

INTRODUCED: September 13, 2021

AN ORDINANCE No. 2021-243

To amend City Code § 4-243, concerning dogs running at large and the penalties therefor, for the purpose of defining and clarifying the conditions related to dogs running at large.

Patrons – Mayor Stoney and Ms. Larson

Approved as to form and legality
by the City Attorney

PUBLIC HEARING: SEP 27 2021 AT 6 P.M.

THE CITY OF RICHMOND HEREBY ORDAINS:

§ 1. That section 4-243 of the Code of the City of Richmond (2020) be and hereby is **amended** as follows:

Sec. 4-243. Dogs running at large prohibited; penalty.

(a) ~~It~~ Except as otherwise provided in this section, it shall be unlawful for any dog to run at large. For purposes of this section, a dog shall be deemed to run at large while roaming, running, or self-hunting off the property of its owner or custodian and not under its owner’s or custodian’s immediate control. The term “immediate control,” for purposes of this section, means physical restraint or confinement of the dog by a fence, tether, lead or leash. An electronic collar

AYES: 9 NOES: 0 ABSTAIN: _____

ADOPTED: SEP 27 2021 REJECTED: _____ STRICKEN: _____

or other similar electronic device does not qualify as a leash, lead, or other means of physical restraint.

(b) The leash, lead, or other means of physical restraint may be removed from a dog in a designated and posted dog exercise area.

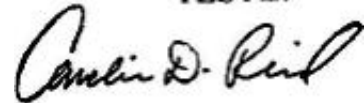
(c) The leash, lead, or other means of physical restraint may be removed from a dog on private property other than the property of the owner, provided that the owner or person in control of such private property has permitted such dog to be present without a leash, lead, or other means of physical restraint.

(d) Any person who permits such person's dog to run at large shall be deemed in violation of this section, and upon conviction thereof, shall be guilty of a Class 4 misdemeanor.

§ 2. This ordinance shall be in force and effect upon adoption.

A TRUE COPY:

TESTE:



City Clerk



CITY OF RICHMOND

INTRACITY CORRESPONDENCE

O&R REQUEST

DATE: July 19, 2021 **EDITION:** 1

TO: The Honorable Members of City Council

THROUGH: The Honorable Levar M. Stoney, Mayor

THROUGH: J.E. Lincoln Saunders, Acting Chief Administrative Officer

THROUGH: Robert C. Steidel, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer

FROM: Christie Chipps Peters, Director of Richmond Animal Care and Control

RE: Amendment to Sec. 4-243 of the Richmond City Code which concerns Dogs running at large prohibited; penalty.

ORD. OR RES. No. _____

PURPOSE: To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer to amend Sec. 4-243 of the Richmond City Code, Dogs running at large prohibited; penalty.

REASON: The requested amendment, attached, would modify the existing text to further define and clarify the conditions related to dogs running at large.

RECOMMENDATION: Approval.

BACKGROUND: In its current form, this section of Richmond City Code lacks clarity pertaining to the means of maintaining immediate control of an animal by physical restraint. The requested amendment seeks to update the section to include additional means deemed effective (such as a lead), while excluding other means deemed ineffective (such as an electronic collar), for these purposes. Additionally, this amendment seeks to allow a dog to run at large on private property, other than the property of the animal owner, provided the property owner has permitted such activity to occur. These changes will be keeping the practices and procedures of Richmond Animal Care and Control in alignment with industry best practices while prioritizing the safety and welfare of City animals and residents.

FISCAL IMPACT / COST: None at this time.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS: None at this time.

BUDGET AMENDMENT NECESSARY: No.

REVENUE TO CITY: N/A.

DESIRED EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon adoption.

REQUESTED INTRODUCTION DATE: September 13, 2021

CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING DATE: September 27, 2021

REQUESTED AGENDA: Consent.

RECOMMENDED COUNCIL COMMITTEE: Governmental Operations Standing Committee.

CONSIDERATION BY OTHER GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES: N/A.

AFFECTED AGENCIES: Richmond Animal Care and Control.

RELATIONSHIP TO EXISTING ORD. OR RES.: N/A.

REQUIRED CHANGES TO WORK PROGRAM(S): N/A.

ATTACHMENTS: Requested text amendments to Richmond City Code Sec. 4-243.

STAFF: Christie Chipps Peters, Director of Richmond Animal Care and Control
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