

Animal Laws

The purpose of this document is to summarize and explain laws and best practices pertaining to keeping animals in Chula Vista. The topics covered in this document are as follows:

1. Basic Requirements
2. Best Practices
3. Number of Permitted Animals
4. Lost and Found
5. Barking Dogs
6. Emergencies
7. Dangerous Dog
8. Prohibited Animals
9. Removal of Rattlesnakes, Bats

Basic Requirements

a. **Protect your dog from rabies.** All dogs over the age of four months residing in Chula Vista must be licensed and vaccinated against rabies, a deadly virus spread to people from infected animals. Dogs should be licensed within 30 days after being brought within the City or upon reaching the age of four months. Renewals may be purchased in 1 and 3-year increments from the Chula Vista Animal Care Facility. Use either the [online](#) system or complete and mail/return a license [renewal form](#).

Source: Chula Vista Municipal Code Chapter 6.20

<http://www.codepublishing.com/CA/ChulaVista/#!/ChulaVista06/ChulaVista0620.html>

For information on rabies vaccination clinics at the Chula Vista Animal Care Facility, see the following link:

<http://www.chulavistaca.gov/departments/animal-care/pet-ownership-assistance/services-page>

b. **Leash your dog.** Dogs may not run loose and must be leashed when out in public.

Source: Chula Vista Municipal Code Section 6.24.030

<http://www.codepublishing.com/CA/ChulaVista/#!/chulavista06/ChulaVista0624.html#6.24.030>

Chula Vista has five leash-free parks: 1) Montevalle, 840 Duncan Ranch Road; 2) Mount San Miguel Park, 2335 Paseo Veracruz; 3) Orange Park, 1475 Fourth Avenue; 4) Eucalyptus Park, 56 Fourth Avenue; and 5) Veterans Park, 785 East Palomar Street.

c. **Pick up after your dog.** An owner must pick up his or her dog's waste when out in public.

Source: Chula Vista Municipal Code Section 6.24.070

<http://www.codepublishing.com/CA/ChulaVista/#!/chulavista06/ChulaVista0624.html#6.24.070>

d. **Provide essential care.** Owners must give their dogs food, water, shelter, protection from the weather and veterinary care. For a full list of required conditions of animal ownership, see the link below.

Source: Chula Vista Municipal Code Section 6.24.010

<http://www.codepublishing.com/CA/ChulaVista/#!/chulavista06/ChulaVista0624.html#6.24.010>

e. **Transport your dog safely.** While travelling, a dog must be safely enclosed in a vehicle or secured in such a way to prevent the dog from jumping or falling from the vehicle.

Source: Chula Vista Municipal Code Section 6.26.010

<http://www.codepublishing.com/CA/ChulaVista/#!/chulavista06/ChulaVista0626.html#6.26.010>

f. **Never leave your dog unattended in a vehicle.** A hot car can be deadly for dogs. It is unlawful to leave a dog alone in a car without adequate water or ventilation in such a manner that the dog's health and welfare is adversely affected.

Source: Chula Vista Municipal Code Section 6.26.020

<http://www.codepublishing.com/CA/ChulaVista/#!/chulavista06/ChulaVista0626.html#6.26.020>

g. **Rehome your pet responsibly.** It is unlawful to abandon a domestic animal. If you are no longer able to care for your pet, take your pet to the Chula Vista Animal Care Facility. See the following link for the address and hours of operation.

<https://www.chulavistaca.gov/departments/animal-care/location-hours-contact>

Source: Chula Vista Municipal Code Section 6.24.090

<http://www.codepublishing.com/CA/ChulaVista/#!/chulavista06/ChulaVista0624.html#6.24.090>

Best Practices

- a. **Spay or neuter your dog or cat.** Spaying and neutering reduces the number of unwanted pets and may prevent your pet from getting out and roaming. The Chula Vista Animal Care Facility offers Spay/Neuter Clinics for low income residents. See the following link for more information.

<http://www.chulavistaca.gov/departments/animal-care/spaying-neutering>

b. **Microchip your pet.** Microchipping helps lost pets reconnect with their owners. Microchipping is available from the Chula Vista Animal Care Facility for a one-time fee. See the following link for more information.

<http://www.chulavistaca.gov/departments/animal-care/pet-ownership-assistance/services-page>

Number of Permitted Animals

The number of animals permitted, including dogs and cats, are limited by lot size. For more information, please read <http://www.codepublishing.com/CA/ChulaVista/#!/ChulaVista06/ChulaVista0604.html>

The sale of dogs under eight (8) weeks old is prohibited unless written approval from a veterinarian is obtained prior to the sale.

http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=PEN§ionNum=597z.

Lost and Found

Lost a pet? If you lost a pet in Chula Vista, Lemon Grove, or National City, please go to the Chula Vista Animal Care Facility to look for your pet. If you cannot visit the facility, owners can search for their pets at www.petharbor.com.

All animals at the Animal Care Facility are updated on the site daily. Only you can identify your lost pet. Do not rely on staff to tell you over the phone if your lost pet is there. Animals wearing an ID or license will often lose their tags. Staff will check for a microchip.

If you visit the facility to discover your pet is not there, it is very important that you fill out a lost/found report and leave a flyer. When your pet is missing, it is imperative that you check the Animal Care Facility in person or search through www.petharbor.com at least every three days.

If you believe your pet is at the facility, bring a leash with you (for a dog) and any proof of ownership you may have.

Found a pet? It is illegal to keep a found pet for more than 24 hours. Any person finding a lost or stray dog shall forthwith notify the Animal Care Facility and turn it over to them. You might be able to adopt the pet you have found from the shelter if its owner does not claim it.

Location: 130 Beyer Way, Chula Vista, CA 91911
Office Phone: (619) 691-5123

Animal Dispatch: (619) 476-2476
Emergency: (619) 691-5151 After Hours and Weekends
Hours: Tuesday - Friday: 10:00 am - 5:00 pm
Saturday: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Sunday - Monday: CLOSED

Source:

<http://www.codepublishing.com/CA/ChulaVista/#!/chulavista06/ChulaVista0624.html#6.24.190>

Barking Dogs

To report a barking issue, please submit a [Barking Dog Complaint Form](#) to the Animal Care Facility. This will result in a notification letter to the Dog Owner regarding the complaint.

If the problem persists after a minimum 2 week period has elapsed and you would like to continue the process, a second Barking Dog Complaint Form must be received from you and also one from a neighbor at a different address. A second letter will be sent to the Dog Owner.

Thankfully barking issues are usually resolved by these first steps. If however, the barking has not stopped, Animal Care Facility staff will need to receive one more completed Barking Dog Complaint Form from either you or the other neighbor. Once it's received, an Animal Control Officers will issue a citation to the Dog Owner. For more information, see the link below.

Source:

<http://www.codepublishing.com/CA/ChulaVista/#!/chulavista06/ChulaVista0624.html#6.24.040>

Emergencies

Injured animal. If you see an animal - dead, alive or injured - creating a traffic hazard or involved in a situation that is dangerous to human safety, call the Animal Care Facility (619) 476-2476 during [business hours](#) or (619) 691-5151 (PD Dispatch) after hours.

Dog bite. If you are bitten by an animal or have an animal that bit someone else, call the Animal Care Facility (619) 476-2476 during [business hours](#) or (619) 691-5151 (PD Dispatch) after hours. Have the following information ready:

- Description of animal
- Animal's name
- Address where animal lives
- Owner's name of animal
- Time of day you were bitten
- Location on your body where you were bitten

Dangerous Dog

A dog that has shown the propensity to bite, or that has bitten, may be declared dangerous and subject to conditions of ownership, such as muzzling and obtaining liability insurance. For more information, see the links below.

Source:

<http://www.codepublishing.com/CA/ChulaVista/#!/chulavista06/ChulaVista0624.html#6.24.100>

<http://www.codepublishing.com/CA/ChulaVista/#!/chulavista06/ChulaVista0624.html#6.24.110>

<http://www.codepublishing.com/CA/ChulaVista/#!/chulavista06/ChulaVista0624.html#6.24.120>

Prohibited Animals

- a. The following domestic animals are prohibited in Chula Vista: roosters, goats and pigs.

Source:

<http://www.codepublishing.com/CA/ChulaVista/#!/ChulaVista06/ChulaVista0604.html#6.04.060>

- b. Other “wild” or “exotic” animals also are prohibited in Chula Vista, such as lions, monkeys, wolves and alligators. For a complete list, see the following link.

Source:

<http://www.codepublishing.com/CA/ChulaVista/#!/chulavista06/ChulaVista0604.html#6.04.070>

- c. It is unlawful to possess ferrets, hedgehogs and sugar gliders in California, including Chula Vista.

Source: <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/living-with-wildlife/restricted-pet-species>

Removal of rattlesnakes and bats. If there is a rattlesnake or bat that is threatening a person in a residence, call the Police Department at 9-1-1 or the non-emergency phone number, 619-691-5151. Fire Department or Animal Care Facility staff will be asked to respond.