



PARTNERS IN CRIME PREVENTION

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AUDITOR—LICENSING AND ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICES

Among its many other duties, the Auditor's Office licenses pets and enforces county pet and animal laws through Animal Control Officers.

The Licensing and Animal Control Services Division protects people and property, controls animal behavior, and guards against mistreatment or abuse of animals. To accomplish this mission, the division:

- Licenses dogs and cats in unincorporated Snohomish County
- Investigates animal complaints including dog bites, animal attacks, animal hoarding, and cruelty and neglect
- Educates citizens on the county code and state law pertaining to animals
- Assists law enforcement to secure animals when needed
- Captures and impounds stray animals

The American Veterinary Medical Association estimates, based on its population, that Snohomish County has:

- 144,360 dogs
- 157,761 cats
- 32,036 birds
- 13,200 horses

That contrasts with 12,800 pets licensed in unincorporated Snohomish County.

In addition, the county has 378 licensed

kennels:

- 308 private kennels (4-10 dogs)
- 44 boarding kennels
- 10 non-boarding kennels
- 16 grooming parlors

Given the estimated numbers of animals that should be licensed (dogs and cats) and the number of animals actually licensed, this division has a large challenge for a small staff.

Some national statistics:

- According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC) 4.7 million people (2% of the national population) are bitten by dogs annually
- 1 of every 6 people bitten (800,000) will need some medical treatment as a result of the bite
- 914 people per day will require emergency room treatment
- 15-20 human fatalities occur each year from dog attacks
- 80 % of dog bite victims are children
- 61% of the dog bite attacks happen at home or other familiar place
- In the 1990's, the number of dogs owned in the US increased 2%, yet the number of dog bites increased 33% over the same period



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Snohomish County
Sheriff's Office**

3000 Rockefeller
M/S 606
Everett, WA 98201
425-388-3393
<http://sheriff.snoco.org>

SNOHOMISH COUNTY CODE- ANIMAL ORDINANCES

Here are the county ordinances related to animals:

Animals-

- Chapter 9.01- General Provisions & Definitions
- Chapter 9.04- Pet Licenses
- Chapter 9.10- Dangerous Dogs
- Chapter 9.12- Penalties, Nuisance & Abatement
- Chapter 9.14- Leash Law
- Chapter 9.16- Livestock
- Tattoos, scars or birthmarks

Noise Ordinance-

- Chapter 10.01- Includes repetitive barking & penalties

Licensing-

- Chapter 6.06- Kennels, Grooming Parlors & Pet Shops

To see the text go to www.snoco.org and look for the link to the county code.

LICENSING AND LEASHING- PROTECTING YOUR PET

Licensing. County code requires that all dogs and cats must be licensed (Snohomish County Code 9.04).

License fees for dogs and cats are:

- Unaltered- \$40
- Altered (neutered/spayed)- \$20
- Senior Citizen (Altered)- \$15

Fines for not licensing your pet range between \$50 to \$250.

There are benefits to licensing your pet. By licensing your pet, you increase the chances of returning it directly to you, without a trip to a shelter, should it become lost.

Anyone who finds a lost pet with a license tag can call a 24-hour hotline, obtain the owner information for the pet and reunite you with your lost pet directly- (425) 388-3627, option 2. Anyone who finds a lost pet can also look up owner information online at <http://www1.co.snohomish.wa.us/Departments/Auditor/Divisions/Licensing/Pet/LostOrFoundPets.htm>.

By returning pets directly to their owners, licensing saves money by reducing the number of lost pets that have to be housed in animal shelters.

While not required, the Licensing and Animal Control Services Division encourages micro-chipping your pet. Microchips contain a code that can be read by a reader

and are inserted beneath the skin. Animal control officers, animal shelters and veterinary clinics are equipped for microchip readers. The microchips are not detrimental to the animal's health. With a microchip, your pet can be returned directly to you in case its collar is lost.

Leash Law. The county also requires that dogs be contained on the property of their owners. When off the property, the dogs should be controlled by the owner with a leash. Fines for violating the leash law range from \$50 to \$250.

Animal Control Officers respond to thousands of calls per year complaining of dogs running loose. Also, each year dozens of dogs, running loose on streets and highways, are hit and killed.

Nearly 5,000 lost and stray dogs and cats are taken by Animal Control Officers and citizens to animal shelters. Not having been controlled on the owner's property and without a license tag or microchip, many of these animals have to be euthanized.

Most of these incidents can be prevented by licensing your dog or cat and by controlling it on your property, or in the case of your dog, keeping it on a leash when off the property.

ANIMAL CONTROL- PROTECTING PETS AND PEOPLE

Snohomish County Animal Control Officers reunite pets with their loved ones, capture and transport stray animals to local animal shelters, issue civil violation notices, and conduct investigations concerning animals.

Animal Control has a staff of 8, 1 supervisor, 6 field officers and 1 clerical support/dispatch.

Animal Control Officers make more contact with the public than other law enforcement officer by 4 times. In 2009, Snohomish County Animal Control Officers responded to 2,958 complaints. Those complaints included:

- Nuisance Dogs- 21%
- Barking Dogs- 16%
- Animal Cruelty/Neglect- 14%
- Other Animal Complaints- 13%
- Dog Bites- 11%
- Stray Dogs- 11%
- Vicious Dogs- 5%
- Kennel Complaints- 5%
- Loose Livestock- 4%

Some high profile operations that the county Animal Control Services participated in in 2009 included:

- The discovery of a large scale puppy mill operation

- The rescue of 40 cats owned by a cat hoarder
- The rescue of 10 thoroughbred horses and the charging of the owner for animal cruelty

Making a complaint. If you are having a problem with a barking dog, stray dogs, or aggressive dogs you can contact an Animal Control Officer in three ways:

Call 911- If you have an immediate problem endangering you, a family member or your pet such as dog bites or attacks in progress call 911 for help.

Call the Animal Control Services Hotline (425) 388-3440- For barking dogs, nuisance dogs, suspected animal neglect, leash law violations, livestock at large or situations not requiring immediate assistance call the hotline.

File an Online Complaint, http://web5.co.snohomish.wa.us/AuditorApps/AudComp_PublicEntry/AudComp-05-EnterCompData.asp - Instead of the Hotline you can file your complaint online.

AGGRESSIVE DOGS- WHAT TO DO

If you encounter an aggressive dog:

- *Don't run or turn your back*
- *Try to be nice to it first*
- *Stay calm*
- *Stand your ground*
- *Don't stare down the dog. Look over its head*
- *If all else fails, do whatever is necessary to protect yourself, including using pepper spray*

AN ATTACK ON YOUR DOG

If you are walking your dog and another dog initiates an attack on it:

- *Keep moving*
- *Keep your dog focused on you and away from the other dog*

SNOHOMISH COUNTY ANIMAL RESOURCES- WHERE TO CALL

Animal Control & Code

333 Smith Island Rd

Enforcement:

Everett, WA

(425) 388-3440

- PAWS (Progressive Animal Welfare Society)

Pet Licensing Information:

(425) 787-2500

(425) 388-3627 Option #3

Found Pet with Snohomish County

15305 44th Ave W

License Tag:

Lynnwood, WA

(425) 388-3627 Option #2

www.paws.org

Web Access:

www1.co.snohomish.wa.us and search "pets"

Dog Bites/Attacks in Progress:

Dial 911

Life Threatening Emergencies

Animal Complaints:

(425) 388-3440

- Cruelty/abuse
- Leash law
- Nuisance dogs
- Livestock at large
- Dog bites/attacks not in progress

Snohomish County Kennel

Licenses:

(425) 388-3388

Animal Shelters:

- Everett Animal Shelter
(425) 257-6000

Wildlife:

County Animal Control covers domesticated animals such as dogs, cats, and livestock. It is not responsible for wildlife such as bears, raccoons, cougars, bobcats, etc. For information about wildlife go to:

- Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife:
(425) 775-1311
<http://www.wdfw.wa.gov/>
- PAWS Wildlife Center
(425) 787-2500
www.paws.org
- Sarvey Wildlife Rescue
(360) 435-4817
www.sarveywildlife.org/

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NEWSLETTER INFO

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If you have questions regarding this newsletter or any articles that appear in it, please contact the editor at neighborhoodwatch@snoco.org.

TIP LINES



Snohomish County Sheriff's Office: 425-388-3845

<http://www.snoco.org/app/ssh/anonymoustips/>

Crime Stoppers of Puget Sound: 1-800-222-8477