

ODED'S WEEKLY REPORT

07-10-2026

ANIMAL CONTROL – Unfortunately, we were informed of a couple of recent incidents involving pets. While one incident was reviewed as threatening, the other, unfortunately, resulted in a minor injury to a member of the community.

The Association governing documents, Exhibit “C,” Initial Restrictions and Rules, 2, Restricted Activities, (b) states that:

“The following activities are prohibited within the Community.... Raising, breeding, or keeping animals, livestock, or poultry of any kind, except that a reasonable number of dogs, cats, or other usual and common household pets may be permitted in a Lot (not to exceed two animals); however, those pets which roam free, or, in the sole discretion of the Board, make objectionable noise, endanger the health or safety of, or constitute a nuisance or inconvenience to the occupants of other Lots shall be removed upon request of the Board. If the pet owner fails to honor such request, the Board may remove the pet. Dogs shall be kept on a lease or otherwise confined in a manner acceptable to the Board whenever outside the dwelling, and the person walking the dog shall clean up after it. Pets shall be registered, licensed, and inoculated as required by law...”

In addition, Manatee County Animal Ordinance Sec. 2-4-11 (Dogs and Cats at Large; Direct Control) and Sec. 2-4-12 (Nuisance Dogs and Cats) state, in general, that:

Sec. 2-4-11: Dogs and Cats at Large; Direct Control

- No dog or cat may be “at large” (not under the owner’s control) on public property, streets, sidewalks, or on someone else’s private property without permission.
- Owners must maintain direct/physical control at all times – typically with a leash, cord, or chain (maximum 8 feet long) when the animal is off their own property.
- “At large” includes any dog or cat not under immediate and continuous restraint or supervision.

Sec. 2-4-12: Nuisance Dogs and Cats

- Cleanup rule: Owners must immediately pick up any feces left by their dog or cat on public property or other people’s private property.
- Noise rule: No dog or cat may create a nuisance by making persistent or repetitive noise (barking, howling, whining, etc.) that disturbs the peace. This includes:
 - Continuous noise lasting more than 10 minutes, or
 - Intermittent noise that totals more than 10 minutes within any 2-hour period.

Please, we urge all residents to take a moment to go over both the rules governing this community and the Manatee County Animal Ordinance. Also, please note that while nearly all incidents mentioned above are resolved within the community without the need to proceed with any further enforcement action, the same is not true with Manatee County’s Animal Services. As some residents may testify firsthand, reported cases by residents to Manatee County’s Animal Services usually end up with fees and/or corrective measures. Please help us keep this community safe. Please make sure to have control of your

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pet when walking on the street. Please make sure to clean up after your pet. And please, make sure your pet does not create persistent or repetitive noise. Thank you in advance for your assistance and understanding on this matter.

Thank you in advance for your attention and assistance on this important matter.

CHARGING E-BIKES IN THE GARAGE – Last week, we shared a lengthy communication regarding the dangers of charging an electric bike (e-bike) inside the garage. In case you missed it, please go to the Association's website or portal, or [click here](#), to read this important piece.

Following the publication of that Weekly Report, a long-time member of the Association, Mr. Harold Sabot, shared with us another safety measure to charge an e-bike and thus ensure your and your neighbors' safety: ***an e-bike fire bag***. In simple terms, an e-bike fire bag is a special protective bag designed to store and/or charge lithium-ion batteries more safely because they are made out of multiple layers of fire-resistant materials that are designed to withstand high temperatures.

It is said more safely because they are fire-resistant and fully fireproof or explosion-proof. As such, they are designed to buy some time rather than eliminate the risk of a house fire. Therefore, they should be used following the safety guidelines provided last week:

- Avoid charging in the garage if possible and never charge in a confined space.
- If your garage is your only option, make sure to supervise the charging process.
- Treat charging time like cooking on the stove, stay alert and present.
- Keep the e-bike and charger at least 3 feet away from any walls, vehicles, or flammable items.
- Place it directly on a concrete floor rather than on flammable surfaces such as carpets.
- Use only the manufacturer-approved charger and avoid using cheap third-party ones.
- Make sure to have a fire extinguisher in the house.

As before, thank you in advance for your attention and assistance on this important matter.

FEEDING WILDLIFE – Staying with reminders from residents, another long-time member of the community reminded us this week that the ban on feeding wildlife also applies to squirrels...

While squirrels didn't make it into the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's (FWC) list of wildlife species that are prohibited from being fed, it's prohibited in LakeRidge Falls. Why? Besides the fact that the governing documents clearly state that feeding wildlife, including birds and squirrels, is not permitted, it often creates unforeseen problems.

- **Habituation** – Squirrels can lose their natural fear of humans, becoming bold or aggressive and increasing the chance of conflicts with pets such as dogs.

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- **Disease** — Squirrels often carry ticks and fleas that can spread illnesses such as Lyme disease, typhus, and tularemia.
- **Property damage** — Squirrels that become comfortable around homes are more likely to chew wiring, siding, soffits, and attic insulation in their search for food.

Squirrels may look cute, to some at least, but they are not and should not be treated as pets. Therefore, and please, and again please, don't treat them as such. We appreciate everyone's help on this super important matter and in keeping our community safe and beautiful for both residents and wildlife. Let's enjoy watching squirrels and other animals in their natural state... without handouts.

Have a quiet and safe weekend! ,

Oded Neeman, LakeRidge Falls Community Manager