

Stonegate Email News of June 11, 2008 – Special Dog Edition

Dog problems are easily the most challenging and time consuming compliance problems in Stonegate. The CC&Rs say that no resident may allow a pet to become a nuisance to other homeowners. That sounds simple, but it isn't. And the community needs your help to make it work.

Dog problems generally fall into four categories;

Barking. We expect dogs to bark from time to time. When they bark enough to annoy the neighbors, it's time to review your dog-keeping practices.

We sometimes get complaints about barking dogs from neighbors who have not spoken to the owner of the offending animal. Those can be simple cases, resolved when our letter arrives. But a conversation between the two neighbors would've been a better solution, and quicker. In a perfect world, the Association would not be an alternative to talking with a neighbor.

Dog ownership is voluntary and doesn't come with a guaranteed cap on expenses. The CC&Rs say that your dog must not become a nuisance, and that part is not negotiable. If the dog needs to be indoors during the day to control barking, it can be arranged. Channel 22 offers the names of many Stonegate kids who would be very happy to come take the dog for a walk during the day. Or you should be able to find adult dog walkers and doggie daycare places nearby. (And to bolster our list, dog walker ads on Channel 22 are "on special" this summer: free for adults as well as kids.)

Pooping. When you walk the dog, you *must* take the little plastic bag and use it. If you need more, there are two poop bag dispensers. One is on Stonegate Circle at Tradewinds Wash. The other is on the concrete walkway between Heritage Court and The Reserve.

Leaving poop on the trail or other common areas is antisocial and a borderline-hostile act against your community. It really is just as bad as letting Poopsie plant one on the neighbor's lawn. Stonegate allocates considerable labor to picking up dog poop on the trails and it's never enough. When you fail to pick it up, you're in essence demanding that the non-dog-owning residents subsidize your dog ownership. They really don't want to do that.

Peeing. You may think it does no harm to your neighbor's lawn, but that beside the point. If your neighbor thinks it harms the grass, that's reason enough for never allowing your dog to stop there.

Playing. The law requires you to keep the dog on a leash when he's off the property, unless you're at an off-leash area – a dog park. Stonegate doesn't have one, but the City of Scottsdale has three, including one nearby.

Find them at <http://www.scottsdaleaz.gov/parks/offleashareas.asp>