

Report of the Animal Control Officer

In 2016, The Animal Control Department responded and resolved over 527 calls and complaints. These involved everything from cruelty complaints, lost dogs/cats, found dogs/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. Animal Control is dedicated to serving the community as it relates to both humans and animals.

Dog Licensing had over 1176 dogs licensed this year. Licensing is required by NH Law to ensure all dogs carry a current rabies vaccine. Over 120 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.

2016 Dog License Revenue

License Fees \$8,579.00

Late Fees \$289.00

Civil Forfeiture Fees \$2,430.00

Other Fines \$ 150.00

Less the Mandatory State of NH payout to the Overpopulation Program and Department of Agriculture that totaled \$2,563.00.00 from Fremont.

Total Revenue \$8,885.00

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 use of the Fremont Community Facebook page has been very helpful in spreading the word of a lost or found pet. Remember its always important to notify Animal Control as well. If you find a pet, I may know where it lives. 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. 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 2016 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 2016 we vaccinated 162 animals and micro chipped 26 animals.

2017 Rabies Clinic will be held
Saturday April 8, 2017
8:30 am to 1:30 pm at the Fremont Safety Complex
Rabies Vaccines - Microchips and Licensing

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.

Proceeds from this year's Rabies Clinic were used in part to sponsor a visit from ON THE WING in Epping to Camp Fremont. The campers were visited by and learned about several different owl and hawk species. Jane Kelly owner/operator of ON THE WING is a certified raptor rehabilitator right over in Epping. She does a wonderful job taking care of injured raptors and birds of prey. We have had several birds this year encounter vehicles. She can rehab them and allowed me to return them to the area that they came from. It is an unbelievable experience, and I am grateful to be a part of it. Below is a photo of a release and my sentiments that evening that hold true every day.



"I am extremely lucky to be the Animal Control Officer in Fremont. On call 365/24/7. Never does a holiday go by without call for service. Normally if I am calling you it's either for a lost or found pet, injured or distressed animal, dog bites or animal destruction, neighbor disputes, dumped dogs, cats and even rats. The never-ending cycle of dog licenses, and expiring rabies vaccines. It's all about customer service for you the resident but just as important

is to be the voice for the animals that cannot speak for themselves. The health, safety and wellbeing for them is a driving force in this job. Today was one of those days of pure pleasure

to be in this field of work. Due to a network of people and businesses in the same field, I could set something free, to send it back to fulfill its destiny and that truly does make me the lucky one."

Wildlife was very active this summer. Due to the drought. 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. Your and your families' safety is always important.

The training I attended this year included: The Horse: What Every ACO and Humane Officer Should Know, Equine Cruelty Investigations: The Scientific and Forensic Approach, Canine Behavior and Safe Handling, The Ick of the Tick: New England Ticks and the Diseases They Carry, and The Backyard Chicken.

Year in Review: Found Dogs/Lost Dogs, Loose pigs, cows and chickens, Squirrels stuck in metal feeders, Lost cats/Found cats, 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 Department

