

Austin Guide to Dogs and Cats in Our City

Laws (Austin City Code Title 3)



- Keep dogs on a leash and under control in all areas that are not designated as “off-leash”
- Pick up and sanitarly dispose of pet waste left on public or private property
- Provide adequate shelter
- Ensure pets have current rabies vaccinations
- Confine pets transported in unenclosed vehicles in a manner that prevents the animal from falling or jumping from the vehicle or being injured
- DO NOT leave a pet alone on a chain or tether
- It’s unlawful to sell a puppy or kitten that is not spayed/neutered, vaccinated, and microchipped

Safety



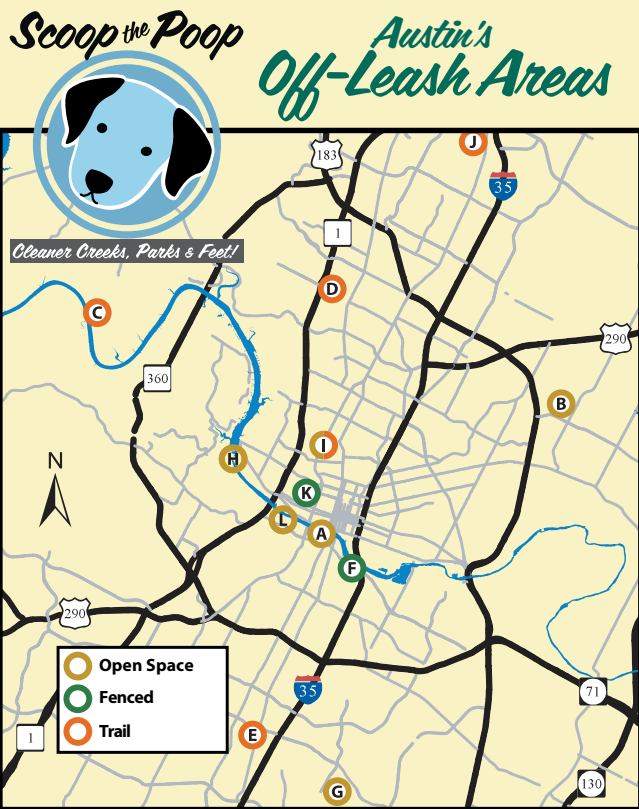
- Keep cats INDOORS to protect the health of pets, people, and Austin’s wildlife
- Teach your dog to respond to behavioral commands in an off-leash area
- Teach your dog to walk by your side when on-leash. We suggest not using a retractable leash
- Know your dog’s physical limitations and tolerance levels
- Pay attention to the weather. It doesn’t take long for an active dog to overheat, and certain breeds are very susceptible to the heat, cold or precipitation
- When you leave home with your dog, consider bringing water and a bowl
- Touch the pavement before walking to see if it’s hot and sunny. Hot pavement can burn your dog’s paws
- NEVER leave animals unattended in your car

Found Animals



- If there’s a tag on the collar and you can safely read it, call the number on the tag
- If you can safely transport the animal, any vet clinic or emergency vet can scan it for a microchip and call the owner
- Guidance is available from the Pet Resource Center guide found here: <http://www.austintexas.gov/department/lost-found-pet>
- Walk the dog around your neighborhood. It might pull toward it’s home
- Call 311 if none of the above work out

Where Can My Dog Run Off-Leash



A	West Auditorium Shores	800 W. Riverside Dr. 78704
B	Davis White Northeast Neighborhood Park	5909 Crystalbrook Dr. 78724
C	Tukey Creek Trail at Emma Long Metropolitan Park	1600 City Park Rd. 78730
D	Far West	6916 Great Northern Blvd. 78757
E	Mary Moore Searight Off-Leash Trail	907 W. Slaughter Ln. 78748
F	Norwood Tract at Town Lake Metropolitan Park	1009 Edgecliff Terrace 78704
G	Onion Creek District Park	7001 Onion Creek Dr. 78744
H	Red Bud Isle	3401 Red Bud Trail 78703
I	Shoal Creek Greenbelt	2600-2799 Lamar Blvd. 78705
J	Walnut Creek District Park (North of the Creek)	12138 N. Lamar Blvd 78753
K	West Austin Park	1317 W. 10th St. 78703
L	Zilker Park The Great Lawn	2100 Barton Springs Rd. 78746

Helpful Tips

- Leash your dog until it is inside the off-leash area
- Your dog should respond to behavioral commands, especially in an off-leash area
- Leash your dog and leave the area if others are too rowdy
- Scoop the Poop! Poop bags and trash containers are provided
- Keep food out of fenced areas to avoid scuffles
- Report any bite or attack to 3-1-1

Keep Austin No Kill

- Adopt your next pet from the Austin Animal Center on Levander Loop or a local rescue group
- Foster through the Austin Animal Center
- Spay/neuter and microchip your pet. The Austin Animal Center can help!

Frequent Community Topics

Are off-leash dogs allowed in front yards?

All off-leash dogs must be behind a fence. If there is no fence, just an open yard, then it is not allowed.

I often go to City parks and people let their dogs off-leash in areas that are not designated off-leash areas. I am concerned for my pets and children. What can I do?

Call 311 to report the issue and help PARD collect data about off-leash violations for enforcement improvement.

If I'm walking my dog on-leash in my neighborhood and an off-leash dog runs up and my dog injures it, is my dog in trouble?

Call 311. An Animal Protection Officer will be able to answer your questions. In general, if your dog was on-leash, you are not in violation of the City leash laws.

My child was nipped by an off-leash dog. What should I do?

Call 311 to report the incident. You will be contacted by Animal Protection.

I see a dog chained in a yard by itself. Is this legal?

Call 311. Animal Protection will follow up.

Will algae harm my dog if it swims in it?

Letting your pet swim in unknown waters could expose them to toxic algae. To learn more about toxic algae, go to www.austintexas.gov/page/algae. Make sure you follow signs and only allow your dog to swim where it's allowed and when it's safe.

Contacts



Austin Parks and Recreation - Off-Leash Dog Areas

www.austintexas.gov/department/parks-and-recreation

Austin Animal Center - Animal Protection

www.austintexas.gov/content/austin-animal-center

Austin Watershed Protection - Toxic Algae and Scoop the Poop

www.austintexas.gov/department/watershed-protection

www.austintexas.gov/department/scoop-poop

Wildlife Protection

www.austintexas.gov/department/wildlife-austin

Support the Austin Animal Center

www.austintexas.gov/department/support-animal-center

www.friendsofaac.org/

Support Austin Parks and Recreation

www.austinparks.org/

