

## Animal Services Department

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# Contra Costa County



Glenn E. Howell  
Animal Services Director

## Received

JUL 09 2009

## City of Clayton

9 July 2009

Gary Napper, City Manager  
City of Clayton  
6000 Heritage Trail  
Clayton, CA 94517

Dear Mr. Napper,

I'm writing to clarify Section 416-4.402 of the Contra Costa County Animal ordinance, Animals at Large; known to many as the leash law. The ordinance clearly states that dogs are required to be "...under effective restraint by a leash..." at all times. This means that the dog must not just be on a leash, but the handler must have effective control of the dog on the leash.

The only exceptions to being on leash are:

- (1) the dog is on the private property of its owner or
- (2) the dog is on private property with the consent of the owner of the private property.
- (3) areas clearly designated as "off-leash dog run areas."

It is important to note that being on private property does not relieve the dog owner, or person in custody of the dog, of his/her responsibility to exercise effective and appropriate restraint to assure that the dog cannot injure persons or property. *Sec 416-4.402 (b)(5) – Animals at large*

I hope this explanation is helpful. Please do not hesitate to call if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "G. Howell", is written over the word "Sincerely,".

Glenn E. Howell, Director  
Animal Services Department