

**ORDINANCE NO. 2024-03**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF LAGUNA VISTA, TEXAS, SETTING FORTH RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR OFF-LEASH DOG WALKING AREAS IN THE TOWN; PROVIDING FOR A PENALTY; PROVIDING FOR A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, the Town Council desires to establish rules and regulation for off-leash dog walking areas in the Town; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Council finds that the rules and regulations set forth herein within the provisions of this Ordinance will promote the health, safety, morals and the general welfare of the Town of Laguna Vista; and

**WHEREAS**, this Ordinance was adopted at a meeting held in strict compliance with the Texas Open Meetings Act;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF LAGUNA VISTA, TEXAS:**

Section 1. The Town Council hereby authorizes the establishment one or more areas in the Town for the off-leash walking of dogs.

Section 2. Definitions. In this Ordinance:

(a) "Dog owners/handler" means a person who brings a dog into a Park operating under this Ordinance.

(b) "Park" means an area or facility operated by the Town under this Ordinance for the off-leash walking of dogs.

Section 3. The following rules will apply to any off-leash dog walking areas and shall be posted:

USE OF THE DOG PARK IS AT YOUR OWN RISK. THE TOWN OF LAGUNA VISTA SHALL ASSUME NO LIABILITY OR RESPONSIBILITY FOR DAMAGE OR INJURIES IN THIS PARK. DOG OWNERS/HANDLERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ACTIONS, BEHAVIOR, AND INJURIES AND DAMAGES CAUSED BY THEIR DOG(S). PLEASE

FAMILIARIZE YOURSELF WITH THE RULES BELOW SO THAT EVERYONE MAY ENJOY THE PARK.

- (a) This Park is for use by dogs, their owners/handlers, and their human guests only. No other animals or uses are permitted.
- (b) Leashes may be removed inside the enclosed Off-Leash Areas of the Park only.
- (c) All dogs must be under control and in view of the owner/handler at all times. Dogs must be supervised by persons seventeen (17) years of age or older.
- (d) Children under the age of 17 must be accompanied and supervised by an adult.
- (e) Each owner/handler is Limited to two (2) dogs in the Park at any one time.
- (f) Dog owners/handlers are liable for any injuries or damage caused by their dogs. Any bites or scratches must be reported to the Town.
- (g) Dog owners/handlers are responsible for picking up and disposing of their dog's waste. Dog owners/handlers are responsible for any damage to the Park caused by their dogs.
- (h) All dogs must wear a collar or harness with a current rabies vaccination tag displayed. Dog owners/handlers must have a current rabies vaccination certificate available.
- (i) Dogs must be healthy and free of contagious diseases and parasites while in the park.
- (j) No person shall bring into the Park a dog that has been determined to be a dangerous dog by a court of competent jurisdiction, including any such court outside of the Town of Laguna Vista, or that is known, or should have been known, by its owner/handler to display aggressive behavior towards other animals or humans. Dogs showing aggressive behavior shall be leashed and removed from the Park immediately upon first sign of aggression. The Town reserves the authority to issue bans from the Park to dogs and owners/handlers based on documented incidents of aggression, injury, or damage.
- (k) Dog owners/handlers must carry a one leash per dog while in the Park. No dog may be chained or tethered to fixture or vegetation while in the Park.
- (l) No food for consumption by dogs or humans is permitted in the Park. Appropriate dog toys are allowed in the park, but not toys that are edible such as rawhides and bones.

- (m) Glass containers, alcohol, and tobacco products of any kind are prohibited in the Park.
- (n) Bicycles, skateboards, rollerblades, and motorized vehicles are prohibited in the Park.
- (o) Any person who shall violate any of the provisions of this section shall be charged with a Class C misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars (\$500.00) on a per occurrence and/or per day basis.

Section 4. Hours of operation. Parks operating under this Ordinance shall normally be open to the public from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. daily. The Town, through its City Manager, may expand the hours, restrict public access, or close the Park during these hours if and when it deems doing so appropriate.


Section 5. Effective Date. This ordinance is effective upon adoption by second reading, except that every ordinance imposing any penalty, fine or forfeiture shall become effective only after having been published once in its entirety, or a caption that summarizes the purpose of the ordinance and the penalty for violating the ordinance in a newspaper designated as the official newspaper of the Town.

**FIRST READING - PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Town Council of the Town of Laguna Vista, Texas at the Regular Meeting on the 11th day of June, 2024.**

**SECOND READING - PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Town Council of the Town of Laguna Vista, Texas at the Regular Meeting on the 9th day of July, 2024.**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael Carter, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Crystal Chapa, City Secretary