

LEON COUNTY

DIVISION OF ANIMAL CONTROL



Leon County Ordinance **Sec. 4-35. - *Running at Large***

- (a) *Generally prohibited.* It shall be unlawful for any animal to run or remain at large on any street, road, alley, park or other public place. A street, road, alley, or other place shall be considered a public place, without respect to maintenance authority or ownership, if the area is under common ownership or control, or is generally accessible to the public.
- (b) *[Private property.]* It shall be unlawful for any animal to be on private property without the consent of the property owner whether or not the animal is under direct control.
- (c) *[Tethering.]* It shall be a violation of this article for the owner or keeper of any animal to tie, chain or otherwise tether such animal in such a manner that it has access to public property or the property of another without consent of that property owner.
- (d) *[Responsibility.]* The owner or keeper of any animal found running or remaining at large shall be responsible for any violation of this article.
- (e) *Dogs and cats in estrus (heat).* The owner of any female dog or cat in estrus shall keep such dog or cat confined in a building or secure enclosure, veterinary hospital, or boarding kennel in such manner that such female dog or cat cannot come in contact with a male dog or cat, except for intentional breeding purposes.
- (f) *Enhancements. Minimum Civil penalties for violations of this section are enhanced as described in Sec. 4-29 when the violation results in the following:*
- (1) *The destruction or loss of personal property; or*
 - (2) *The unprovoked biting, wounding or attacking of a domestic animal or person.*
- (g) *Exceptions.* This section shall not apply to:

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- (1) Any dog actually engaged in a legal sport, including supervised hunting within authorized areas.
- (2) Any dog or cat being officially showed or trained.
- (3) Any animal that is especially trained to assist or provide personal services for a disabled person, as defined under the American With Disabilities Act.
- (4) Government police dogs.
- (5) Dogs in a designated or established “off-leash” dog park while under the supervision of the owner or a responsible person.

