

YOUR PETS AND THE LAW

*Animal Regulation Ordinances
Summary of Chapter 41, Animals & Fowl
Fairfax County Code*

LICENSES AND VACCINATIONS



Dogs over four months old must be licensed annually and vaccinated against rabies. Dog licenses will be sold only upon presentation of a certificate that the dog has been inoculated against rabies by a licensed veterinarian. Dog licenses

cost \$5.00 per year for spayed/neutered animals and \$10.00 for fertile animals. To obtain a \$5.00 license, certification must be provided that the animal has been spayed/neutered by a veterinarian or is infertile.

All dogs must have the license tag securely attached to a collar and worn whenever the dog is off the owner's property.

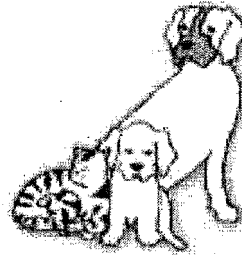
Cats over four months old must be inoculated against rabies but are not required to be licensed. However, the wearing of an identification tag on a safety collar is recommended. Fairfax County Animal Control Officers may respond to nuisance cat complaints when the owner is known, as well as bite cases and rescue of injured cats or cats in distress. Roaming cats cause injuries to themselves, wildlife, and people. For the protection of your cats and the community, it is best to keep your cat indoors.

ADOPTION OF PETS

Dogs, cats, and other pets are available for adoption at the Animal Shelter: Tuesday through Friday, 10AM-5PM; Saturday 10AM-4PM. An adoption fee of \$20.00 is charged for all animals.

Virginia state law mandates all dogs and cats adopted from a shelter must be spayed/neutered. The citizen is responsible for paying the spaying/

neutering costs to the Shelter at the time of adoption. Both dogs and cats are inoculated with one shot of vaccine for distemper at the time they enter the Shelter.

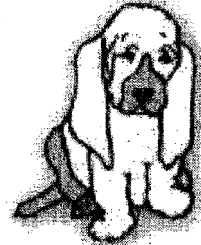


At the time of adoption, a certificate is provided which authorizes a free physical examination of the animal from any of the participating veterinarians. The certificate is also good for spaying/neutering of the animal at a reasonable price under a reduced cost program offered as a public service by Northern Virginia veterinarians.

REDEMPTION OF IMPOUNDED DOGS AND CATS

If your dog or cat has been impounded at the Animal Shelter, you may redeem your pet by:

- Presentation of a valid rabies certificate.
- For dogs, presentation of a current dog license or purchase of a dog license, if the dog is not currently licensed.
- Payment of a \$20.00 fee plus \$10.00 boarding fee for each day the pet was impounded.



REPORTING INJURED ANIMALS

Any vehicle operator who strikes an animal should report the accident to the Police Department's Animal Control section.

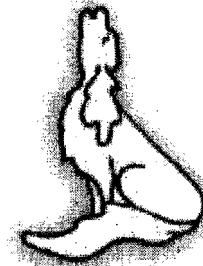
DISPOSAL OF DEAD ANIMALS

The owner of any animal or fowl which has died is responsible for having the body cremated or buried. VDOT is responsible for pick-up of dead animals on state right-of-way. Call 703-383-VDOT. The Animal

Shelter will accept small animal carcasses for disposal. Call 703-830-1100.

ANIMALS CREATING NUISANCE

It is against the law to allow animals to trespass on, destroy or damage another person's property. Animals must not frequently and habitually make loud and objectionable noises or be kept in such a manner as to cause unsanitary conditions. Nuisance noises may be reported to the Police Department, 703-691-2131. A complainant may also request that the owner of the animal abate the noise violation. If the violation continues, that person, along with another complainant, not a member of the same household, may go to a magistrate and swear out a warrant against the animal owner. The complaining parties may appear in General District Court for action against the animal owner.



The owner or custodian of any dog shall be responsible for the removal of waste deposited by such dog on others' property or public property ("pooper scooper" regulation).

ANIMALS RUNNING LOOSE

It is against the law to allow animals to run loose on public property or private property of others. Dogs must be restrained by a dependable leash and controlled by a responsible person when off the property of the owner. Animal Control is authorized to pick up dogs at large. The agency also may pick up other animals that pose a public nuisance or threaten public safety or health.

VICIOUS AND DANGEROUS ANIMALS

Citizens shall not keep or permit to be kept any wild, exotic or vicious animal as those terms are defined in the County Code.