

## DOGS RUNNING AT LARGE

The first issue that comes up when you talk about allowing a dog to run at large is what is the definition of the words “at large” Section 2.02.001 of the Petersburg Code of Ordinances defines at large to mean “Not under the control of the owner either by leash, chain, cord or other suitable material attached to a collar or harness, or not constrained securely within an enclosure or fence.”

### FIRST TYPE OF VIOLATION INVOLVING DOGS RUNNING AT LARGE:

It is unlawful for the owner of any dog to permit or allow such dog to run or be at large upon any public highway, street, alley, court, square, park, sidewalk, or other public ground or public property within the corporate limits of the City.

### SECOND TYPE OF VIOLATION INVOLVING DOGS RUNNING AT LARGE:

It is also unlawful for the owner of any dog to permit or allow such dog to run or be at large upon any unfenced lot, tract, or parcel of land within the corporate limits of the City.

Please be aware that if a dog is running at large on another person's private property the City has no authority to impound dogs for this activity. The City only has authority to impound dogs that are running at large on public property or on the dog owner's unfenced lot, tract, or parcel of land.

When an owner allows his dog to run at large on another person's property this action is not a violation of any City ordinance and therefore becomes a civil matter between the dog's owner and the property owner who is offended or complaining. Any dog owner that allows a dog to run at large is subject to receiving a ticket from the Petersburg Police Dept. and paying a fine.

If the City picks up (impounds) a dog running at large it is then taken to the Plainview Humane Society located at 500 S.W. 3<sup>rd</sup>, Plainview, Texas (telephone number 806-296-2311).

The current animal shelter hours are from 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm on Monday through Friday or by appointment.