

Dog Decorum: Tips for Dog Owners

1. Always Pick Up After Your Dog:

Picking up your dog's waste is by far the #1 dog etiquette rule, because it can spread disease, harm the environment, and not picking it up is just plain gross. Don't aggravate other dog owners or neighbors walking outside - pick it up and toss it away in your HOA dumpster. If your dog has an accident on the catwalk, elevator, or common walking path, it is your job to clean it up.

2. Control Their Barking:

There is no bigger pet peeve for your neighbors than a dog that barks uncontrollably. Usually this occurs when someone knocks on the door, or they hear someone in the hallway that startles them.

But barking can also happen when you're away, because they're sad, bored, or just miss you. If you have received noise complaints from neighbors, take it seriously and figure out what is causing your dog to bark.

3. Keep Them on a Short Leash in the Community and in Your Condo Building:

I love my dog, you love your dog, but not everyone in the LOD is a dog lover. Residents may be afraid of, allergic to, or just not like dogs. Keeping your dog on a leash (preferably a short one) is the courteous thing to do, but it is also the law in Palm Beach County.

It's also important when coming into entryways, catwalks, common areas, and elevators that your leash is short (i.e., 3-4 feet) and that you don't let your dog charge into spaces or jump on residents. No retractable leashes, only 5-foot maximum. Not every dog wants to meet your dog. When you are in a situation where you cannot avoid other dogs, keep your leash short. That way, no interactions between dogs can happen. If a dog shows he wants space, the best thing to do is keep moving past him. Stopping and allowing your dog to fixate will only make the situation worse. If you know other dog owners with friendly, outgoing dogs, that is great!

4. Play by the "Common Area" Rules:

LOD has common areas, which are shared spaces where both residents and dogs interact. It's not a personal playground; play by the condo's rules and be a good neighbor. When walking around the community counterclockwise, your dog should be on your right side along the grass (common area). The grass area and tall hedges on your left (in front of the condo parking lots) are private property. It's dangerous to walk your

dog along the tall hedges because, aside from being exposed to pesticides, they may end up in a fight with a wild goose, squirrel, or raccoon. NO ESA dogs on the pool deck.

5. Avoid Wandering:

Always keep an eye on your dog to make sure they don't wander or run onto private property. As you walk them, keep them close to you, especially when you are talking on your cell phone.

Just a Friendly Reminder:

- The Lakes of Delray is a NO Pet Community: All Service and ESA dogs must be registered with the LOD Property Management Office prior to entry into the premises.
- Dog owners must provide the Property Manager with the following documents (required by Florida State law): a Florida Mental Health Care provider prescription/letter for the ESA dog or a certification/letter qualifying the service dog; a Palm Beach County dog license; and current rabies vaccination paperwork. Dogs without these qualifying documents may be treated as a pet for purposes of LOD policies.