

requirements to ensure they are compliant before making the decision about what type of confinement system will work best for their situation. Construction should ensure that a quality area is built with no gaps, holes, or loose fencing.

**CIRCUMSTANCES NEEDING
SPECIAL CONFINEMENT**

Confinement during estrus - Any unspayed female dog in estrus (heat) shall be confined in a house, building or secured enclosure constructed so that no other dog may gain access to the confined animal.

Dangerous Dogs/Nuisance Dogs - Owners of dogs that have been deemed dangerous or have been found to be a public nuisance can be required by the Court to confine their dogs in escape proof kennels in addition to other requirements to ensure public safety.

**ROUTINELY CHECK YOUR FENCE
OR CONFINEMENT SYSTEM**

Because the elements, continued use or just time can alter the effectiveness of any product, we recommend that the perimeter of the confinement area be inspected on a regular basis to ensure that there have been no changes that might permit your pet to leave your property. Specifically check:

- Gates and latches
- Loose boards or fencing
- Any loose dirt that could allow for space for escape under a fence
- The overall integrity of any electronic system (i.e., collar batteries, charger, loose connections)
- Any item that is against a fence and could allow for the pet to climb over and leave the property



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*Our Vision: Citizens and pet animals
living together harmoniously.
Every pet owner is a responsible owner and
every pet has a humane home.*

*There's No Place
Like Home*



*Keeping Your Pet
Safely Confined*

MESA COUNTY

WHY SHOULD I CONFINE MY DOG?

A pet owner is responsible for ensuring their pet remains safe. Dogs who run loose can become lost, hit by cars, be stolen, become victims of other dogs or wildlife, be exposed to contagious disease or be subject to unintentional poisoning when digging through someone's trash. It is in your dog's best interest to keep them safe at home.

Being a pet owner is a privilege and your pet should not negatively impact your neighbor's or the community's quality of life. Dogs running loose can cause damage in the following ways:

- Dogs running at large can cause traffic accidents
- Dogs running at large can become scared and behave aggressively toward people or other pets
- Dogs running at large can exhibit nuisance or destructive behavior and cause property damage

Finally, it is the law. There can be consequences for not confining or allowing your dog to run at large. Both Mesa County and the City of Grand Junction incorporate progressive penalties in their ordinance or resolution. If found guilty of a dog at large or unconfined dog violation, you can be fined \$50 for the first offense, \$100 for the second offense and \$250 for the third offense. Additional charges or fines may also be applicable.

WHAT IS CONFINEMENT?

Most dog owners are aware that their dogs are required to be under control and on a leash when not on their property. However, confinement laws in unincorporated Mesa County and the City of Grand Junction also require that a dog be physically,

mechanically or electronically confined to the property. A few examples of common and successful confinement methods are:

- A suitably sized fence
- An underground fence system or electric fencing—You will need a back up plan in the event there is a power outage.
- A kennel or dog run—Shape is important. A square shape encourages the dog to walk on a circle which can lead to frustration. Long and narrow is preferable as it allows your dog to be more active.
- A dog trolley (tether) system—This system allows a dog to be connected by its lead to a cable that is run between two poles or two fixed objects. Make sure the lead is short enough to avoid tangling and to keep the dog from crossing property boundaries. However, the lead should be lengthy enough to allow the dog to lie down and have access to food, water and shelter. For your pet's safety, use a buckle collar or harness instead of a choke chain.
- Direct, physical control by a responsible person—A dog owner or caretaker can physically oversee the dog's confinement by keeping their dog on a leash and under the direct control of a responsible person when outside. This type of confinement is common in apartment or condominiums where outside yards are limited to common space or shared yard areas.
- Any combination of the above—For example, if your dog does well in a fenced area when you are home, but tries to escape when you are away, you may need a heightened confinement method for your dog when you are gone. A covered kennel could work as a back up system when it is necessary to leave your dog outside when you leave home.

Chaining a dog as a permanent confinement method is ***not*** recommended. A chained dog is likely to become frustrated, which can lead to aggressive behavior. A chained dog can also become injured if they get tangled in their chain.

WHAT SHOULD I CONSIDER WHEN

SELECTING THE RIGHT CONFINEMENT SYSTEM?

- Make sure the confinement method is suitable for the dog's size, strength, athleticism, and unique personality traits - For instance, if your dog is a climber, a four foot, chain link fence, will probably not confine them adequately. A six foot wood fence with a clear perimeter (nothing for them to climb on) might be a better option.
- Make sure your confinement method is appropriate for your property's geology - For example, if you live on land with loose, sandy soil and gulches or creek beds, the soil may shift or move which could allow for "holes" under the fence that leave easy escape spots.
- County or City fencing codes or neighborhood covenants. - A dog owner will need to consider any covenants or City or County code

