

Ridgway reminds pet owners of responsibilities

Ridgway, CO – Ridgway is a dog-friendly town, where dogs are welcome to play and socialize under proper supervision of their guardian. For everyone’s safety, the Town of Ridgway is reminding people to follow the Town’s leash laws, which apply to all dogs when off the owner’s property.



The Ridgway Municipal Code (“RMC”) defines a “mandatory leash area” where dogs must be on a leash. This area is bounded by Amelia Street, Moffat Street, Railroad Street, Otto Street (between Railroad and Cora Streets), Frederick Street (between Cora and Mary Streets), and Charles Street (Mary to Amelia Streets). The Uncompahgre River Trail, Rollans Park, any area posted for leash control only, and sporting events are also included in the “mandatory leash area.” Click [HERE](#) to check out the Town’s Leash Law Brochure, which includes a map of the Town’s “mandatory leash area.”

In all other areas of Town not bound by the mandatory leash area, dogs are required to be under voice and sight control, which includes all of the following: the dog returns to your side immediately upon a single command, the dog remains at your side regardless of any distractions, and the dog does not charge, chase or display aggression toward any person, dog, wildlife, livestock or other being.

Ridgway’s leash laws (RMC Section 11-1-6, “Running at Large Prohibited”), are available to read online. Click [HERE](#) to check them out. Citations may be issued for violation of the Town’s leash laws.

Leashes prevent your dog from chasing other animals or people and from getting lost. They provide a sense of safety for your pet, and it is much more difficult for them to get loose and run off if they become scared by a loud or strange noise. Dog bites often occur when dogs are feeling scared, insecure or defensive. Our town streets, sidewalks, parks and trails are enjoyed by all residents and visitors, not just dog owners.

If an unfamiliar dog approaches you, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that you:

- Stay still and be calm.
- Avoid direct eye contact with the dog.
- Do not panic, make loud noises or run.
- Say “no” or “go home” in a firm, deep voice and stand with the side of your body facing the dog.
- Slowly raise your hands to your neck with your elbows in, and wait for the dog to pass or slowly back away.

To report an issue, please contact the Ridgway Marshal’s Office at 970-249-9110. For an emergency, please dial 911. For questions regarding these regulations or requests for additional information, please contact Preston Neill, Ridgway Town Manager, at pneill@town.ridgway.co.us or 970-626-5308, ext. 212.

###