

Why promote responsible dog ownership?

When you own a dog, you take on a huge responsibility of not only caring for the dog, but also to insure that your dog does not inadvertently harm anyone.

An undisciplined dog can jump up on people and in the case of children or the elderly, could hurt them seriously if they were to fall.

Dogs that have been allowed to roam off of their owner's property have caused livestock damage, unwanted litters, and injury to humans. They are also at risk for bringing home **zoonotic illnesses** (diseases that can be transferred to humans).

Keep your dog on your property if you are not there to supervise. If



you go off of your property with your dog, make sure that the dog is fully under your control.

Teach your dog manners.

Carry extra "doggy bags" when you are out and about to give to those who may have "forgotten" theirs.

Be a "model" responsible dog owner!

DFOW is a volunteer organization.

Members include individual pet owners and breeders, dog clubs, veterinarians, and breed specific rescue volunteers.

DFOW works with elected officials to try to help with laws that make sense and do not cause hardship on responsible dog owners.

DFOW's membership base consists of the most knowledgeable people in Wisconsin in regards to dogs. We can provide elected officials with substantiated materials regarding the proper way to raise dogs; why breed specific legislation, mandatory spay/neuter, and pet limits do not work, and why intrusive laws can actually create public health risks by driving people underground to protect their pets.



The Dog Federation of Wisconsin is registered with the State of Wisconsin for lobbying efforts. Our lobbyist is Gary Goyke.

Please notify DFOW if your community is considering revising their existing animal code.

DFOW

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Dog Federation of Wisconsin

Educational Series

"How to be a responsible dog owner"

Restrictive legislation is being introduced in many communities due to problems created by irresponsible pet owners.

This brochure will explain how you can be a RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNER.

What does being a responsible dog owner really mean?

In order to be a responsible dog owner, there are really just a few things that you need to do:



- Provide nutritious food and water.
- Provide shelter.
- Provide for regular veterinary care.
- Groom your dog regularly.
- Provide your dog with physical exercise and mental stimulation.
- Clean up after your dog.
- Keep your dog under control at all times.
- Provide structure—teach them manners.
- License your dog.
- Love your dog.

That is all it takes to be a responsible dog owner!

Irresponsible dog owners make the rest of the dog owning population look bad...

Irresponsible dog owners allow their dogs to roam the neighborhood. They don't care if their dog "takes care of business" on their neighbor's front lawn.

They don't care if their dog barks for extended amounts of time and disturbs their neighbors.

If they walk their dog, they are the ones that don't pick up after their dog when it has eliminated.

Have you ever been out walking your dog and it has been charged by another dog and the other owner states "he just wants to say hi"? This is one of the most irresponsible things a dog owner can allow. In dog language, if a dog runs into/at another dog, this is a challenge or, if it's a puppy, he's being rude. Above all he's not "just saying hi". Responsible pet owners teach their dog manners and that this type of behavior is not acceptable.

Irresponsible pet owners are the main reason that new restrictive animal codes are being enacted at all levels of government.

Insist that local government enforce existing law.

DFOW has provided information for elected officials and testified at many local government hearings. The most recent discussions were of possible pet limits but these were actually caused because of neighborhood disputes. When police reports were obtained, the majority of complaints were due to "dog at large" and "barking dog".

The majority of complaints had nothing to do with the number of dogs a person owned, but rather if a person allowed their dog to be a nuisance.

Most communities in Wisconsin have codes that address leash laws and nuisance barking.

Rather than take the chance that your local officials will enact restrictive code to address a problem that is actually a neighborhood dispute, ask them to instead enforce existing law.

