

The following section of the Contra Costa County Animal Control Ordinance is provided for your review. All Contra Costa animal owners are subject to the provisions of this Ordinance.

**ARTICLE 41 6-4.4      RESTRAINT**

**§416-4.402      Animals at large.**

- (a) No person owning, possessing, harboring, or controlling any animal shall allow such animal to be at large.
- (b) As used in this section "at large" means an animal which either:
  - (1) In the case of dogs, is not under effective restraint by a leash; or
  - (2) In the case of animals other than dogs or cats, is not in the immediate presence and under the effective control of such person; or
  - (3) Is tethered or leashed on any street or other public place, not set aside for such tethering or leashing for a period of longer than fifteen (15) minutes, or in such a way as to block a public walkway or thoroughfare; or
  - (4) Is pastured, tethered, tied, or otherwise present on private property or in any public building without the consent of the owner or occupant; or
  - (5) Is in any place or position with the capacity to injure persons or property; or
  - (6) Fights, bites, or causes harm to any other animal or person unless such animal or person has entered the private property owned by or in the possession of the person owning or controlling the offending animal without permission when such property is properly fenced and posted as to the presence of the offending animal; or
  - (7) Is not on the private property owned by or in the possession of, the person owning or controlling the animal and is not wearing a required license tag; or
  - (8) Is left any place without provision for its care.

Provided, nevertheless, that a dog is not required to be under restraint by a leash when, the dog has not strayed from and is upon private property owned by, or in the possession of, the person owning or controlling the dog.

- (c) Exemptions, a working dog, performing such acts such as herding under the control and supervision of owner/handler shall not be considered at-large while performing his duties. A hunting, obedience, tracking, or show dog shall not be considered at large while performing in the above capacities. Dogs being exercised under the control of their owners in public areas designated for animal exercise shall not be considered at large.
- (d) Females in heat. In the case of female dogs and cats in heat and for the purposes of the Food and Agricultural Code Section 30954, "at large" means outside a house, vehicle, or other secure enclosure adequate to prevent unplanned male access.
- (e) Animals in Vehicles.
  - (1) A dog or any other animal in or upon a vehicle is deemed to be upon the property of the operator of such vehicle. No dog or any other animal shall be transported on any public thoroughfare in any vehicle unless such dog or animal is totally enclosed within such vehicle, within a secured container carried upon such vehicle, or security cross-tethered to such vehicle in such a way as to prevent a falling out or off such vehicle, and to prevent injury to the animal.
  - (2) No dog or any animal shall be left completely enclosed in a parked vehicle without adequate ventilation, or in such a way as to subject the animal to temperatures sufficiently above ambient to affect the animal's health and welfare.

**§416-4.404      Abandonment.                      No owner of an animal shall abandon it.**

State and County regulations require vaccination and licensing of all dogs within 30 days of reaching 4 months of age. All dogs over 4 months of age must also be licensed within 30 days of entering Contra Costa County, or within 30 days of acquisition.

Contra Costa County requires that license renewals be paid within 60 days of the previous license expiration date. The PENALTY FEE is payable if your pet has not been licensed in accordance with the above requirements. There are no refunds once a pet license has been issued and there are no pro-rated license fees.

California Health and Safety Code regulations prohibit Contra Costa County from issuing a pet license with an expiration date extending beyond the rabies vaccination expiration date. Your license expiration date may have been changed to comply with the above requirement. If you have any question, please call (925) 335-8310