

Court Council Asks Cooperation on Pet Policy

Village Green's four-year-old amended Pet Policy was created to reduce tensions between neighbors by establishing rules that pet owners and non-pet owners alike could live with. For months before the vote, residents contributed suggestions at community meetings, and the final policy was the best compromise then possible.

*Here are some common misconceptions, followed by the actual language from Article 15 – Pets, in the **Village Green Handbook**, pp. 37 – 38B:*

Myth: Owners are not responsible for their tenants' compliance with the policy.

Rule: "...The owner is responsible for the resident's compliance..." (par.1)

Myth: It's okay to have more than one cat or dog.

Rule: "... No more than ONE pet is allowed per unit..." (par.3)

Myth: My dog is so well-behaved, he/she doesn't need a leash.

Rule: "... When the dog or cat is being escorted into or out of an individual unit, it must ... be controlled on a leash not exceeding six feet..." (2)

Myth: It's okay to walk my dog around my building down the garden court or to the laundry area or across the Green.

Rule: "A pet shall not be walked or exercised in the common areas (including the West Green, Main Green, East Green, Garden Courts, and Garage Courts) of the complex..." (7)

Myth: There are no teeth in the Village Green Pet Policy.

Rule: "No pet shall be permitted to become a nuisance or to create any unreasonable disturbance. The Board may order the permanent removal of a pet if... the pet has been determined to constitute a "nuisance" ..." (10)

Myth: It's okay for my friend to walk her dog here because she doesn't live here.

Rule: " Owners and residents shall not allow guests to bring pets when they visit residents in the Village Green." (10)

Myth: If I file a complaint, I'll have to give my name.

Rule: "... there is no requirement to identify the source of the complaint." (p.38B)

The Court Council urges all owners and renters to get to know the Pet Policy and abide by it. Awareness and common sense courtesy can prevent many problems before they start. The Court Council is made up of representatives from the 18 courts in the Green. It meets monthly, on the first Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.