



## It's unanimous: San Jose pulls in leashes on trail dogs

By [Rob Hugger](#), San Jose Dogs Examiner

March 30th, 2011 11:39 am PT

**Keep it short.** That's the new law unanimously approved by the San Jose City Council this past Tuesday.

The new ordinance requires dog walkers on city trails to **keep their dogs on leashes no longer than 6 feet**. Previously, leashes of up to 20 feet were allowed. The new law also requires dog owners to walk, jog or bicycle to the right of the trail with their pets.

The move to enact this new law was initiated by an extraordinary accident that led to the death of a San Jose woman on September 16th. of 2009. Beverly Head, a retired 62-year-old San Jose phlebotomist, was taking her usual morning walk on the Los Alamitos Creek Trail when her legs became entangled in a dog leash stretched between two Siberian Huskies and their mountain biker owner as they passed by her. She fell and hit her head. She was conscious immediately after the accident, but later when she was being examined at the hospital her brain swelled. The hospital was unable to relieve the pressure in time and she died the next day.

Her husband, Bob Head, who was in attendance at the Tuesday vote thanked the council and city for making the change that should increase the safety level for all trail users, dog walkers, dogs and others.

The council also unanimously approved a plan for new signs, striping and mileage markers to be installed along trails.

To alert dog walkers, the council approved a plan to install signs regarding the ordinance along all trails. Their plan also includes adding lane striping and mileage markers.

First-time violators would receive a warning, second-time violators could be issued a \$100 citation, and a third violation within three years could result in a \$200 fine.

The new ordinance does not affect use of longer leashes off-trail. Up to 20-foot leashes are still allowed when in open, grassy spaces such as in a park, as long as the dog isn't

Advertisement

bothering anyone.

In any case, it is the sole responsibility of all dog walkers to be aware of their dog's attitudes and behavior at all times. Make sure that you, as a responsible dog companion, and your dog always act as good neighbors, whether off-leash or on any length leash.

And that's the long and short of it.

### **Woof for Now**

### **DawgHugger**

*Wrapping my arms around all things Dog*

**Tags:** [San Jose Leash Law](#), [Pet Advise](#), [Dog leash laws](#), [Dogs in San Jose](#), [pet safety](#), [Responsible Dog Ownership](#)

---

### **From around the web**

[Little Oversight on Ingredients in 'Senior' Dog Food, Experts Say](#) (iVillage)

[A Dog's Thoughts in a Vet's Waiting Room](#) (Petside.com)

[America's Top Dogs Slideshow](#) (CNBC)

[\[what's this\]](#)

### **We recommend**

[Florida State Tight Ends: New Stars ready to emerge?](#)

[Colton Burpo goes to heaven. Part Two.](#)

[One Tree Hill's James Lafferty: "I've Learned Everything From the Show"](#)

[Retractable leashes; a dangerous idea](#)