restrained, either behind a fence or in some other enclosure that will prevent their escape. There are specific requirements for the enclosure of pets in the City Code of Ordinances. "Running at large" may result in impoundment of the animal or in the issuance of one or more municipal citations, with fines starting at \$100.

POOPER SCOOPER LAW: By Houston city code, a person in control of a dog or cat must promptly remove and dispose of, in a sanitary manner, feces left by their dog or cat, when walking outside of your own yard with your pet. Each person in control of the dog or cat must have materials to remove feces left by their dog or cat when they are off their own property. Violation of this section is punishable upon conviction by a fine of not less than \$75 or more than \$500. Each violation of this section is a separate offense.

BARKING DOGS: Houston code declares that it constitutes a nuisance and is unlawful if any dog barks, whines, howls, bays, cries or makes other noise excessively so as to cause annoyance, disturbance or discomfort to any individual provided that such noise continues for a period of more than 5 minutes and is plainly audible from a distance of 100 feet from the premise whereupon the dog is kept.

LICENSES: All dogs and cats over six months of age must be licensed by the City, with current rabies vaccinations. No more than three dogs or three cats over six months of age are allowed per household, for a total combination of three domestic animals. A multiple pet permit is required in order to exceed this number, which may be revoked upon written complaints to police of excessive noise, odor or other nuisance. (Additionally, Ashford Hollow's 1978 restrictions specify a limit of two dogs and two cats per household. No animals are to be kept for commercial purposes.)

SHELTERS: The closest domestic animal shelters are Citizens for Animal Protection (17555 Katy Freeway, 281-497-0591) and the SPCA (900 Portway Drive, 713-869-7722). Injured and orphaned wild animals may be taken to Texas Wildlife Rehabilitation Coalition, 10801 Hammerly, 713-468-8972, www.twrc-houston.org (donations and volunteers welcome!); keep animal in a warm dark container, away from loud noises, and do not offer food or water, until it is delivered to, or picked up by, TWRC.

GOOD NEWS FOR DOGS: GOOD "BARK" PARKS!

Harris County Precinct 3 has built, and maintains, two nearby dog parks that are open 7 days a week, from dawn to dusk. They are both double-fenced and double-gated, and offer both large and small dog areas, doggie swimming ponds and showers, water fountains, pick-up bags, walking trails and shade.

CONGRESSMAN BILL ARCHER BARK PARK is located at 3201 Highway 6, just north of I-10 and across from Bear Creek Park. It has fun agility equipment for both large and small dogs.

MILLIE BUSH BARK PARK is located at 16736 Westheimer Parkway, west of Highway 6 in George Bush Park. It offers both large and small fire hydrants for the dogs, and nearby picnic benches and restrooms for their people.