Story and photos by Joseph Kumzak, Presidio of Monterey PAO

You’re out for an afternoon stroll with your furry buddy and Fido’s time has come to relieve himself. You reach into your pocket for a doggie bag and realize ... oh no, you forgot them – and you’re four blocks from your house.

You look around in panic to see who’s witnessed your negligence. You’re in the clear and casually continue down the street, leaving Fido’s droppings in a yard.

Not only have you committed the ultimate ‘petiquette’ faux pas, you may have broken the law.

All Monterey County municipalities have leash and curb laws requiring owners to leash their dogs and clean up pet waste.

Cindy Burnham, Monterey County Animal Services Administrator, says pet owners are responsible for their dogs at all times. If dogs cause problems off the owner’s property, the owner can be fined or face other legal issues.

“It’s about being a good neighbor and a responsible dog owner,” she said.

Angela Morrow, The Parks at Monterey Bay Marketing Manager, said dogs are only allowed off-leash in the designated dog parks at La Mesa and Ord Military Community. They must be on-leash when outside the residence, on walks, or in neighborhoods.

“The Parks is a pet-friendly community, but there are some dogs that are not used to being around other dogs, so residents need to leash their dogs while on walks,” she said. “We frequently receive complaints of residents not leashing dogs, or not cleaning up their droppings.”

The Parks has begun installing new pet stations with doggie bags and garbage bins throughout La Mesa and OMC. They are installing new signs that remind residents to leash pets and clean up their waste.

“We want our residents to be responsible with their pets -- you don’t know if... Continued on next page
someone has a fear, phobia or maybe an allergy.” Morrow added.

Responsible pet ownership is not only about being a considerate neighbor, it’s also about protecting you from potential conflicts and legal issues – and protecting your pet from being impounded, or worse.

Know the animal control ordinances in your area

click links below:

Monterey County
Seaside
Monterey
Marina
Pacific Grove
Carmel
Salinas
Sand City

“My concern is for the dogs themselves,” said Lindsay Lebrun, an OMC resident. “The issue is when the dogs are perpetually out. I would hate for any dog to become a pancake just because someone was too afraid to call animal control and anger someone.”

Her daughter has a fear of dogs and, Lebrun warns, “If it comes down to my daughter having a panic attack or calling animal control, I will choose calling animal control every time.”

According to the Seaside municipal code (Title 6 – Animals 6.04.170), dogs that bite or attack people other than the owner can be declared vicious, which may lead to the dog being impounded and/or humanely destroyed.

“No matter how good your dog is, you can’t always predict its behavior,” said Jennifer Reyna, a La Mesa resident. “You may think allowing your dog to roam without a leash is being a good pet owner, but you’re putting your dog, other people and their pets at risk – it’s just not worth it.”

Ord Military Community resident, Amanda Camarato walks her dog Bruce.

Service members climb to new heights

Presidio of Monterey PAO staff report

Service members from the Presidio of Monterey participated in Outdoor Recreation’s rock climbing tour at the Sanctuary Rock Gym June 29.

“Rock Climbing is a great stress reliever,” said Pfc. Emily Barcikowski, a Russian student with U.S. Marine Corps Detachment. “Just staying in the barracks on base 24/7 can be unhealthy for the mind, so coming out and doing things like this is important to do – especially for students.”

Pfc. Emily Barcikowski rock climbs at Sanctuary Rock Gym June 29.

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