

# About the Grand Junction Police Department Animal Control Unit

The Grand Junction Police Department Animal Control Unit was established in January 2025, following a restructuring of Mesa County Animal Services operations. While Mesa County Animal Services provides shelter services, the Grand Junction Police Department addresses animal control issues within the City of Grand Junction.

The Grand Junction Police Department is committed to providing a top-tier Animal Control Unit focused on education, excellent customer service, and the reunification of lost animals with their owners.

The Grand Junction Police Department Animal Control Unit will operate full time to serve the needs of city residents.



**MESA COUNTY  
PUBLIC HEALTH**  
Working Together for a Healthy Community



## Contact Us

- 555 Ute Avenue  
Grand Junction, Colorado 81501
- 911 for emergencies
- +970-549-5000 for information
- [www.gjcity.org](http://www.gjcity.org)

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## Confinement Guidelines for Dogs in Mesa County



**Grand Junction Police Department**

# Why Should I Confine My Dog?

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As a dog owner, it is your responsibility to ensure your dog remains safely confined. Proper confinement is in your dog's best interest, as it protects them from potential dangers at large. When dogs roam freely, they can exhibit unexpected behaviors, such as chasing prey, fear-induced biting, or aggression over possessions. Additionally, a dog running loose can pose a risk to both them and the community.

It's important to note that confining your dog is not just a responsibility—it's the law. Allowing your dog to roam freely can result in legal consequences. If found guilty of a "dog at large" violation, you may face a fine of \$50 for the first offense, \$100 for the second, and \$250 for the third. Additional charges or fines may apply depending on the circumstances.

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## Direct Physical Confinement

In Grand Junction, dogs must be leashed in public unless in designated off-leash areas (e.g., dog parks). Leashes cannot exceed 10 feet. Additional restrictions may apply to dogs deemed dangerous by the courts.

## Basic Confinement

For dogs without behavioral issues or a history of escaping, basic confinement methods are effective:

- **Properly sized fence**
- **Underground or electric fence** (ensure a backup plan for power outages)
- **Long, narrow kennel or dog run**
- **Trolley or tether system** (short enough to prevent tangling; use a buckle or harness and not a choke chain)

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## Heightened Confinement

For dogs with a history of escaping but no aggressive behavior:

- **Add secondary confinement** (e.g., dog run trolley or electric fence).
- **Top:** Install a 45-degree fence extension and avoid nearby structures.
- **Base:** Secure with stakes, rebar, or concrete/brick footers to prevent digging.
- **Gate:** Ensure it automatically latches and can be padlocked.

## Secure Confinement

Courts may require a kennel inspection if a dog is deemed dangerous or a public nuisance. The kennel must meet the following criteria:

- **Size and Strength:** Should fit the dog(s), allow moderate exercise, and provide shelter.
- **Roof:** Durable, weather-resistant, and securely attached to prevent escape.
- **Base:** A floor or underground barrier (at least 18 inches deep) to prevent digging.
- **Stability:** Must be immobile, possibly requiring ground attachment.
- **Material:** Use strong, durable materials. Avoid chicken wire, screens, tarps, or plastic.
- **Gate:** Secured with a padlock and possibly a second latch.

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If required by court order, contact the Grand Junction Animal Control Unit at 970-549-5000 to schedule an inspection.