

Tips from the Animal Warden

The “Leash Law”

As I drive around the township doing routine work, I don't often have to stop to have a pet restrained. Residents of the township are very good at keeping their pets leashed. They also carry a bag, or other tools for cleaning up after their pet finishes doing their duty. One slight problem. In most cases pets are tethered to a leash that is both dangerous, and insecure. If you read the ordinance, it states in section “7” sub section “D”

Any canine (male or female) off the property of person having custody shall be on a lead not exceeding (6) feet in length and of sufficient strength.

What does this mean? Over the past two years I've been called to four different locations where dogs have been struck and killed. Laying beside or near them was the leash. All four leashes were the extending type leaders. The incidents occurred when the walker was surprised when their dog darted after another animal, and before the owner can get the leader lock on its already too late. Another problem is when the dogs lead extends, the dog goes onto private properties, and there is a law that protects property owners on this issue. Bites are also an issue on extended leaders. The dog darts at other animals, and sometimes people. This could result in a fine if there is human contact.

So if you have such a leader, be aware of the unexpected. It happens too many times. Should you have any questions please feel free to call me at 610-446 1000 ext. 205