



## Best Practices for a Pet Friendly Community

The following are best practices and guidelines for municipalities that are considering options to fill their communities with more pet friendly spaces.

Before getting started, establish the foundation and define “pets”. Ensuring that your community is aware of the guidelines and policies is an important start to creating a long-lasting and successful pet friendly community.

### Guidelines for a Pet Friendly Community:

- Current Tags. All dogs, specifically, must display on collars a current license tag along with current rabies vaccination (or owner must have their pets’ information available). Visible collars and identifiable tags should be worn at all times.
- Behavior. All owners must exercise reasonable control over their pets and if their pets are canines, ensure they are on leashes in all dog-friendly areas that are not intended for off-leash canine activities.
- Waste. Pet owners are responsible for the cleanup of their pets’ waste immediately after the occurrence.

### Municipality Recommendations:

- Consider gradual implementations of pet friendly spaces by partnering with organizations like local hospitality associations, parks and recreation department, and downtown business development associations.
- Ensure the community has waste stands and waste bags in high-traffic areas like parks, sidewalks and greenways.
  - o Contemplate partnering with local scout troops or schools for service projects to keep waste stations stocked with bags.

### Multi-family and Neighborhood Association Recommendations:

- Provide residents with waste bags of branded material at the time of move-in. This will encourage pet ownership responsibility.
- Consider implementation of dog DNA programs to create an atmosphere of responsibility to encourage owners to pick up after their pets. Tennessee currently has approximately 60 multi-family communities using PooPrints – a Tennessee based company – for this service.
- Assess the need for an online pet registration system for your community to have one convenient and organized storage location of pet papers.
- Partner with a local vet for monthly visits to property. This helps ensure all animals health and wellness is maintained and provides a great convenience for working pet owners.
- Pet-amenities.
  - o Many communities offer complimentary doggie-day-care services to provide solutions for working dog-owners.
  - o Additional amenities such as pet wash and grooming stations provide residents an area to keep their pet clean.
  - o Consider a private, off-leash dog park for residents so they are not forced to seek out alternative locations for their pets.

### Sources:

1. [Humane Society: Recommended Pet Policies](#)
2. [PooPrints: The DNA Waste Management Solution](#)
3. [Community Associations Institute: PETS](#)