



## Dogs in the Town of Ridgway

Ridgway, Colorado is a dog-friendly town, where dogs are welcome to play and socialize under proper supervision of their guardian. Walking and enjoying the Town parks and streets with your dog are privileges for anyone observing the regulations of the Town. Throughout most of the Town, dogs are permitted to be off-leash while they are under Voice and Sight Control by their guardian. Dogs **MUST** be on a leash in two designated Town areas where there is heavy pedestrian and wildlife traffic: the Historic Business District and the Uncompahgre River Trail. Additionally, dogs must be on a leash where otherwise posted, such as the athletic fields during sports events.

- 🐾 Dogs must be under Voice and Sight Control throughout the Town of Ridgway.
- 🐾 Dogs must always be on-leash in the Historic Business District and Uncompahgre River Trail, or where otherwise posted.
- 🐾 If your dog does not meet Voice and Sight Control Criteria, they must be on-leash at all times when in the Town.

## What is Voice and Sight Control?

Voice and Sight Control allows dogs to be off-leash in most of the Town, except the designated mandatory leash areas identified above. Voice and Sight Control means that your dog will return to your side **IMMEDIATELY** when called and stay with you no matter what distraction arises. This means that your dog must be within your sight and voice range at all times, when inside Town limits.

If your dog cannot meet **ALL** of the criteria below, they must be on-leash. Under Voice and Sight your dog will:

- 🐾 Return to your side **immediately** upon a single command
- 🐾 Remain at your side, regardless of distractions
- 🐾 **NOT** charge, chase or display aggression toward any person, dog, wildlife, livestock or other being.

## Where is the Historic Business District?

Ridgway's Historic Business District retains heavy pedestrian traffic year-round. All dogs must be on-leash at all times while in the Historic Business District. Even if your dog meets the Voice and Sight Control criteria, they must be on-leash in this district. This leashing area is designated to protect you, your dog, other persons, other dogs and local wildlife. The Historic Business District is shown on the map on the reverse side.



## Where is the Uncompahgre River Trail?

The Uncompahgre River Trail winds along the Uncompahgre River corridor and links the Town of Ridgway with Ridgway State Park. The trail accesses critical wildlife habitat for more than 120 species including endangered and threatened species such as the bald eagle and peregrine falcon. In addition, the trail provides recreational opportunities for locals and tourists. Due to the valuable and fragile nature of this area dogs must be on-leash at all times on the river trail. The Uncompahgre River Trail is shown on the map on the reverse side.

The guardian of any dog displaying aggressive behavior toward wildlife will succumb to the forces of the law.

## “Leave No Trace” Element

Guardians are required by law to remove and dispose of anything their dog may wish to leave behind (i.e.: poop). Diseases and viruses may be spread throughout the community through dog excrement. Pickup bags are available throughout Town parks, but guardians are encouraged to carry their own materials for disposal.

## Leash Optional Swim Area

Just north of Town Park on the Uncompahgre River, dogs are allowed to swim off-leash in a clearly marked area of the river. This area is identified on the map on the reverse side.

## Compliance or Consequences

The inability to comply with Town regulations or the gross negligence of these privileges may result in fines, impoundment (of dog) and/or court summons (delivered to owner).

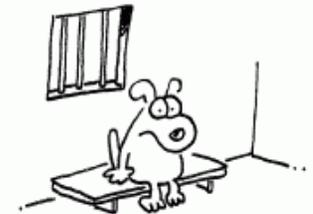


Penalties may run up to \$300 or 90 days in the pokey. Dogs considered a nuisance (disturbing general peace in or around Town by attacking, molesting, biting, excessive barking or generally displaying aggressive behavior) may be dealt with by the Town Marshal. Fines are due to the Town Clerk (Town Hall, 201 North Railroad).

Resident dogs 6 months of age or older must be licensed and sport a licensure tag on their collar or harness. Guardians of dogs 3 months of age or older must retain a certificate of vaccination from a licensed veterinarian and be prepared to visually share it with local law enforcement upon request.

Visiting dogs do not need local licensure or proof of rabies vaccination unless they will be hanging around Town for more than 30 days.

Citations may be issued to guardians who feel their pet's excrement is a bonafide complement to the atmosphere of the Town, and therefore do not retrieve it and dispose of it correctly. The Town thanks you for preserving the tree that would be the paper that the Marshal may give you for this offense.



Questions regarding these regulations or requests for additional information may be directed to Town Hall in the Town of Ridgway 970.626.5308. You may find the Ridgway Municipal Code and more information at the Town website: [www.town.ridgway.co.us](http://www.town.ridgway.co.us).





**There is no poop fairy.**

**Please clean up after your dog.**

Dog waste doesn't biodegrade like wild animal waste. It sticks around for a long time. Meanwhile, it contains harmful bacteria, pollutes groundwater, and smells disgusting on the bottom of a shoe. Please help keep parks, trails and neighborhoods free of poop piles by packing out your dog's waste.

The Poop Fairy design and message is used here through the courtesy of the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office.

**Legend**

- Uncompahgre River Trail
- Dogs Must Be Leashed! Area
- Dog Swim Area
- Uncompahgre River
- Town Limit