

**CITY OF SAMMAMISH
WASHINGTON
ORDINANCE NO. O2009-255**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SAMMAMISH,
WASHINGTON, REGARDING ANIMAL LEASH
LENGTHS AND AMENDING THE SAMMAMISH
MUNICIPAL CODE, CHAPTERS 7.12 AND 11.05**

WHEREAS, the Sammamish Municipal Code (SMC), Section 7.12.040 specifies that in areas where dogs, other pets or domestic animals are allowed they must be on a leash no greater than fifteen (15) feet; and

WHEREAS, Title 11 of the SMC, which adopts Title 11 of the King County Code (KCC) by reference has language KCC Section 11.04.230 which specifies leash length as eight (8) feet; and in Section 11.08.020 as not more than fifteen (15) in length; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has received input from the public requesting active enforcement of the leash laws in City parks; and

WHEREAS, consistent laws are an important part of securing voluntary compliance with such laws and to assist in enforcement actions of such laws; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has provided for a designated off-leash area at Beaver Lake Park to provide an area where citizens can exercise their animals without a leash;

WHEREAS, after discussion and consideration of public input, the City Council has determined that an animal leash length of sixteen (16) feet or less is appropriate to maintain control of animals in public places;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAMMAMISH, WASHINGTON, DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Sammamish Municipal Code Chapter 7.12 is hereby amended to read as follows:

7.12.410 Pets in City park facilities.

- (1) Dogs, pets or domestic animals are not permitted on any designated swimming beach, picnic or play area in any City of Sammamish park or in any building unless specifically permitted by posting; provided that this section shall not apply to animal guides.

- (2) In permissible areas, dogs or pets or other domestic animals must be kept on a leash no greater than sixteen (16) feet in length, and under control at all times.
- (3) Any person whose dog or other pet is in any City of Sammamish park area shall be responsible for the conduct of the animal and for removing feces deposited by such animal from the park area.

Section 2. Sammamish Municipal Code Chapter 11.05 is hereby amended to read as follows:

11.05.XXX Exceptions to 11.05.010

- (1) Except that Section 11.04.230 Nuisances defined, of the King County Code shall be adopted as it pertains to the City of Sammamish to read as follows:

11.04.230 Nuisances defined. For purposes of this chapter, nuisances are violations of this chapter and shall be defined as follows:

- (A) Any public nuisance relating to animal care and control known at common law or in equity jurisprudence;
- (B) A dog running at large in the City;
- (C) Any domesticated animal, whether licensed or not, that runs at large in any park or enters any public beach, pond, fountain or stream or upon any public playground or school ground. However, this subsection shall not prohibit a person from walking or exercising an animal in a public park or on any public beach when the animal is on a leash, tether or chain not to exceed sixteen (16) feet in length. Also, this subsection shall not apply to any person using a trained service animal, to animal shows, exhibitions, or organized dog-training classes if at least twenty-four hours advance notice has been given to the animal care and control authority by those persons requesting to hold the animal shows, exhibitions or organized dog-training classes;
- (D) Any domesticated animal that enters any place where food is stored, prepared, served or sold to the public, or any other public building or hall. However, this subsection shall not apply to any person using a trained service animal, to veterinary offices or hospitals or to animal shows, exhibitions or organized dog-training classes if at least twenty-four hours advance notice has been given to the animal care and control authority by those persons requesting to hold the animal shows, exhibitions or organized dog-training classes;
- (E) Any female domesticated animal, whether licensed or not, while in heat and accessible to other animals purposes other than controlled and planned breeding;
- (F) Any domesticated animal that chases, runs after or jumps at vehicles using the public streets and alleys
- (G) Any domesticated animal that habitually snaps, growls, snarls, jumps upon or otherwise threatens persons lawfully using the public sidewalks, streets, alleys or other public ways

- (H) Any animal that has exhibited vicious propensities and constitutes a danger to the safety of persons or property off the animal's premises or lawfully on the animal's premises. However, in addition to other remedies and penalties, the provisions of this chapter relating to vicious animals shall apply;
- (I) Any vicious animal or animal with vicious propensities that runs at large at any time is off the owner's premises not securely leashed on a line or confined and in the control of a person of suitable age and discretion to control or restrain the animal. However, in addition to other remedies and penalties, the provisions of this chapter relating to vicious animals shall apply;
- (J) Any domesticated animal that howls, yelps, whines, barks or makes other oral noises, in such a manner as to disturb any person or neighborhood to an unreasonable degree;
- (K) Any domesticated animal that enters upon a person's property without the permission of that person;
- (L) Animals staked, tethered or kept on public property without prior written consent of the animal care and control authority;
- (M) Animals on any public property not under the control by the owner or other competent person
- (N) Animals harbored, kept or maintained and known to have a contagious disease unless under the treatment of a licensed veterinarian; and
- (O) Animals running in packs.

(2) Except that Section 11.08.020 Definitions, of the King County Code shall be adopted as it pertains to the City of Sammamish to read as follows:

11.08.020 Definitions. In construing the provisions of this chapter, except where otherwise plainly declared or clearly apparent from the context, words used in this chapter shall be given their common and ordinary meaning; in addition, the following definitions shall apply:

- (A) "At large" means to be off the premises of the owner and not under control of the owner by leash; provided that an animal within an automobile or other vehicle of its owner shall be deemed to be on the owner's premises.
- (B) "Lawful training" means to be engaged in training on the premises of the owner or on land of another person by permission, or on public land that is set aside or is open to hunting or trapping; provided, that the dog is accompanied afield by the owner or trainer. A "no shooting" area shall not be interpreted to mean a "no training" area.
- (C) "Leash" includes a cord, thong or chain not more than sixteen (16) feet in length by which an animal is physically controlled by the person accompanying it.
- (D) "Restraint." An animal is considered to be under restraint if it is maintained and remains within the property limits of its owner or keeper.

Section 3. Bond or bail schedule. All infractions or offenses of Sammamish Municipal Code Titles 7 and 11 shall use the bond or bail schedule for infractions and

offenses as used by the King County District Court for similar provisions of King County laws and regulations.

Section 4. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall be published in the official newspaper of the City and shall take effect and be in full force five (5) days after publication.

Section 5. The "Whereas" clauses of this ordinance constitute specific findings by the Council in support of passage of this ordinance. If any part or portion of this ordinance is declared invalid for any reason, such declaration of invalidity shall not affect any remaining part or portion.

**ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL AT A REGULAR MEETING
THEREOF ON THE 7th DAY OF APRIL, 2009.**

CITY OF SAMMAMISH



Mayor Donald Gerend

ATTEST/AUTHENTICATED:



Melonie Anderson, City Clerk

Approved as to form:



Bruce L. Disend, City Attorney

Filed with the City Clerk:	March 10, 2009
First Reading:	March 17, 2009
Passed by the City Council:	April 7, 2009
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