

To the editor:

It has been a long winter. We have been managing to be separate and trying to get out for exercise around the Village of Croton while snow piled up in February. It may have started to melt, but you may have seen things in the snow other than just white flakes.

Like other communities across the country you have probably noticed that there has been an increase in the population of pet dogs. Owners and their dogs are welcome in a pedestrian-friendly environment. Regular dog walking can add to the sense of community and safety. But there are a few key responsibilities that dog walkers need to be aware of before taking their dogs for a walk.

First, your dog should be licensed. The village's website has an information page about these licenses. All dogs must be inoculated against rabies to be licensed. A spayed or neutered pet can be licensed for a lesser fee than an intact pet. A portion of your fee supports local animal control programs.

Second, whenever you walk your dog it should be controlled with a leash. And, generally the leash should be of no more than six feet in length. The only public place in the village where dogs may be off leash is the dog park in Black Rock Park. You will need an endorsement on your village parks and recreation identification card in order to use the dog park. The endorsement is free, but you need to complete an application with the village. While some parks allow for dog walking, like Croton Landing, you may be restricted to staying on the path of the Riverwalk Trail.

Third, whenever you walk your dog you should be prepared to clean up after your dog. The Village Code requires dog owners to remove that waste in an airtight container and dispose of the waste in a proper garbage can. The public garbage cans are the best thing to use. Cleaning up is a courtesy to others who may be out and about, including both those with and without dogs. The recent snow has revealed where dogs relieve themselves, and from a child's perspective it could seem like walls of yellow on either side of you.

Frank Zappa, the musician, advised us to not eat the yellow snow. Dog walkers should endeavor to curb their dogs so as to keep that yellow snow away from the sidewalks.

You can refer to the Village Code (§108-6) from a link on the village's website to review dog regulations and restrictions.

**Marc Albrecht, Member,  
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Bicycle - Pedestrian Advisory Committee**

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