

# El Lago Animal Control refresher

(information from the City of El Lago website under Animal Control)

## Animal Control

Please note that the City of El Lago does **not** have an official animal shelter and our services are very limited. However, we do assist homeowners with certain services such as renting live traps for small wild animals, the removal of the trapped small wild animals and short-term kenneling of lost pets. Additionally, El Lago does have numerous laws regarding animals in the city, some of which are summarized below.

For more information, please go to the full City Code of Ordinances, and see [Chapter 3, Articles I and II](#).

## Barking Dogs

Noise ordinances, which are enforced by the Lakeview Police Department, specify that dogs may not be a nuisance through continued or excessive barking, owners may be cited for failure to quiet their animal. If you are disturbed by a neighbor's barking dog, please contact the Lakeview Police Dispatch by calling 281-326-5900 to have an officer come to the location.

The officer must witness the nuisance by hearing the dog bark before a citation can be issued. Please do not file a complaint with the city as nothing can be done unless the officer hears the dog barking.

## Leash Law in the City of El Lago

All domestic animals (dogs **and** cats) outside of a fenced enclosure **are required by law** to be on a leash. Please remember that not all residents are animal lovers. Some have severe allergies, are frightened by unknown animals and are frustrated when their yard is used as a litter box.

Any roaming animal (this includes cats) subjects its owner to an "animal-at-large" citation by the Lakeview Police Department.

## **Pet Licenses**

All dogs and cats are required to have an annual El Lago pet license. To obtain a license, please bring a current copy of your pet's rabies vaccination record to City Hall. For multiple year rabies vaccinations, a license may be obtained for as many years as the vaccination is valid. Each license is \$5 annually.

## **Stray / Feral Cats**

The city is a recognized bird sanctuary and the excess feral cat population is intruding into the natural balance of our birds' habitat. The cats are killing birds, squirrels, lizards (mosquito eating), snakes (roach and rat eaters) and each other. When the density of the stray cats is so high, it can trigger diseases, which can rapidly spread to our domestic pets, children and older citizens.

Anyone found feeding stray cats will be subject to up to a \$500 fine for each offense.

### **Protection Actions**

Here are actions you can take to protect yourself and your pets:

- Stop feeding stray cats.
- Collar and/or chip your cat.
- Do not allow your pet to roam without a leash. It is against the city's leash law, which may subject you to a citation and fine.
- Get a pet license for your cat (and dog) from the city. By city ordinance, you are required to have your cat or dog licensed annually. To do this, come to City Hall with current proof of your animals' rabies vaccination. The license is only \$5 per pet per year.

This is not a decision that's made lightly, but we know it is in the best interest of our community. Please mind your pets, have them identifiable and take responsibility for your own actions by not feeding the strays. We can all work together to help resolve this very unfortunate issue and help to make our city a healthier place for our residents and our pets.