

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

What does the animal control officer do?

The Animal Control Officer is responsible for enforcing State Laws and local Ordinances pertaining to the welfare and control of domestic, exotic and wild animals. The Animal Control Officer is also considered the local Rabies Control Authority and handles many wild animals, which have been reported to be sick or injured.

What should I do if an animal bites me?

The very first thing you should do is clean your wound/s thoroughly and contact your physician immediately! If your physician is not available, we strongly advise that you visit the nearest emergency room for treatment. Even with the smallest wounds, viruses and disease can be transmitted. If feasible, contact the Animal Control Officer so that he/she can begin attempting to locate the animal/s, which had bitten you to either quarantine or bring to the State Lab for rabies testing.

What is animal abuse?

There are different types of animal abuse, simply depriving your pet of sufficient shelter, food, water or medical treatment is illegal! These are forms of neglect, which could eventually lead to the pet owner's arrest. There are many forms of animal abuse and not all are easy to detect. How about the dog, which is being left out all day in the cold, New England weather? Not all animals are able to live out doors and chances are there is an animal being abused which lives close to you.

How do I report animal abuse?

Many animals continue to be abused each year because witnesses are afraid to come forward. Anytime you or someone you know suspects animal abuse, all you have to do is call the Animal Control Officer at (603)610-7441. Please leave a detailed description of abuse and the location of the animal. If you would like to leave your name and address that would be extremely helpful but you are not obligated to do so.

Is it illegal to leave the scene after hitting a domestic dog without reporting to a law enforcement agency?

Yes, this is a misdemeanor and the person responsible could be arrested. In the City of Somersworth, It is also a violation to leave the scene of a domestic cat without reporting the incident to a Law Enforcement Agency.

Are there any local organizations to help with animal matters?

Yes, the N.H.S.P.C.A. located off Route 108 in Stratham has a tremendous amount of information to assist the public with their concerns pertaining to animals. They can be reached at (603) 772-2921 or check out their web site at www.nhspca.org. Many pet stores in the area also have vaccination clinics each month where you can have your animal's shots done at a cheaper rate and some also offer micro chipping. To find out when these clinics are, you need to call or visit the pet store to ask.

What should I do if I lose my pet?

Nobody knows your pet better than you. First thing to do would be to begin your search and make a call to the Animal Control Officer's office for assistance. If your pet does not return home in what you feel is a reasonable amount of time, begin to make flyers with information of your pet on them. For example, your pet's description, a photo, its gender, breed, color, size, distinguishing features (nicks in the ears, scars or marks), identification tags and state if your pet has an implanted identification chip. With this information on paper, make several copies and begin dropping them off at local vet's clinics and animal shelters and/or perhaps at a few local businesses, which allow free advertising.