



DOG LEASH DOGMA ...

or why Jefferson County Open Space requires dogs on leash.

Protect your dog; unrestrained is unprotected.

Unrestrained dogs have little defense against a wildlife encounter. Hazards awaiting an unrestrained dog include skunk, porcupine, mountain lion, rattlesnake, poisonous plants, insects, burrowing seeds and smaller animals that may carry rabies. Dog fights often occur with little or no warning, and humans are unable to predict the behavior of their pets.

Protect wildlife.

Unleashed dogs harass, injure and sometimes kill wildlife. Dogs can affect ground-nesting birds in riparian areas. Just the sight of a dog running loose stresses wild animals.

Reassure other park visitors.

Over 1.5 million people visit our Open Space parks each year. Many bring their dogs as companions, however some visitors are actually afraid of dogs. Unleashed dogs intimidate other park users and deprive them of the peace open space provides. Please respect other users' need to have an enjoyable park experience.

Be an example.

The leash law is for all dog owners. Jefferson County Open Space appreciates responsible owners that train their pets, but within a wild environment, anything can happen. The only way to responsibly control your pet is to have it on a leash.

Save money... and your dog.

Failure to leash your dog may result in a fine, and unleashed dogs increase the probability of dogs being banned from your favorite public lands. A summons for \$30 may be issued and habitual offenders may be fined up to \$330. If an unleashed dog is responsible for injury to wildlife, the Colorado Division of Wildlife may charge pet owners with a civil offense, and officers have the option of capturing or killing a dog that is caught chasing wildlife.

