

Redstone Review: 700 words

Hello there, Lyons Community! I'm excited to be part of the Redstone cohort, representing the Town of Lyons as your Code Compliance Official and Hazard Mitigation Program Coordinator. In my line of work, I often come across small problems that could be easily avoided if folks were just more aware of the Lyons Municipal Code and our town regulations.

As we head into the warmer months, I thought it would be a great time to revisit some of our town laws regarding dog ownership and leash requirements. I know we all love our furry friends, but it's important to keep them and our community safe.

Getting a dog license is an important responsibility for all dog owners. Here are some reasons why:

1. **Legal Requirement:** In the Town of Lyons, it is a legal requirement to have a dog license under Lyons Municipal Code **8-6-20**. Failing to obtain one can result in fines (beginning at \$45 per daily offense and per dog).
2. **Identification:** A dog license is a form of identification for your dog. It helps us and the Boulder County Sheriff's Office Animal Control to identify your dog if they get lost or are involved in an accident.
3. **Vaccination Verification:** A dog license requires proof of vaccination, which helps to ensure that your dog is up-to-date on their shots. This is important not only for the safety of your dog but also for the safety of other dogs and humans they encounter.
4. **Community Support:** Dog licensing fees are often used to fund programs and resources that benefit dogs and their owners in the community (dog poop bags, for example).
5. **Peace of Mind:** Knowing that your dog is licensed and up-to-date on their vaccinations can give you peace of mind and help you feel more confident in taking your dog out in public.

Overall, getting a dog license is a responsible action that benefits both the dog and the Lyons community!

Off-leash dogs can pose several potential dangers, both to themselves and to other people and animals in the area. Here are a few examples:

1. **Unpredictable behavior:** When a dog is off leash, their behavior can be unpredictable. Even if the owner believes their dog is well-behaved, the dog may become overly excited, aggressive, or anxious in certain situations, especially when encountering new people or other animals. This can lead to unexpected and potentially dangerous behavior.
2. **Accidents:** Off-leash dogs can be a hazard to themselves and others, especially when running or playing in areas where there is heavy traffic. They may also chase or harass wildlife, potentially leading to injury or death for both the dog and the wildlife.
3. **Legal issues:** The Town of Lyons Municipal Code **7-6-50** requires dogs to be kept on a leash in public areas. Failure to do so is a penalty assessment of \$50 for the first offense, \$90 for the second offense, and a direct Lyons Municipal Court summons for the third offense. Additionally, if an off-leash dog causes damage or injury, their owner may be liable for any resulting legal or financial consequences.
4. **Health risks:** Unleashed dogs may encounter other animals who are sick or carrying diseases (such as the recent Avian Flu outbreak). They may also pick up parasites or bacteria from the ground, which can lead to health problems.
5. **Fear and anxiety:** For people who are afraid of dogs or who have had negative experiences with them in the past, encountering an off-leash dog can be extremely frightening and traumatic.

I hope this information helps you better understand our town regulations and how they can benefit both you and your neighbors. Let's work together to create a safe, healthy, and welcoming environment for all. Remember, this knowledge could even save the life of your beloved pup or a fellow community member's furry friend. For more information go to <https://www.townoflyons.com/215/Dog-Licensing> . Thank you!

Caption: My boy, Luke! Licensed, leashed, and ready to go for his BCH Hospital shift as a therapy dog!

