



City of South Haven

# PRESS RELEASE

## City of South Haven

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Local Media

DATE: June 15, 2017

## **SOUTH HAVEN REMINDS RESIDENTS, VISITORS OF PET RULES**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – (South Haven, Michigan) As more residents and visitors enjoy the outdoors, the City of South Haven wants to remind everyone of the rules governing pets to ensure a safe, fun summer for all.

“Our City code establishes rules that are designed to protect both people and pets,” said South Haven Police Chief Natalie Thompson. “We expect pet owners to take responsibility for their pets, which means keeping dogs on a leash when taking walks and making sure your pet is properly restrained to your property.”

“While you may see your pet as a playful puppy, a toddler or senior citizen may have a different view. As the old saying goes, ‘My rights end where yours begin.’ We encourage all pet owners to understand and respect the rules we have established.”

Section 6 of the City code lays out pet and animal regulations, including:

- Animals are not allowed outside of their owner’s property unless they are under “reasonable control”
- Animals are not allowed on the sand at any public beach
- Animals are only allowed in public parks if led by a leash
- Animals may not run at large through streets, roadways, or trails
- Animals may not run at large through streets or roadways
- Yards should be fenced or animals should be on a leash or otherwise restrained from leaving their yards

- Noisy animals, such as barking dogs, may not cause “unreasonable interference or annoyance” to sleep or neighborhood quiet
- Animals are not allowed to trespass on or damage or destroy property
- All dogs more than six months old must be licensed and vaccinated
- Animals should not be confined unattended in motor vehicles
- Animals known to be vicious or harmful are not permitted

Violators of these regulations face the potential of civil or criminal charges, fines or imprisonment.

Members of the public should call 269-637-5151 to report a loose or dangerous animal or allegations of abuse or neglect.

“South Haven law enforcement has always been very proactive when it comes to the welfare of both people and animals,” Thompson said. “We want to ensure that our parks, beaches and streets are safe for everyone, people and pets alike. Working together and respecting the rules, we can all have a safer summer.”

To read the complete section of the city code of ordinances governing pets, go to: Chapter 6: ANIMALS; Article I. IN GENERAL; Sec. 6-1 through Sec. 6-56 on the city website: <http://www.south-haven.com>

Or click on the following link:

[http://www.south-haven.com/PDFs/official\\_documents/Code%20of%20Ordinances.pdf](http://www.south-haven.com/PDFs/official_documents/Code%20of%20Ordinances.pdf)

For more information, contact: Chief Natalie Thompson, 269-637-5151.

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