

# Highlights from Toronto Municipal Code Relating to Dogs, Wildlife and Fishing

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NOTE:

There are also applicable provincial laws such as Dog Owners' Liability Act:

<https://www.toronto.ca/311/knowledgebase/kb/docs/articles/municipal-licensing-and-standards/toronto-animal-services/special-projects/dog-owners-liability-act.html>

## **CHAPTER 349, ANIMALS**

**A. No owner of a dog shall cause or permit the dog to be at large in the City, including, but not limited to, upon or in any lands or grounds owned or operated by the City, such as sidewalks, curbs, boulevards, walkways or other public places owned by the City, except where expressly permitted by City by-law.**

B. For the purposes of this chapter, a dog shall be deemed to be at large when found on property other than the property of the owner of the dog and not under the control of any person, including but not limited to the tethering of the animal.

### **§ 349-12.1. Leashing and walking dogs.**

**A. No person shall keep a dog off the premises of the owner other than on a leash which shall not exceed two metres in length, except in designated areas of a City park as permitted by Chapter 608, Parks.**

B. No person shall have control of more than three dogs at any time unless authorized by a commercial dog walker permit under Chapter 608, Parks.

C. Any person seen to be in control of more than three dogs shall present the commercial dog walker permit under Chapter 608, Parks, to an officer upon request.

D. No person seen to be in control of more than three dogs shall refuse to present the commercial dog walker permit under Chapter 608, Parks, to an officer upon request.

### **§ 349-18. Removal of excrement.**

Every owner of a dog shall immediately remove excrement left by the dog on property anywhere within the City.

## **CHAPTER 608, PARKS**

### **§ 608-34. Dogs.11**

**A. While in a park, no person as owner or person having control of a dog shall:**

**(1) Allow the dog to run at large, except in a posted designated off-leash area;**

**(2) Excluding blind persons reliant upon a guide dog, allow the dog to enter a prohibited area;**

PROHIBITED AREAS:

**A. Natural or environmentally sensitive areas (including designated ravines, wooded or savannah areas, sites of natural or scientific interest, areas which have undergone significant habitat restoration, wetlands or their buffer zones).**

B. Playgrounds, splash pads or wading pools.

C. Horticultural display areas or ornamental gardens.

D. Skateboard bowls, tennis courts and other sports pads.

E. Sports fields and stadiums.

F. Artificial or natural ice rinks or toboggan hills.

G. Animal display areas.

H. Campgrounds.

I. Areas posted to prohibit dogs from entering.

**B. While in a park, every person as owner or person having control of a dog shall:**

**(1) Ensure that it is on a leash or chain not exceeding 2.4 metres (amended to 2m) in length when not running at large in a posted designated off-leash area;**

(2) Excluding disabled persons, pick up and immediately remove excrement left by the dog and dispose of it in a sanitary manner in a receptacle for litter or in some other suitable container;

(3) Not leave the dog unattended in a park or designated off-leash area;

(4) Keep the dog in sight and under care and control at all times;

(5) Repair any holes dug by the dog under their control; and

(6) Ensure that female dogs in heat and uncastrated male dogs are on a leash or chain at all times and do not enter a designated off-leash area.

**§ 608-35. Dangerous animals.**

**No person as owner or person having the control of an animal shall bring into or permit the animal to enter a park if it may or does constitute a danger to other persons or wildlife, or is reasonably likely to frighten other persons.**

**§ 608-36. Protection of wildlife.**

**While in a park, no person shall:**

- A. Subject to the provisions of § 608-37, kill, attempt to kill, maim, injure, trap or disturb wildlife without a permit;
- B. Touch, injure or remove a nest or egg without a permit;
- C. Feed or attempt to feed or deposit food for consumption by wildlife; or
- D. Release into a park pets, animals or domesticated species.

**§ 608-38. Fishing.**

While in a park:

- A. No person shall fish in an area posted to prohibit fishing;
- B. No person shall store or leave any lures, bait, hooks, lines, poles or other equipment in the park in a location or manner that may injure other persons or wildlife; and
- C. All permitted fishing must be carried out in compliance with all Ministry of Natural Resources Rules and Regulations.