CITY OF HOUSTON CITY ORDINANCE

In Harris County, dog owners are legally required to pick up their dog's feces in public areas, with fines ranging from $75 to $500 for violations.

County Regulations

Harris County Public Health (HCPH) acts as the local animal control authority and enforces regulations to protect public health and safety, including rabies control and dangerous dog management. These regulations apply to all unincorporated areas of Harris County and to incorporated cities that adopt the county's rules through cooperative agreements. Dog owners are responsible for preventing their pets from causing injury or spreading disease.

Feces Pick-Up Requirements

Dog owners must **promptly pick up and safely dispose of their dog's feces** in public areas such as parks, sidewalks, and dog parks. This law does **not apply to private property**, such as the owner's yard . Failure to comply can result in fines ranging from **$75 to $500** . In Harris County dog parks, guardians are required to use provided bags at pet stations to clean up after their dogs.

Dog Park Rules

- Dogs must be at least **four months old**, vaccinated, and licensed.
- Owners must **monitor and control their dogs at all times** and leash them when entering or exiting the park.
- Aggressive dogs must be **removed immediately**, and dogs in heat are prohibited .
- Owners are responsible for filling any holes dug by their dogs and for cleaning up all waste.

Enforcement

Complaints about dangerous dogs, barking, or stray animals can be reported to **Harris County Animal Control Services**, which provides free assistance for domestic animal issues . HCPH VPH is authorized to issue citations in unincorporated areas to enforce these regulations .

Summary

Dog owners in Harris County must **clean up after their pets in public spaces**, follow leash and vaccination requirements, and comply with dog park rules. Violations can result in fines, and enforcement is handled by Harris County Animal Control and HCPH. These laws aim to protect public health, prevent the spread of disease, and ensure safe and enjoyable public spaces for all residents.