

Town Code for the Town of Seabrook Island, South Carolina

Chapter 32, Waterways and Beaches

Article II, Beachfront Management

Division 2, Restrictions

Section 32-44 – Beach rules for Domestic Household Animals / Pets

(1) General requirements for domestic household animals / pets.

Domestic household animals / pets shall not be allowed on any beach within the municipal limits of the Town except as provided for herein.

(a) **Restricted Area.** A restricted area is hereby established beginning at a line extending from Boardwalk #1 to the Atlantic Ocean and continuing in a northeasterly direction to Captain Sams Inlet. No person shall bring or otherwise allow any domestic household animal / pet into the restricted area at any time, whether on a leash or off of a leash.

(b) **Limited Restriction Area.** A limited restriction area is hereby established beginning approximately 300 yards northwest of a line extending from Boardwalk #9 (Pelican Watch Boardwalk) to the Edisto River and continuing in a northwesterly direction to Privateer Creek. No person shall bring or otherwise allow any domestic household animal / pet into the limited restriction area that is not on a leash at all times.

(c) **General Beach Area.** In all other areas of the beach other than the restricted area and the limited restriction area described above, the following requirements shall apply:

(i) **Peak Season:** From April 1 to September 30, no person shall bring or allow any domestic household animal / pet into the general beach area between the hours of 10:00 am to 5:00 pm that is not on leash at all times. No person shall bring or allow any domestic household animal / pet into the general beach area from 5:01 pm to 9:59 am that is not on a leash or, if not on a leash, is not effectively controlled while on the beach.

(ii) **Non-peak season:** From October 1 to March 31, no person shall bring any domestic household animal / pet on the beach that is not on a leash or, if not on a leash, is not effectively controlled while on the beach.

(d) **Definitions**

(i) For purposes of this ordinance the term “effectively controlled” shall mean that the behavior of a domestic household animal / pet is restrained by a competent person from: (A) entering any area on or adjacent to the beach in which a domestic household

animal / pet is prohibited; (B) destroying or damaging any property; (C) attacking or threatening to attack any person or any other domestic household animal / pet in any manner; or (D) being a nuisance to other beach goers.

- (ii) For purposes of this ordinance, the term “nuisance” shall mean causing annoyance, inconvenience or discomfort to the public health, safety and welfare.
 - (iii) For purposes of this ordinance the term “competent person” shall mean a person of suitable age and discretion and physically capable of restraining and controlling the domestic animal / pet in his or her care in order to prevent harm to persons, property or to other animals.
 - (iv) For purposes of this ordinance, the term “on a leash” shall mean that the domestic household animal / pet is restrained by a competent person using a physical restraint made of cord, rope, strap, chain or other material effective for restraining the type and size of domestic household animal / pet, the physical restraint being no more than sixteen (16) feet in length, secured to the animal’s collar or harness and continually held by a competent person.
 - (v) For purposes of this ordinance, the term “off a leash” shall mean that the domestic household animal / pet is not on a leash as defined herein. Domestic household animals / pets under voice control or under control of remotely operated devices such as electronic collars shall be considered to be "off of a leash."
- (e) No later than one year from the effective date of this ordinance, council shall review the terms of this ordinance, and determine whether it has worked effectively and achieved the objective of balancing the interests of all users of the beach. Following such review, council shall amend this ordinance, if and to the extent, it deems necessary.

Last Updated: September 24, 2019 (Ordinance 2019-09)