

Memo

To: Village Board

Fr: Mark Roberts, Code and Safety Coordinator

Re: Animals

Date: March 21, 2014

Twice in the last three weeks I have received calls concerning aggressive dogs behind invisible fences. The callers were scared to walk down the street in front of the residences with these dogs for fear they might break through and attack.

I spoke with Monica Hoff, animal control staff, who told me that she has had cases where aggressive dogs have broken through and attacked. She said that if an owner does not train their dogs to behave, then when left on their own a dog will become more aggressive over time, sometimes to the point that the shock doesn't bother them and they learn to go through the invisible fence at will.

The Village of Howard adopted this ordinance that prohibits residents from allowing their dogs to threaten others by charging towards them when there is only an invisible fence present.

Village Board is asked to amend the ordinance allowing for changes to the Animal ordinance.

6.06 DOGS AND CATS IN PARKS OR ON PREMISES OTHER THAN THAT OF THE OWNER.

A. No person owning or in possession of any dog or cat shall suffer or permit such dog or cat to enter or remain within the area of any park, parkway, or other land owned or under lease to the Village for recreational purposes, or upon any unpaved portion lying within the boundaries of any public street, except for the purpose of travel.

Exception: Dogs are allowed on the East River Trail, starting east of the Green Isle tennis courts and following the East River south to the Village limits at Le Brun Road. Dogs shall be on a maximum six (6) foot long leash of sufficient strength to control the animal at all times.

B. It is unlawful for any person who has custody of a dog, cat, or other animal to permit such animal to defecate upon any property other than that of its owner or custodian unless the custodian immediately thereafter cleans up and removes such animal excreta from such property.

C. No person who has custody of a dog, cat, or other animal shall walk or escort such animal off the property of the owner or custodian unless the person is in possession of equipment to clean up any defecation which may be deposited by such animal. Any animal shall be restrained by means of a leash of sufficient strength to control the animal at all times when the animal is off the premises of the owner.

D. No person having in his possession or under his control any animal, shall allow the same to threaten to attack individuals who are passing or present on public or private walkways or property unless restrained by a solid fence sufficient to contain the animal.