



ACCREDITED LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY

COUNTY OF ALBEMARLE
POLICE DEPARTMENT



Albemarle County Running at Large Ordinance

Frequently Asked Questions

In April 2012 the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors enacted a code that prohibits dogs from Running at Large in Albemarle County.

- What does this code mean?
 - *This means that dogs, if off their own property, must be under the immediate control of the owner or custodian.*
- Does this mean that there is now a leash law in Albemarle County?
 - *No. A leash law would require owners to have their dogs on a leash at all times. Albemarle County has a Running at Large ordinance.*
- Does my dog need to be on a leash when walking off my property?
 - *No, not as long as your dog is in your presence and under immediate control by voice command.*
- How does this pertain to hunting dogs?
 - *A dog shall not be considered at large if, during the hunting season, it is on a bona fide hunt in the company of a licensed*

hunter, or during field trials or training periods when accompanied by its owner.

- What are the consequences of violating this code?
 - *You could be charged with a class 4 misdemeanor which means a fine of up to \$250.00 per incident.*

- How will this be enforced?
 - *From an enforcement perspective this is considered a low priority call. Animal Control Officers will respond to investigate complaints on a case by case basis, depending on staffing, workload and availability.*

- What about county parks and county schools?
 - *All dogs **must** be on a leash on school grounds and all county parks, unless in a designated area. Both Darden Towe Park and Chris Greene Lake Park offer a fenced in area where your dog can be removed from its leash and free to run and play.*