

Spring
2012



TOWN OF ELLINGTON - ANIMAL CONTROL

Spring Newsletter

Spring News

It's getting to be that time of year again! Spring weather is almost here. Although we have had a relatively mild winter, it's always nice to look forward to warm spring days. It gets to be a busy time of year for us and a great time to spread some news.

Come spring we are renewing dog licenses, finishing our door to door survey for unlicensed dogs, planning Rabies clinics, and getting in gear for an increase in impounds.

Last year we mentioned our new Facebook page, which has attracted 106 friends. It has proven to be a great place for us and the community to post news, lost pets, events, etc. Check us out if you haven't already at "Ellington Animal Control."

During Storm Alfred this October, Ellington Animal Control had an opportunity to open our Emergency Pet Shelter at the Ellington High School. Everything went smoothly considering it was our first attempt at implementing our pet plan. I would like to take this time to remind the residents of Ellington that it is extremely important to have an emergency preparedness kit ready for both you and your pets. Nobody can use the excuse anymore, "that won't happen to me". I had several dog and cat owners that I had to turn away from our emergency pet shelter because they did not have kennels for their pets. There are just a few necessities you need, to be able to register your pet at the shelter. Please call our office if you would like more informa-

tion, or refer back to our first newsletter on Pet Preparedness.



Ellington, Conn., November 4, 2011 -- FEMA Deputy Administrator Richard Serino checks on the pets that are part of a shelter in Connecticut. Photo by Marty Bahamonde

We are excited this year to join forces with the Ellington Center Animal Clinic for our Rabies clinic in June. It will be held on "Dog Days" at the Ellington Farmer's Market. Microchipping will also be offered. Ellington Center Animal Clinic will be donating all proceeds to Ellington Animal Control. Stop by and bring your pets along. There will be lots of activities!

Wildlife Encounters

With spring comes young wildlife and more frequent sightings. The Connecticut DEEP website has some great information on nuisance & distressed wildlife, as well as information on bears. Yes, several bear sightings have been reported, as well as several suspicious bird feeder raids. Check out the do's and don'ts of living with



bears and report your sighting on the DEEP website.



The coyote complaints are always abundant in the spring/summer months as well. If you see a coyote in the proximity of your house, deter them anyway possible. Make loud noises to make them uncomfortable. When they don't fear humans, that is when they

become a nuisance. Make sure you are not leaving pet food outside or your compost piles readily accessible. There is no reason why we all can't live together with the wildlife.

Along with attractants, check your property for hazards. We had an incident last spring, where two baby fawns had fallen into an old foundation. Check your property, for they could be hazardous to children also.



Passed Bills for Animals of CT - 2011

It was another successful year for bills being passed in favor of the animals. All bills can be searched by number, on CT's legislative website:

<http://www.cga.ct.gov/>

Another great resource is:

<http://www.ctvotesforanimals.org>

You can find information here on legislative campaigns, the process, and passed bills. If you want to become involved, this is a great place to start.



HB 6226 (Public Act 11-194) An Act Concerning Cross Reporting of Child Abuse and Animal Cruelty - This bill requires the Department of Children and Families caseworkers to report animal cruelty to the Department of Agriculture and also investigate child abuse upon the receipt of reports of animal cruelty at the same address.

HB 6303 (Public Act 11-111) An Act Concerning the Treatment of Ill and Injured Animals in Municipal Shelters - I didn't care for this bill at first, because to me I didn't understand why someone

would be an employee of a municipal shelter and not treat an ill or injured animal. Unfortunately this situation must be present and a problem for them to make it a bill. I can see some of the problem lying with financial restraints, so I'm glad the bill addresses this potential problem. It may give an animal a chance to be treated for injuries and given a second life, rather than being euthanized. This bill encourages municipal pounds to work with non profit rescue organizations to help financially with treatment of ill or injured impounded animals. It also requires the state Department of Agriculture to investigate complaints against animal control officer's who fail to provide proper care. In addition, the bill requires that impounded animals be posted online for the duration of their impoundment and offers civil and criminal immunity to veterinarians who discount their fees for the treating pound animals.



HB 5368 (Public Act 11-187) Animal Importation - This is a big one folks. This legislation was implemented to help protect the adopters and animals from non-reputable rescue's trying to sell imported dogs for a quick buck. This bill will hold animal importers accountable for the health of the animals and the adoption events that they hold. Rescues that import animals from out of state are now required to register with the Department of Agriculture on a yearly basis, give notice of public adoption events to the Department of Agriculture and the town where the event is being held, and imported animals must be examined by a veterinarian within 48 hours of arrival into CT. These rescues must maintain state health inspection paperwork and records of veterinary care.

We are making you aware of these laws so you can be our eyes and ears. If we do not have jurisdiction, we will contact the proper authorities or state department.



It's the Law! - Rabies Vaccinations & Licensing

We have decided to choose a law related topic for each newsletter edition, to discuss common animal related laws that we enforce. The most common is Rabies vaccinations and licensing, which go hand in hand a lot of times. One of the reasons we enforce licensing is to make sure your dog stays up to date on it's Rabies vaccination. Letting this lapse can cause real problems if your pet comes into contact with wildlife or is involved in a bite scenario with another dog or human. Now I know what you're thinking, my dog will never be in those situations. Well, I hate to tell you, but that's what EVERYONE thinks. You never know, so just obey the law and keep and your pets vaccinated! You are protecting them as well as any other animals they come into contact with and any other

people that live in the same household. The Rabies vaccine is the only one required by state law. The other vaccines your Veterinarian recommends are equally important to the health of your pet, but if you just can't afford them all at once, make sure the Rabies is done. Call our office for information on Rabies clinics in the area, if you are unable to see your regular Veterinarian.

Cats do not have to be licensed, but they must be up to date on their Rabies vaccination. In reference to stray cats that may be hanging around your house, if you are feeding them, they are yours. Find a way to get them vaccinated. There are several rescues that can help you with this, if you are unable. Check with your neighbors first. Make sure they aren't someone's cats and already vaccinated.

Licensing renewal is due every June. You must go to the Town Clerks office with a current Rabies certificate to license your dog. It is \$8 or \$19 depending on if they are spayed/neutered. If you do not license in June, you are subject to late fees and an infraction for \$75. If your dog is overdue for it's Rabies vaccine, you are subject to an additional fine of \$136. It is much more feasible to license your dog! Please do so by June 30th. Do not wait for a renewal notice in the mail. You will not get one, unless your email address is on file. Please update your address, phone number, and email address at the time of licensing. Please call our office or the Town Clerk with any questions on licensing. One last thing, **YOUR DOGS MUST WEAR THE LICENSE ON THEIR COLLAR!**

Veterinary Corner

We have two health related topics to discuss this issue. One is, you guessed it, RABIES! We can not stress this enough, in case you haven't noticed. There have been some positive Rabies cases in surrounding towns over the past several months. Keeping your pets up to date on their Rabies vaccines is crucial! Rabies is transmittable to humans and is deadly if untreated. A bite IS NOT the only way Rabies is transmitted. If your pet has come into contact with any wildlife acting strangely, please call us immediately. If we are not in the office, contact the Residents Troopers office.

Real life scenario: Your dog comes into contact with a sick raccoon that ends up being positive for Rabies. If your dog is not up to date on it's Rabies vaccine, it will be recommended that your dog be euthanized or quarantined for 6 months in

your municipal shelter or approved kennel, at your expense!



Rabies is a virus that lives in the saliva and brain tissue of infected animals. It only infects mammals (warm blooded animals who nurse their young.) It can be passed by scratches, bites, or when infected saliva or brain tissue comes into contact with open wounds, skin breaks, or mucous membranes. It is most commonly carried by raccoons, skunks, coyotes, foxes, and bats. If you have had contact with a suspected rabid animal call our office immediately and your physician or emergency room. Call and report any strange looking wildlife in your area as well.

The second topic we would like to discuss is FLEAS! It was a horrible year last year and is expected to be just as bad this year. Fleas can be carried into your house by your pets and you. It is best to keep ALL of your pets on a Veterinarian recommended flea preventative for most of the year. Once the fleas get into your house and start laying eggs, it takes months to get rid of them. They will multiply like crazy. Even if your cats are indoor only, you should still use a preventative. A severe infestation can make your pets very uncomfortable, with uncontrollable itching and potential skin infections. Sometimes if animals have flea allergies, just one flea bite can send them into an itching frenzy. Please contact your Veterinary office for information on the best flea control product for your pet.

Frequently Asked Questions

Is there a leash law?

The CT State law states that you must have immediate control of your dog. This means that under any circumstance you must have control of your dog. If you can not do this without a leash, then your dog must be on a leash. Be aware though, some towns have ordinances requiring your dog to be on a leash.



My dog is only 9 months old, do they still need a license?

Yes, all dogs 6 months and older must be licensed in the Town Clerks office. All dogs three calendar months old must have a Rabies vaccine.

I just moved here, is my dogs license still good from the previous town I lived in?

Your dog should be licensed in the town in which you have permanent residence. If you have a valid dog license from another town in CT, you can transfer it for \$1.00.

I am temporarily fostering this dog, do I still need to license it?

If the dog is at your residence for more than 30 days, you need to license the dog. If someone from CT adopts the dog, they can transfer the license for \$1.00, to the town they live in..

I found a baby bunny in my yard, what should I do?

Leave it where you found it! The best thing you can do for wildlife, is let them take care of themselves. If you don't see a mother, rest assure she is not far away. A great resource for these kind of wildlife questions is: <http://www.cwrawildlife.org/distressedwildlife.html>

There is a raccoon out during the day, should I be concerned?

Nocturnal wildlife do come out during the day, occasionally. You shouldn't automatically expect they have Rabies, but it is probably best to call us and let us know. If they are walking funny or acting strange, definitely call us!

Invisible Fences

Invisible fences are becoming more and more popular. They are a great tool for containing your pets, but they are not fool proof. Dogs are enticed to go through them, batteries go dead, and they do not protect your pets from wildlife entering your yard. If you are considering purchasing one of these invisible fences, please contact a reputable company that will install it properly, evaluate your dog beforehand, and train them once the in-

stallation is complete. A good company will also help you with any problems you have down the road.

The biggest fault we see with these fences, is when they are installed in the front yard of a busy road or neighborhood. If your dog has a prey or chase drive, it is just a matter time before they get the courage up or are frustrated enough to go through it. If you have the

room, please consider installing your invisible fences in the back yard or reconsider it altogether. You are also putting delivery people (UPS, newspaper delivery, etc.) at risk. We get reports of many dog bites with this scenario, because they didn't realize there was a dog on the property. It then becomes a liability issue for you. Two companies that we recommend are DogWatch Hidden Fences and The Invisible Fence Company.

ELLINGTON ANIMAL CONTROL

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[http://www.petfinder.com/
shelters/CT68.html](http://www.petfinder.com/shelters/CT68.html)

We're on Facebook!

"Like" Ellington Animal Control

The Animal Control Department is responsible for the enforcement of the Connecticut State Laws pertaining to animals. This department responds to complaints of violations of Animal Control laws by telephone or police dispatch. The officers also investigate complaints of vicious, diseased, neglected or abused animals as well as picking up stray and roaming dogs. Impounded animals are cared for at the shelter by the officers. Unclaimed animals are carefully evaluated before being placed for adoption. Following the month of June, when all dog owners must renew their dog licenses, a search for unlicensed dogs begins. **The officers are available to assist the public or the police with any animal emergency.**

The Animal Control Department makes every effort to insure that all functions of this department and the operation of the shelter are carried out in the most economical manner with cost savings in mind, while providing the highest degree of professional service to the townspeople. The Animal Control Officers provide assistance to the community so that animals and people can co-exist safely and peacefully.

Outdoor Hazards

As Spring weather approaches, we would like to take the time to discuss hazards your pets may encounter outdoors.

As wildlife starts to emerge be on the lookout for species that may harm your pets, especially small dogs and cats. Watch for those dreaded skunks as well. Nobody likes washing THAT stink out of their dog!

The top five harmful plants for dogs, listed by the ASPCA are: Lilies, Azaleas, Oleander, Sago Palm (southern U.S.), and Castor Bean (southern U.S.). Other plants that can be included in this list are:

Rhododendron, Foxglove, Daffodils, Rhubarb leaves, Yew, Kalanchoe, and Tulip Bulbs. Keep an eye on your pets to reduce the risk of contact with cocoa mulch, fertilizers, citronella candles, swimming pool treatment supplies, fly baits and slug/snail baits. These can all be toxic to your pets.

It is best to keep your pets on a leash if you are in an unfamiliar area. If someone isn't used to having pets around, they may have hazardous materials lying around. If you are at all concerned about something your pet may

have ingested, it is best to call poison control for animals. The phone number is 1-888-426-4435. There is a charge to use this service, but it will be well worth it to have peace of mind. If your dog has a HomeAgain microchip, call them first at 1-888-466-3242, to see if your eligible for poison control services free of charge.

Most importantly, just have some common sense. Be aware of where your pet is and it's surroundings. Keep your pets distracted and under watchful eye to prevent any unwanted problems.



Up Coming Events - Spring 2012

June 9th

Dog Days at Ellington Farmers Market - Arbor Park

We will be coordinating a Rabies & Microchip Clinic with Ellington Center Animal Clinic. All proceeds will be donated to Ellington Animal Control. Stay up to date on the details on our Facebook page, or call our office.



May 16th

Deadline for Tag #1 Dog License Contest

June 1-30th

Annual Dog License Registration

