

One of the most enjoyable things to do on the Ranch is to take nature walks with your pets. Animals and nature are such a perfect combination. You probably already know where I'm going with this, don't you?

The fact is, when you bring your city-fied fenced in pet to the Ranch, every instinct your furry friend has will come alive within. Next thing you know, your pet has run off to explore on its own, leaving no clue where it's gone. The rest of your weekend trip is spent looking for whom you are likely never to find. It's not just horrific for you, the owner, but pets soon become confused and can't find their way back to you and your family. By now, mom and the kids are shedding uncontrollable tears. Your pet is left to fend for itself against the coyotes, elk, deer, bobcats, mountain lions (cougars), moose, badgers, and owls large enough to carry off small dogs and cats. Your pet may get its collar caught on a low hanging tree limb, or maybe falls or jumps into a foundation built for a cabin, and then can't get out – starving, and dying a very slow death. And of course the biggest predator of them all, people.

Some feel that your loose pet is now theirs for target practice – no, I'm not kidding. For those of us that live up here full time, nothing is more heartbreaking than looking in the rear view mirror and seeing a lost pet running as hard as they can toward you, just wanting some human contact. But by then, your pet is so scared, it won't go near those that want to help.

There is a simple solution: keep your pets under constant control. There are rules within the CC&Rs that require you to do so. Letting your pet run loose can also result in quite a liability for your bank account should it bite or otherwise hurt someone else. No joke, serious matter.

So please, keep your pets on your property under your control at all times. Sounds harsh, but it is a law we all can live with. Animal Control has been involved with several cases within the Ranch. It is not a pleasant experience for anyone involved.

Thank you for your time and shared concern...

Tom Brown – Stagecoach Trustee