

**Pet Safety, Proper Care Required**

The city reminds residents of ordinances that protect pets and people from danger. All dogs and cats 4 months and older must be registered with the City of Irving.

The cost of pet registration is \$5–\$15 depending on whether the pet is sterilized and has a microchip. Instructions for pet registration can be found at [www.cityofirving.org/animal-services](http://www.cityofirving.org/animal-services).

The city's leash law makes it illegal for animals to run free in the city limits even with an owner present. Dogs must be restrained using a properly fitting leash, chain, collar or harness that is being held by the owner at all times.

**Pet Waste Cleanup**

The city requires residents to clean up after their pets. It is against the law to allow a dog's waste to remain in any public place or on another person's private property.

"It is not only unsanitary to not clean up after your pet, it can actually contaminate the water supply," said Animal Services Manager Fred Sanderson.

As temperatures rise, residents also are reminded that it is against the law to leave an unsupervised animal in a parked vehicle. Residents who do so can have their pets impounded.

**Tethering Dogs**

The city also has a ban on unattended tethered dogs. Only responsible pet owners who maintain direct physical control are allowed to tether their dogs. This means the owner must be outside with the dog and near enough to exercise control over the animal at all times in the event it should become necessary to protect an animal or human from harm.

The penalty for violating any of these city ordinances could result in a fine of up to \$2,000. For more information, contact Irving Animal Services at (972) 721-2256.