

NEWS FROM BARNESVILLE'S ANIMAL CONTROL DEPARTMENT

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



Do you have to license your pets with the City of Barnesville every year?

Yes. This may be one of the most misunderstood animal ordinances. Some citizens aren't aware that their pets need a city pet license. Others who do license sometimes misunderstand that pet licenses expire and are no longer valid beyond a certain date.

Pet licenses are good January through December of the year listed on the tag. City ordinance requires dogs and cats over six months of age to have a city license which shows that the pet owner provided proof of current rabies vaccination.

Pet license fees are \$5 for de-sexed pets and \$10 for intact pets and are available at City Hall, the Police Department or the Barnesville Animal Care Clinic.

Our dog got loose. We've looked everywhere but still can't find him. Can you help?

Yes, we often can! While it is still the pet owner's responsibility to actively search for their lost pet, Animal Control can help! If an officer sees an animal matching the pet's description, they will try to capture the pet and then notify the owner. Or if a citizen picks up the pet and calls the Police, the Police will, in turn, know who to contact.

When the Police capture a dog or cat running at large, the general procedure is to temporarily hold the animal in the City's Animal Impound Facility, unless a lost animal report has been filed by the pet owner.

Attempts are then made to locate an owner. Immediate notices of impound are posted at various locations around town, including the City's website and both the City's and Animal Control's Facebook page.

If unclaimed after the mandatory five day period, an animal could be put down or possibly adopted out, depending largely on each individual circumstance.

RABIES VACCINATIONS ARE IMPORTANT

Barnesville Animal Control and veterinarians both recommend that BOTH cats and dogs be vaccinated for rabies. Rabies is simply too serious of a disease to lightly recommend against vaccination.

About 50,000 people die worldwide from rabies each year. All of this can be avoided by simply vaccinating. The Barnesville Animal Clinic offers a vaccination clinic each year making the cost of rabies vaccination easily affordable. So an ounce of prevention really is worth a pound of cure!

Rabies is passed on through the saliva of a rabid animal via bite or scratch, but you can be infected with the disease from rabid saliva through immediate contact to mucous membrane or broken skin.



Rabid animals don't behave like normal animals - sometimes they're overly friendly, extremely shy, lethargic or abnormally aggressive. Stories have been reported of rabid raccoons breaking through screens and coming indoors or bats, which have a higher incidence of rabies, finding their way indoors, even through small cracks. Technically, any warm-blooded animal can get rabies.

What about cats that never go outside?

No one can guarantee that an indoor-only cat will not sneak outdoors on a rare occasion or even escape a vehicle after an accident. In 2009, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) received three times more reports of rabid cats than rabid dogs.

If an unvaccinated cat would bite a human, there would be quarantines, costly fines, vet fees and possible euthanization for the cat, not to mention undue stress, pain and anxiety to the bite victim.

MORE FREQUENTLY ASKED ANIMAL CONTROL QUESTIONS

I don't have a fenced yard. Can I let my pets roam off my property?

No. All dogs and cats must not roam off property unless accompanied by an owner. It is our experience that owners, able to control a pet through voice command alone, are rare, and we highly stress keeping your pet on a leash when off property!

Pets that roam off property often use other property for their personal bathrooms. If a pet defecates on private property, it is the responsibility of the owner to immediately clean up after them. This includes all public property, such as parks, roadways, sidewalks, boulevards, parking lots, etc. Pets that roam off property can be captured for impound and owners subject to fines and/or citations.

My neighbor's barking dog is driving me crazy. What can I do?

If someone has been listening to a dog barking for a long period of time and is not able to address it with the neighbor directly or the neighbor is not at home, they should report the barking dog to the Police Department Animal Control – 354-2281.

Under City ordinance, it is unlawful for the owner of any dog or cat to permit animals to habitually bark, cry, whimper, howl or whine.

If any pet is outdoors and makes a lot of noise for an extended amount of time, it is advised to bring them indoors or take other measures to ensure that the pet stay quiet. Complaints of dogs that bark habitually can result in the impoundment of the dog and/or a citation.

I have a dog but no yard. Is there a good place in town to let my pet run free off leash?

Yes! The Animal Impound Facility, located off Main Avenue on the west end of town, just to the west of the green City Shop building, has a fenced yard that is available ("Sampson's Fence") and free for use to all dog owners, as long as dog owners are willing to supervise and clean up after their dog.

The City also has a fenced Dog Park located at the corner of 3rd Street and 7th Avenue which is available to the public.

I feel sorry for a dog in my area that is left outdoors for long periods of time in the cold and the heat. What can I do?

Please don't hesitate to call the Police Department Animal Control with any concerns for animal welfare. Dog owners are mandated by City ordinance, to provide adequate shelter, food and water for a dog that is to be left outdoors for an extended amount of time. It's better to be overly concerned than not at all.

There is a stray cat that keeps showing up in my yard. I feel sorry for it and have been feeding it. Is that ok?

It is best not to keep feeding a stray, unless a person is willing to take that cat permanently into their home, care for, spay/neuter, vaccinate and license it.

It is recommended to call Animal Control and an officer will try to pick up or live-trap the cat for the purpose of either locating a possible owner or, if suitable, possibly adopt out the cat.

Stray cats can often be feral or become feral. A feral cat is generally a wild cat that is not easily domesticated, if at all. Feral cats can pass on rabies and disease.

My neighbor's dog bit my son but the bite did not break the skin. Should I report it?

Yes. It is understandable to want to keep the peace between neighbors but a dog that bites is dangerous for the community. Even if the bite does not result in a break in the skin, it is important to have the bite documented with the Animal Control Department.

Sometimes, the victim of a dog bite does not realize that the suspect dog may have been involved in previous bites and / or aggressive acts against people or other animals. Single or multiple aggressive reported incidents can help us determine whether or not the dog will be deemed potentially dangerous, or even given a dangerous label, by the City. If this happens, there are certain regulations the dog owner must adhere to in order to ensure the continued safety of the community.

ANIMAL ADOPTION OPPORTUNITIES

If you're interested in adopting an unclaimed cat or dog from the City of Barnesville's Animal Impound Facility, please contact Barnesville Police Animal Control or "**Like Us**" on our Facebook page where we post animals that are available for adoption.



LISA COOK
Animal Control Officer

Lost or Found Animals?
CALL 354-2281
Available 7 days a week

BARNESVILLE ANIMAL CONTROL

