

## YOUR PETS AND THE LAW

*Animal Regulation Ordinances  
Summary of Chapter 41, Animals & Fowl  
Fairfax County Code*

### LICENSES AND VACCINATIONS



Dogs over four months old must be licensed annually and vaccinated against rabies. Dog licenses will be sold only upon presentation of a certificate that the dog has been inoculated against rabies by a licensed veterinarian. Dog licenses

cost \$5.00 per year for spayed/neutered animals and \$10.00 for fertile animals. To obtain a \$5.00 license, certification must be provided that the animal has been spayed/neutered by a veterinarian or is infertile.

All dogs must have the license tag securely attached to a collar and worn whenever the dog is off the owner's property.

Cats over four months old must be inoculated against rabies but are not required to be licensed. However, the wearing of an identification tag on a safety collar is recommended. Fairfax County Animal Control Officers may respond to nuisance cat complaints when the owner is known, as well as bite cases and rescue of injured cats or cats in distress. Roaming cats cause injuries to themselves, wildlife, and people. For the protection of your cats and the community, it is best to keep your cat indoors.

### ADOPTION OF PETS

Dogs, cats, and other pets are available for adoption at the Animal Shelter: Tuesday through Friday, 10AM-5PM; Saturday 10AM-4PM. An adoption fee of \$20.00 is charged for all animals.

Virginia state law mandates all dogs and cats adopted from a shelter must be spayed/neutered. The citizen is responsible for paying the spaying/

neutering costs to the Shelter at the time of adoption. Both dogs and cats are inoculated with one shot of vaccine for distemper at the time they enter the Shelter.



At the time of adoption, a certificate is provided which authorizes a free physical examination of the animal from any of the participating veterinarians. The certificate is also good for spaying/neutering of the animal at a reasonable price under a reduced cost program offered as a public service by Northern Virginia veterinarians.

### REDEMPTION OF IMPOUNDED DOGS AND CATS

If your dog or cat has been impounded at the Animal Shelter, you may redeem your pet by:

- Presentation of a valid rabies certificate.
- For dogs, presentation of a current dog license or purchase of a dog license, if the dog is not currently licensed.
- Payment of a \$20.00 fee plus \$10.00 boarding fee for each day the pet was impounded.



### REPORTING INJURED ANIMALS

Any vehicle operator who strikes an animal should report the accident to the Police Department's Animal Control section.

### DISPOSAL OF DEAD ANIMALS

The owner of any animal or fowl which has died is responsible for having the body cremated or buried. VDOT is responsible for pick-up of dead animals on state right-of-way. Call 703-383-VDOT. The Animal

Shelter will accept small animal carcasses for disposal. Call 703-830-1100.

### ANIMALS CREATING NUISANCE

It is against the law to allow animals to trespass on, destroy or damage another person's property. Animals must not frequently and habitually make loud and objectionable noises or be kept in such a manner as to cause unsanitary conditions. Nuisance noises may be reported to the Police Department, 703-691-2131. A complainant may also request that the owner of the animal abate the noise violation. If the violation continues, that person, along with another complainant, not a member of the same household, may go to a magistrate and swear out a warrant against the animal owner. The complaining parties may appear in General District Court for action against the animal owner.



The owner or custodian of any dog shall be responsible for the removal of waste deposited by such dog on others' property or public property ("pooper scooper" regulation).

### ANIMALS RUNNING LOOSE

It is against the law to allow animals to run loose on public property or private property of others. Dogs must be restrained by a dependable leash and controlled by a responsible person when off the property of the owner. Animal Control is authorized to pick up dogs at large. The agency also may pick up other animals that pose a public nuisance or threaten public safety or health.

### VICIOUS AND DANGEROUS ANIMALS

Citizens shall not keep or permit to be kept any wild, exotic or vicious animal as those terms are defined in the County Code.

## CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

It is against the law to maliciously kill, disfigure, or poison animals. All pets must be humanely treated with proper food, water, shelter, and exercise. It is also against the law to overload, torture, or cruelly beat any animal.

## WILD ANIMAL PROBLEMS

If you have a problem with a sick or injured wild animal, please call the Fairfax County Animal Control office at 703-691-2131. All other wildlife problems should first be referred to the Volunteer Wildlife Rescue League Hotline, 703-440-0800, or a private pest control/exterminator service, or to the State Game Warden at 540-899-4169.



## ANIMALS THAT HAVE BITTEN HUMANS

If your pet or any warm-blooded animal bites any person, you must:

- Notify the Police Department's Animal Control section.
- Confine your domestic pet for ten days for rabies observation. This may be done at the Fairfax County Animal Shelter, a licensed veterinary hospital, or at your home, if approved by the Animal Control Officer investigating the case and you have a valid rabies certificate for your pet. If quarantined at home, the animal must be kept confined in an enclosure where it cannot bite again.

If you are bitten by an animal, it must be immediately reported to the Police Department's Animal Control section.

## RABIES CONCERN

Rabies continues to be a statewide problem. Animals most likely to carry rabies are raccoons, skunks, cats, bats and foxes. Rabies is transmitted

through animal bites or other contact with a rabid animal's saliva through a break in the skin or via mucous membrane. Have your pet inoculated against rabies and keep the immunity up to date. Prevent contact with wildlife by having pets sleep indoors, walking pets on a leash and feeding cats and dogs inside. For more information, call the rabies info line, 703-324-BITE.

## YOUR ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

County Animal Control Officers are responsible for enforcing state laws and County ordinances dealing with animal control and cruelty to animals and for assisting citizens having problems with wild animals. The primary function of Animal Control Officers is to help and protect Fairfax County citizens while dealing with animals as humanely as possible. The cooperation and assistance of all citizens, however, is necessary to provide for good human/animal relationships in our communities.

## FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT ANIMAL SERVICES DIVISION:

- Uniform enforcement of County and state laws dealing with domestic and wild animals.
- Removal of stray dogs and sick or injured wildlife from streets and public areas, eliminating potential health and safety hazards.
- Investigation of animal cruelty complaints.
- 24-hour emergency service for injured stray animals.
- Sale of Dog Licenses- at the Animal Shelter, by mail, and at the County Government Center.
- Provision of temporary housing for all stray and unwanted animals.
- Quarantine services for animals which have bitten humans.
- Radio-dispatched vehicles for patrol and law enforcement.
- Animal adoptions- An adoption fee is charged and the spaying/neutering cost collected. Non-County residents of adjoining jurisdiction (e.g. Prince William County,

Loudoun County, Arlington County, Alexandria City, Town of Vienna, City of Fairfax) may adopt a dog or cat 6 months of age or older providing the dog or cats is/ or will be spayed or neutered prior to leaving Fairfax County. The Animal Shelter will assist with the arrangements.



For more information, call, write, or visit:  
FAIRFAX COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES DIVISION  
4500 West Ox Road  
Fairfax, Virginia 22030  
Phone: 703-830-1100, TTY 703-691-3255

<b>Animal Control</b> <i>(for animal violations)</i>	<b>703-691-2131</b>
<b>Animal Shelter</b> <i>(lost, found animals)</i>	<b>703-830-1100</b> <b>(option #3)</b>
County Health Department.	703-246-2433
County Police Department	703-691-2131
Dog License Information	703-222-8234

Visit our Website:  
[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/animals](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/animals)

## TO REDEEM IMPOUNDED PETS

Visit the Animal Shelter:  
Tuesday – Friday 8AM- 6PM  
Saturday 8AM-5PM  
Stray animals are held for a minimum of 7 days at the Shelter prior to adoption or euthanasia or 11 days if wearing a collar, tag, tattoo or implant.

## TO ADOPT PETS

Visit the Animal Shelter:  
Tuesday – Friday 10AM-5PM  
Saturday 10AM-4PM