



PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Sergeant Kim D. Chinn
Phone: 703.792.7245
e-mail: kchinn@pwcgov.org
FAX: 703.792.6510

Officer Erika Hernandez
703.792.4159
emhernandez@pwcgov.org
703.792.4077

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Leash Pets and Clean Up After Them – It's the Law!

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY, VIRGINIA . . .Spring is almost here and the Prince William County Police Department's Animal Control Bureau reminds pet owners of the County's leash and scooper laws that are designed to help owners avoid problems with neighbors and pedestrians.

When your dog is off of your own property, it **must** be kept on a leash. When you are walking your dog, it is your responsibility to clean up the feces after the dog. Failure to do either of these means you can be charged with one or more class 4 misdemeanors, with a maximum fine of \$250 per offense.

Be a responsible pet owner and a good neighbor! Keep in mind the animal laws of Prince William County, which include the following:

- It is against the law to allow your dog to run at large within the County unless engaged in supervised, formal obedience training classes, or show, or during formally sanctioned field trials, or while engaged in lawful hunting during open hunting season. (Section 4-23).
- It is against the law to allow your animal to knowingly and willfully urinate or defecate on private property of other persons or on publicly owned property. It shall not be unlawful if the animal owner removes the animal's excrement immediately and disposes of it (Section 4-11).
- It is against the law to allow your animal to trespass on someone's property after being requested by the owner of the property not to trespass (Section 4-4).

For more information, contact the Animal Control Bureau at 703-792-6465 or visit the Police Department website at www.police.pwcgov.org and click on Animal Care and Control.

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