

# PKS Dog Ordinances

By Ryan Thompson, Pine Knoll Shores Police Chief

I have heard from quite a few people in the past month with concerns about dogs off leashes on our beaches and in our neighborhoods. With the weather beginning to get warmer, I wanted to take the opportunity to go over some of our local ordinances regarding dogs. Pine Knoll Shores residents love their animals, and I see more families here with dogs than without. More dogs in town inevitably mean more issues related to dogs. The complaint that officers respond to most often is unleashed dogs.



Gypsy is an important member of the Thompson family.—Photo courtesy of Ryan Thompson

Dogs are required to be on a leash (no longer than 16 feet) at all times when off the owner's property. This includes public right of ways, parks and the beach strand. The leash is required to be attached to the dog at all times and not just simply in the owner's hand. There is a myth that circulates around the town that dogs are not required to be on a leash if they are playing fetch on the beach or are in the ocean. Unfortunately, that is not the case, and they are required to be on leashes at all times while on the beach.

Dog owners are also required to clean up pet waste in all public areas and not simply cover it up with dirt or sand. Our officers try to handle these types of calls from an educational standpoint rather than enforcement through citations unless it is absolutely necessary. If you see a violation that you want to report, please call our dispatch center at 726-1911.

If it sounds like I am not a dog person, that couldn't be farther from the truth. I have a four-year-old German Shepherd/Belgian Malinois mix, named Gypsy, that is the center of my family. Gypsy sleeps in the bed, has toys spread throughout the house, and our schedule revolves around her needs. For most of us, dogs are a part of our daily lives and we should all strive to be responsible pet owners for the betterment of our community.

## Scam of the month: Scammers act as local police for fundraisers

Local police and sheriff departments will never call to solicit money from anybody. Scammers are able to "clone" their phone number to make it appear as if the call is coming from a police or sheriff department and ask the other person on the line for a donation. There are charitable groups, such as the Fraternal Order of Police, who are a legitimate organization that will at times solicit money; however, local police or sheriff departments will never request donations. As always, if someone calls and is asking for money and it doesn't sound legitimate, it is better to be safe than sorry and trust your instincts. If something doesn't sound right, it probably isn't. If you receive any type of phone call and you are considering donating money but think it may be a scam, do not donate the money without doing more research.

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## PUBLIC SAFETY

### POLICE

During January, there were 5 arrests; 10 911 hang-ups; 17 alarm activations; 7 animal calls; 2 larcenies; 1 damage to property; 2 disturbances; 26 assist Fire/EMS; 1 motor vehicle collision; 15 traffic hazards; 168 traffic stops; 21 citations issued (4 speeding, 1 stop sign/stop light; 5 registration/inspection, 3 license revoked/expired, 5 other traffic violations, 1 narcotics violation, 2 alcohol violations); 17 written warnings issued; 186 business checks; 188 residential checks; and 478 foot patrols. Police personnel participated in 225 training hours. Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) worked 43 hours.

No Fire and EMS report was submitted.

REMINDER: Lock your doors, especially your vehicles, and don't leave valuables in sight. Report suspicious people or vehicles to dispatch (726-1911) so that the police can be notified. You are not "bothering" the police if you call to report something that doesn't look right. They prefer to assess the situation rather than find out after the fact that you had noticed something and didn't report it. Alert citizens are an asset to the community.

### *In Memoriam.*

**Robert Bradley III  
Vaughan Brunjes**

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