

ANIMAL TRESPASS

An owner must not allow an animal to enter private property without the property owner's permission.

Penalty for Violation: \$100

ANIMAL NOISE

An owner must not allow an animal to cause noise that is loud enough and persistent enough to disturb another person's quiet enjoyment.

Penalty for Violation: \$100

DOGS ON SCHOOL GROUNDS & RECREATION AREAS

An owner must not allow a dog to be on public school grounds on a day when school is in session, or in a public recreation area during an organized activity, unless the dog is controlled by a leash or similar restraining device. This does not apply if the dog is participating in an activity such as obedience or agility training if the owner or sponsor of the activity has permission from the agency controlling the school or recreation area.

Penalty for Violation: \$100

OTHER ANIMAL PUBLIC NUISANCE LAWS

Female animal in heat – An owner must keep a female dog or cat inside a building or other secure enclosure that prevents attraction of other animals.

Unsanitary conditions – An owner must not allow an animal to cause an unsanitary, dangerous, or offensive condition due to size or number of animals kept in one location, or because a facility is not appropriate for the animal or properly maintained.

Penalty for Violation: \$100

DANGEROUS ANIMALS

A person may not possess any wild animal or any animal that has been declared to be dangerous unless a waiver is granted by the Division. An animal is considered dangerous if:

- It has, without provocation, killed or severely injured a person;

- It poses a physical threat to humans because of specific training or demonstrated behavior; or
- Its bite is poisonous.

An animal is considered potentially dangerous if it has bitten a person either on public or private real property, or has killed or severely injured a domestic animal when not on the owner's property, or has attacked without provocation. Animals declared dangerous or potentially dangerous by other jurisdictions must be removed from Montgomery County unless the Division Director waives the requirement and imposes restrictions for the animal to remain in the County.

Animals found to be dangerous must be kept confined in a secure enclosure to prevent direct contact with humans or other animals. They must be leashed and muzzled and under the control of a person at least 18 years old who is physically able to control the animal any time it is removed from the owner's property. An animal which has been declared to be vicious or dangerous by the Director or the Animal Matters Hearing Board may have additional restrictions imposed.

Penalty for Failing to Keep a Dangerous Animal Confined: \$500-\$2500 and/or impoundment of the animal

PROPER DOG SHELTER AND PROTECTION FROM THE ELEMENTS

Chapter 5 of the Montgomery County Code requires that all animals be provided with proper shelter or protection from the elements.

The Animal Services Division has established the following guidelines for proper shelter for dogs. Depending on the age, size, general physical conditions of the animal, and weather conditions, additional protection may be required.

Weatherproof – The shelter must be of solid construction with no cracks or openings other than the entrance. (Rainproof openings for ventilation are acceptable in hot weather.) It should be of wood construction with no metal surfaces inside.

Elevated – The floor must be of solid construction and should be elevated at least 2 inches off the ground.

Protected Entrance – The entrance should be protected to prevent wind, rain and snow from blowing directly on the animal. This can be accomplished by (a) placing a flexible flap over the door; (b) constructing a "U" shaped baffle outside the door; or (c) placing the front of the dog house close to another building, i.e., house, barn, shed, or other solid windbreak.

Bedding – Bedding must be dry. Straw, leaves, shredded paper and cedar chips make good bedding material. Rugs, cloth and blankets are not recommended, as they hold wetness and will freeze.

Size – The shelter should be large enough to allow the animal to stand, turn and lie down comfortably, and small enough to allow the animal to warm the interior with its body heat. The door(s) should be just large enough to allow the animal to enter easily.

Shade – During hot weather the animal should have access to a shaded area at all times throughout the day.

Penalty – Failure to provide adequate shelter and protection from the elements is punishable by a minimum \$500 fine.

Exceptions to these standards must be approved by an Animal Services Officer or the Director of the Animal Services Division.

SERVICES PROVIDED

INVESTIGATION OF COMPLAINTS

Animal Services Officers respond to and investigate public nuisance, cruelty, and vicious animal complaints. Officers enforce county and state animal-related laws.

OBEDIENCE TRAINING

Obedience training classes for dogs of all ages are offered through the Department of Recreation. In addition, "help sessions" to correct behavior problems are also available. Call the Department of Recreation at 240-777-6900 for additional information.

ANIMAL MATTERS HEARING BOARD

The Animal Matters Hearing Board is authorized by county law to hear and abate public nuisance, cruelty, and vicious animal complaints.

The Board may order any animal found to be a public nuisance delivered to the Animal Services Officer unless an alternate method of abating the nuisance is found. In addition, the Board may order the owner of an animal that causes personal injury or property damage to pay damages to the injured person as a condition for keeping the animal up to \$1,000 per incident.

Penalty for Violation of Animal Matters Hearing Board Order: Minimum \$500 Fine and/or Impoundment of the Animal(s).

RABIES VACCINATION CLINICS

Rabies clinics are held periodically throughout the year. Please call 240-773-5946 for information.

EMERGENCY RESCUE

Trained drivers pick up sick and injured stray animals 24 hours a day.

LOST AND FOUND

Central files, updated daily, aid in reuniting lost pets with their owners.

Anyone who loses a pet or finds someone else's pet should call the Animal Shelter immediately.

To reclaim a lost pet impounded at the Animal Shelter, the owner must pay an impoundment and board fee and show proof of a current rabies vaccination and license. In addition, the owner may be subject to fines for non-compliance with county and state laws.

LOW-COST SPAYING/NEUTERING

Area veterinarians perform spaying and neutering at reduced rates for county residents when surgery is arranged through the Low-Cost Spay/Neuter Program.

ADOPTIONS

Homeless animals are given a new start with approved families. Prospective adopters may register specific breed requests on the "Want List."

WILDLIFE RESCUE

Office staff can provide advice on how to prevent or eliminate the attraction of nuisance wildlife. Some humane traps may be available for capturing wild animals. For information about this service, call the Department of Natural Resources at 1-877-463-6497.

Animals that can be rehabilitated are cared for by trained volunteers until they can be released back into the wild.

HUMANE EDUCATION

Programs designed for every school grade level and civic groups are offered by appointment. Tours of the Animal Shelter are also available.

FOR SERVICES, CONTACT:

MONTGOMERY COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES DIVISION
14645 Rothgeb Drive
Rockville, MD
240-773-5960

OFFICE HOURS

10 am – 5 pm, Monday through Saturday

ADOPTION HOURS

1 pm – 7 pm, Monday through Friday
12 pm – 5 pm on Saturday

TO LOOK FOR OR RECLAIM A LOST PET

10 am – 7 pm, Monday through Friday
10 am – 5 pm on Saturday

24-HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE

240-773-5900



MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND
DEPARTMENT OF POLICE
ANIMAL SERVICES DIVISION

Summary of Animal Control Laws and Services Provided



SUMMARY OF COUNTY AND STATE ANIMAL CONTROL LAWS

CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

A person is guilty of cruelty if he/she:

- Deprives an animal of necessary sustenance—that is food or water;
- Tortures, torments, or cruelly beats an animal; OR
- If that person is the owner or otherwise has custody or is in charge of the animal and:
 - Inflicts unnecessary suffering or pain upon the animal;
 - Unnecessarily fails to provide the animal with nutritious feed in a sufficient amount;
 - Unnecessarily fails to provide veterinary care;
 - Unnecessarily fails to provide proper drink, air, space, shelter, or protection from the weather.

Penalty for Violation: \$500 fine. Criminal charges also may be filed, which carry a penalty of up to a \$5,000 fine, up to 3 years in jail, or both.

ABANDONING DOMESTIC ANIMALS

It is unlawful for the owner/custodian of any domestic animal to leave an animal on a street, public place, or on private property, with the intent to abandon it.

Penalty for Violation: Up to \$1,000 fine.

ANIMALS THAT HAVE BITTEN OR SCRATCHED A HUMAN

All incidents in which an animal has bitten or scratched any person must be promptly reported to the Animal Services Division for proper investigation and quarantine.

Dogs or cats that have bitten or scratched must be quarantined for 10 days. The Division will determine where the animal is to be quarantined. Quarantine expenses are the responsibility of the animal's owner. The

Division must be notified immediately if the animal becomes sick or dies during the quarantine period.

Wild animals that bite people should be captured and confined, if possible, to permit laboratory testing for rabies. Extreme caution should be used in attempting to confine a biting animal.

Penalty for Violation of Quarantine Procedures: \$500 minimum

VACCINATION & LICENSING REQUIREMENTS

All dogs and cats 4 months of age or older must have a current rabies vaccination and a County license. The rabies tag provided by your veterinarian is NOT a County license—the license must be purchased separately. Dogs are required to wear the license issued by the Division.

Penalty for Violation of:

Vaccination Laws: \$500

Licensing Laws: \$100

ANIMALS AT LARGE

An animal is at large if it is outside of the property of its owner and not leashed or otherwise restrained to prevent unwanted contact with a person or another animal. This law applies only to dogs and unaltered cats.

Penalty for Violation: \$100

ANIMAL DEFECATION (“POOPER-SCOOPER” LAW)

An owner must not allow an animal to damage or defecate on property outside of the owner's property. An animal may defecate on public property or the common area of property in which the owner shares an interest if the owner immediately removes and disposes of the feces by a sanitary method approved by the Director of the Animal Services Division. Feces may be picked up in a plastic bag. If this bag is placed inside another plastic bag, it may be put out for disposal with normal household trash.

Penalty for Violation: \$100