

Report of the Animal Control Officer

In 2018, there were over 385 calls and/or complaints pertaining to Animal Control. These involved everything from cruelty complaints, lost dogs/cats, found dogs/cats, feral cats, loose livestock, injured animals, animal bites, abandoned animals, wildlife acting funny, wildlife acting normal; along with maintaining licensing and serving civil forfeitures.

The Animal Control Officer (ACO) enforces State Laws and Town Ordinances pertaining to domestic animals and provides education and information for mitigating wildlife issues. Animal Control is dedicated to serving the community as it relates to both humans and animals.

Dog Licensing had over 1,300 dogs licensed in 2018. Licensing is required by NH Law to ensure all dogs carry a current rabies vaccine. Over 116 civil forfeitures were issued this year relating to unlicensed dogs. This count is down from last year and that is a good thing.

More and more people are licensing in a timely manner. Licensing is required by law and aids in getting your dog home quickly when they wander. Accidents happen and dogs get out. Current licenses can be the difference between being returned in minutes or an overnight stay at the kennel. Please confirm your phone number is correct so you can be contacted quickly in any event related to your dog. Cell numbers are best.

2018 Dog License Revenue
License Fees \$8,705.50
Late Fees \$493.50
Civil Forfeiture Fees \$3,480.00
Other Fines \$ 195.00

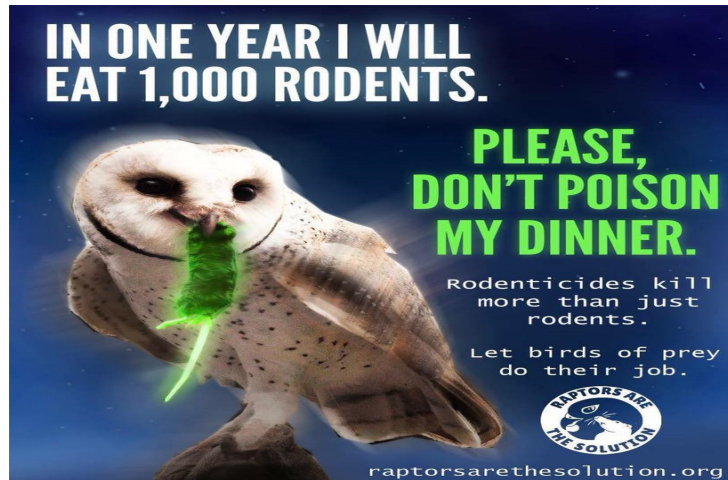
Less payout to the mandatory State of NH Overpopulation Program and Department of Agriculture that was \$2,708.50 from Fremont.

Total Revenue \$10,165.50

New Hampshire has great companion animal spay/neuter programs. \$2.00 from every license goes to the companion overpopulation fund and \$.50 of each license goes to the Department of Agriculture for the operation of the veterinary diagnostic lab. These programs put New Hampshire in the group of top contenders for minimal shelter overcrowding.

2018 was busy with wildlife issues. The drought last year seemed to have shifted behaviors. Bears were certainly prevalent not only in Fremont but all the surrounding towns. The number one thing to keep bears and wildlife away is to REMOVE birdfeeders by April 1st. Not only does removing feeders aid in keeping bears away it also helps keep rodents large and small at bay. The food chain is fascinating, there are so many ways to help wildlife and feeding them is not one of them. Allowing healthy wildlife to maintain the tasks they are accustomed to undertaking helps us all in the long run.

Bats for example eat thousands of flying insects, consider locating a bat house nearby to take advantage of insect eliminating skills. Healthy bats do a great service, Sick ones do not. If you find or see a bat in your home, please call dispatch. Certain factors will be addressed, and a proper course of action will be followed. Bats are experiencing an alarming rate of decline and without them we are turning to other lethal methods for pest control.



Opossums eat hundreds of ticks. They are also the lowest rabies vector of all mammals. They are shy and non-destructive. Fox are also bug eaters as well as chickens. Securing your coops are a must. Birds of prey are a huge asset in rodent control. Never use poisons for mice/rats, if an owl eats an infected mouse, they too become infected and die. I know there is a fine line when trying to deal with nuisance wildlife but there are many easy non-lethal alternatives available. In the

long run, it leaves the wildlife food chain in action.

Fremont Community Facebook page is being used to report Animal Control related events. I do not monitor Facebook 24/7 nor Facebook Messenger on a regular basis. If you are experiencing an Animal Control issue, please call the Police Department at 603 895 2229. If it is after business hours the call will roll to Rockingham County Dispatch and they will contact me directly. Facebook is an excellent resource if you are missing or find a pet, but it is imperative that you still call it in. Not everyone is on Facebook. In most cases I can tell you where the animal lives or if someone has found your animal.

The 2018 annual Rabies Clinic was again very successful. One and three year vaccines are available. As you may know, once an animal has a vaccine administered it is good for one year. When a second vaccine is administered that vaccine is now good for 3 years. In 2018 we vaccinated 121 animals and micro chipped 18 animals.

2019 Rabies Clinic will be held on Saturday April 6, 2019
From 8:30 am to 1:30 pm at the Fremont Safety Complex
Rabies Vaccines \$15 Microchips \$25 Licensing \$7.50/\$10.00

Microchips are the size of a grain of rice and are implanted under the skin between the shoulder blades. I cannot stress enough the importance of Microchipping your animal. It is one of the first things I check for when picking up any dog or cat. Every shelter in NH is required to scan for a chip on every incoming animal. I have reunited many animals that live near and far away only because they had a microchip. This year a stray cat turned up at my property, after a month I was able to earn enough trust to scan him for a microchip. Lo and

behold he had one. I was able to contact his owner that lived in Chester. She was beside herself with relief. He had been missing for over a month and I have no doubt without his registered microchip, he never would have been reunited. I have chips available every year at the Rabies Clinic. I use Datamars chips that have FREE lifetime registration

Proceeds from this year's Rabies Clinic were used in part to help The Fremont Food Panty, individual Fremont residents and provide care for several Fremont animals in need.



Every year there are always a few events that will stay with me. This year I was lucky enough to host a release of 3 barred owls that were rehabbed by Jane Kelly from On the Wing in Epping. She is a such a great resource for all birds of prey. You can check out her great work on FB <https://www.facebook.com/On-The-Wing-798754400162245/>

The training I attended in 2018 included: Lost Pet Tracking, Compassion Fatigue, Technical and Legal Differences of Therapy Dogs, Service Dogs and Emotional Support Animals, Dangerous Dogs/Animal Defense, Blood Sports, Animal Transport, Search & Seizure, Old Equipment/New uses, Living with coyotes and foxes.

Please call if you have any animal related concern, as I am happy to provide any information or resources that I have.

I can be reached through the Fremont Police Department at 603 895 2229 for any questions, inquires or complaints.

Respectfully submitted,

ACO Renee King
Fremont Police

Tasha



Penny

Photos courtesy of Renee King