

Sagefield Subdivision Dog Waste Ordinance

Section 1: Purpose The purpose of this ordinance is to maintain the cleanliness and safety of the Sagefield Subdivision by regulating the behavior of dog owners and ensuring that dogs do not defecate on properties other than their own.

Section 2: Definitions

- **Owner:** Any person who owns, keeps, or harbors a dog.
- **Public Property:** Any property owned by the Sagefield Subdivision or any other governmental entity.
- **Private Property:** Any property owned by an individual or entity other than the dog owner.

Section 3: Prohibited Conduct

1. No owner shall permit their dog to defecate on any private property other than their own.
2. If a dog defecates on public property or private property not owned by the owner, the owner must immediately remove and properly dispose of the feces.

Section 4: Leash Requirements

1. All dogs must be kept on a leash no longer than six feet when outside the owner's property.
2. The leash must be held by a person capable of controlling the dog at all times.

Section 5: Pooper Scooper Law

1. Dog owners must carry a device or bag for the purpose of removing and disposing of their dog's feces when walking their dog outside their property.
2. Failure to clean up after a dog will result in fines as outlined in Section 7.
3. Proper disposal includes placing the feces in a sealed bag and disposing of it in a designated waste receptacle.

Section 6: Reporting Violations

1. Residents who witness a violation of this ordinance should report the incident to the Sagefield Subdivision Homeowners Association (HOA).
2. Reports should include the date, time, location of the violation, and, if possible, a description of the dog and owner.
3. Reports can be submitted via the HOA's official website, email, or by calling the HOA office.

Section 7: Enforcement

1. The HOA shall have the authority to issue fines for violations of this ordinance.

2. Fines shall be as follows:
 - o First offense: \$50
 - o Second offense: \$100
 - o Subsequent offenses: \$200

Section 8: Nuisance

Damaging, soiling, defiling or defecating on property other than its owners, or public, sidewalks, excessive noise making, excessive odor, excessive barking, molesting, threatening, attacking or interfering with persons on public or private property, chasing automobiles, bicycles or other means of conveyance, attacking other animals, disturbing or turning over garbage cans or running at-large, or interfering with another person's enjoyment, (walking), on public or private property is hereby declared a **Nuisance**. However, no community cat shall be declared a nuisance for running at-large.

Section 9: Effective Date

This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon adoption by the Sagefield Subdivision HOA.

Additional Information

If someone refuses to pay the fines, the Sagefield Subdivision Homeowners Association (HOA) can take further actions to enforce the ordinance. Here are some potential steps the HOA might take:

1. **Additional Fines:** The HOA could impose additional fines or penalties for non-payment.
2. **Legal Action:** The HOA may pursue legal action to collect the unpaid fines, which could include filing a lawsuit or placing a lien on the property.
3. **Suspension of Privileges:** The HOA might suspend certain privileges or access to community amenities until the fines are paid.
4. **Reporting to Credit Agencies:** In some cases, the HOA could report the unpaid fines to credit agencies, which could affect the owner's credit score.

It's important for residents to understand the consequences of not complying with the ordinance and to address any fines promptly to avoid these additional measures.

If a dog owner claims they didn't see their dog defecate, the HOA can still enforce the ordinance based on reports from other residents or evidence provided. Here are some steps that can be taken:

1. **Witness Reports:** Encourage residents to provide detailed reports, including descriptions of the dog and owner, and if possible, photos or videos of the incident.
2. **Education:** Remind dog owners of their responsibility to always be aware of their dog's actions and to carry the necessary tools for cleanup.

3. **Warnings:** Issue a warning for the first reported incident, emphasizing the importance of vigilance and compliance with the ordinance.
4. **Repeat Offenses:** If the same owner is reported multiple times, the HOA can escalate the enforcement measures, including fines and other penalties.