

Report of the Animal Control Officer

In 2017, the Animal Control Department responded and resolved over 405 calls and complaints. These involved everything from cruelty complaints, lost dogs/cats, found dogs/cats, feral cats, loose livestock, injured animals, animal bites, abandoned animals, 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. Animal Control is dedicated to serving the community as it relates to both humans and animals.

Dog Licensing had over 1,187 dogs licensed in 2017. Licensing is required by NH Law to ensure all dogs carry a current rabies vaccine. Over 154 civil forfeitures were issued this year relating to unlicensed dogs. This count is up from last year. 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.

2017 Dog License Revenue
License Fees \$8832.00
Late Fees \$355.00
Civil Forfeiture Fees \$3840.00
Other Fines \$ 30.00

Less the Mandatory State of NH payout to the overpopulation program and Department of Agriculture that was \$2613.00 from Fremont.

Total Revenue \$10,443.50

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.

Over the last year, I have noticed the Fremont Community Facebook page is being used more and more to report Animal Control related events. I do not monitor Facebook 24/7. I also receive many Facebook messages directly. Again, I do not monitor my "messenger" app 24/7. Using the messenger app for a heads up or a question that does not need an immediate response is fine but please, if there is an active situation call it in to the Fremont Police Department at 603 895 2229. If it is after business hours the call will roll to the Rockingham County Sheriff's Department and they will contact me directly. Not only is this the most efficient way of reporting an event, it keeps track of the amount of calls reported to Animal Control.

Certainly, if your pet is missing or you find a pet, Facebook is very helpful in generating sightings and helping to return an animal. An important fact is that not everyone is on Facebook. The found pet post may not be seen by the owner. Please call it in! I am pretty good at knowing what dog lives where. If you have a missing pet I can provide tips for a fast reunification. It is not recommended that you take a found animal in your home. Securing a stray dog is great but bringing that animal in your home is not recommended. You don't know what vaccines the animal may or may not have. You don't know how it will behave with other pets or children.



Penny

Please no overnight stays before calling it in to Animal Control that can be reached 24/7/365. Several times a frantic owner is looking throughout the night only to find out their beloved pet was safe and sound in someone's home. Please do not feed that animal! Many pets are on a special diet and foreign food could be a problem. A garage or similar building for safekeeping is great. Safety first on all occasions.

The 2017 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 2017 we vaccinated 135 animals and micro chipped 19 animals.

2018 Rabies Clinic will be held

April 7, 2018

8:30 am to 1:30 pm

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 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. In a few cases the animal had been missing for several months. We have chips available every year at the Rabies Clinic. We use Datamars chips that have FREE lifetime registration.

Fremont and most surrounding towns have many missing cats this year. Please think about getting a microchip. Indoor cats get out. Accidents happen. If/when your cat is found it can be returned quickly if it has a microchip, usually within minutes.

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.

In 2017 I have seen an influx of feral cats throughout town. The difference between a stray cat and a feral cat is that a stray cat is a pet cat that is lost or abandoned. Stray cats are

accustomed to contact with people and are tame. Feral cats are the offspring of lost or abandoned pet cats or other feral cats that is the result of pet owners' abandonment or failure to spay and neuter their animals, thus allowing them to breed uncontrolled.



Female cats can reproduce two to three times a year, and their kittens, if they survive, will become feral without early contact with people. Cats can become pregnant as early as 5 months of age, and the number of cats rapidly increases without intervention by caring people.

Please if you are aware of a litter of kittens by a feral cat, it is crucial to report immediately. I received calls 3-4 months after kittens are born and it drastically alters the time it takes to trap and rehabilitate them.

Wildlife was very active this past summer. The spruce swamp area and throughout town was busy with sightings of bobcat, fox, deer, moose and a bear. As always keep clear and let wildlife meander on its way. To avoid nuisance wildlife, remember to take bird feeders by April 1st, always keep trash covered and never ever feed wildlife on purpose. Wildlife that does not fear humans will most certainly become a problem down the road. If you see sick or wounded wildlife, please call it in. You and your family's safety is always important.

The training I attended this year included: Humane Animal Handling & Capture, Livestock and Poultry Health and Regulations, Latest Perspectives on Animal Hoarding, Adult Protective Services: How it Works, Red Cross Pet First Aid/CPR Certification Course and Blood Borne Pathogen Safety, and Investigation & Aftermath.

Year in Review: found/lost dogs, missing/found loose pigs, cows and chickens, deceased cats on the roadway, wildlife invasion issues, found/lost carrier pigeons & domestic birds, abandoned dogs, cruelty reports, barking dogs, cats in trees, feral cats and kittens, found chickens, Grass Drags and Water Cross event, and of course the cycle of licensing dogs.

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 Police Department at 603 895 2229 for any questions, inquiries or complaints.

Respectfully submitted,

ACO Renee King
Fremont Police

Photos Courtesy of Renee King

