



The City of Morgantown

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Pet Safety Tips and City Codes

Protect your pet by reviewing and following these pet safety tips and City codes.

Now that warm weather has arrived in Morgantown, pets are enjoying the great outdoors more often. It is important to know and practice pet safety tips and laws in Morgantown to keep your pet as well as others' pets safe.

The following are pet safety tips:

- Don't leave your pets outside when you are not home. Even though they are in their own yard, they can still be tormented and abused by passers-by.
- When the temperature gets above 80°F it is best to leave your pets at home, where it is cool. The inside of a vehicle can reach temperatures over 100°F in just a few minutes, even with the windows open.
- Walking your dog on the sidewalks and asphalt on extremely hot days poses a threat because dogs lose heat through their paws. Before you go, feel the ground. If you can't touch it comfortably, wait until a cooler part of the day.
- The City of Morgantown recognizes that locally numerous dogs and cats are euthanized each year because they are not wanted. For that reason, the City of Morgantown encourages all dog and cat owners to contact the Monongalia County Humane Society at (304) 291-7267 for information regarding spaying and neutering.

The following are City codes:

- **505.1(b)** No person being the owner of or having charge of any dog shall permit it to run at large upon any public place or upon the premises of another. Dogs not confined on the owner's property shall be maintained on a leash of a length no longer than six feet. The name and address of the owner and the City tax tag shall be attached to the collars of dogs at all times.
- **505.1(d)** Cats shall be permitted to run at large only if such cat is wearing identification.

- **505.05** No person shall hide, conceal or secrete any taxable dog to avoid the assessment and head tax on such dog or prevent the seizure and impounding of any dog on which such tax is not paid.
- **505.09(a)** Vaccination Required. Whoever owns, keeps or harbors a dog or cat within the City shall, once every two years, have such dog or cat properly vaccinated or immunized against rabies as provided by West Virginia Code 19-20A-1 to 19-20A-8, as amended, or hereafter amended; provided, however, that dogs need not be vaccinated before the age of five months and cats before the age of three months; and provided, further, that dogs or cats entering the City temporarily cannot be kept and maintained within the City for a period of more than thirty days unless properly vaccinated.
- **505.09(b)** Record of Vaccination. Whoever vaccinates or revaccinates a dog or cat against rabies shall keep a record of such vaccination or revaccination, and shall dispose of such record as provided in West Virginia Code 19-20A-3, as amended or hereafter amended.
- **505.09(c)** Vaccination Tag. Any dog vaccinated or revaccinated as required by this article shall have a tag indicating the year of vaccination and the number of the record of such vaccination on such tag, which tag shall be securely fastened to the collar worn by the dog.
- **505.16(a)** No owner or custodian of any animal shall cause or allow such animal to soil, defile or defecate on any public property or upon any street, sidewalk, public way, or upon private property other than that of the owner, unless such owner or custodian immediately removes and disposes of all feces deposited by such animal by the following methods:
 1. Collection of the feces by appropriate implement and placement in a paper or plastic bag or other container; and
 2. Removal of such bag or container to the property of the animal owner or custodian and disposition thereafter in a manner as otherwise may be permitted by law.

505.16(b) Any person who violates this section shall be fined twenty-five dollars (\$25.00).

Although the City has code pertaining to animal control, the City's animal control services are managed by the Mon County Canine Adoption Center and its Animal Control Officers. You can find out more about its services by visiting <http://www.moncounty.com/canineadoption/index.html>.

Please be courteous and follow the safety tips rules to not only keep Morgantown residents happy, but their pets as well.

