

## VACCINATION AND LICENSING

All dogs and cats 4 months of age and older must be vaccinated against the rabies virus.

Rabies is an incurable viral disease of warm-blooded animals. It can be transmitted to humans by a bite or by the exposure of broken skin to an infected animal's saliva. Your pet will be protected from the rabies virus through regular vaccinations.

*Penalty for Violation of Vaccination Laws ..... \$250*

All dogs and cats 4 months of age and older must have a current license tag.

Numbered license tags assure owners that they will be notified immediately should their dog or cat get lost, injured or stray from home.

*Penalty for Violation of Licensing Laws ..... \$100*

### How to License Your Pet

Pet licenses can be obtained at City Hall. To purchase a license please mail or bring the following:

- A completed pet registration application
- A current rabies vaccination certificate; vaccination must be good for at least 60 days from the date you apply for a license.
- A check or money order for the license fee payable to City of Gaithersburg Animal Control

For your convenience, a pet license application is available on the City's website or can be mailed upon request.

## CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

City law strictly prohibits any person to willfully, without justification kill, wound, injure, torture, mutilate, beat, poison, run down with a vehicle, abandon or otherwise abuse or cause suffering to an animal. In addition, owners must provide proper shelter, sufficient and wholesome food and water, and veterinary care when needed for their animals.

A person must not contain an animal in a motor vehicle in a manner that exposes the animal to danger from temperature extremes, lack of food and water or other conditions likely to cause suffering, injury, or death to the animal.

Within minutes, temperatures in a motor vehicle can reach 130°F on a warm day, even with the windows partially down. Dogs cannot perspire as humans do, and when left in high temperatures, even for a short period of time, they can suffer brain damage or die from heatstroke.

*Penalty for Violation of Cruelty Laws ..... \$250*

Criminal charges may also be filed, which carry a penalty of up to \$1,000 fine, 90 days in jail or both, or in the case of felony criminal charges, penalties up to \$5,000 fine and 3 years in jail.



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## ANIMAL CONTROL

### Laws Licenses Services

City of Gaithersburg  
Planning and Code Administration  
ANIMAL CONTROL DIVISION  
City Hall  
31 South Summit Avenue  
Gaithersburg, Maryland 20877  
301-258-6343  
301-258-6174 (Fax)  
[www.gaithersburgmd.gov](http://www.gaithersburgmd.gov)



## ANIMAL CONTROL DIVISION

Animal Control, a division of the Planning and Code Administration, is responsible for enforcing animal ordinances and promoting the humane treatment of all animals in an effort to maintain harmony in the environment between citizens, pets and wildlife.

### Animal Control staff:

- Investigates acts of animal cruelty, public nuisance complaints and aggressive animals
- Transports injured/orphaned wildlife to rehabilitation centers
- Captures and impounds domestic animals running at large
- Investigates bite reports and service of quarantines
- Sells and maintains records of annual pet licenses
- Inspects and licenses pet shops and commercial kennels
- Maintains records of lost and found pets
- Disposes of animal carcasses in a sanitary manner

Regular business hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. To reach staff please call:

# 301-258-6343

To speak with an Animal Control Officer concerning an emergency situation after business hours, call 301-279-8000.

## PUBLIC NUISANCE COMPLAINTS

### Animals Running At Large

All pets that reside in the City of Gaithersburg must be on a leash when off of their owner's property and must be under the restraint of an individual physically capable of effectively controlling the animal. It is also illegal to tie or leave a pet unattended in a public area when the owner is not in the immediate vicinity.

The City has a designated dog exercise area at 151 Bickerstaff Way in Green Park. This facility encompasses more than 1½ acres, totally enclosed by a 6-foot fence. It provides a safe environment for off-leash exercise for dogs. There is no membership fee for City residents; however, they must have a current City pet license for their dog to use the facility. Montgomery County residents must purchase a membership tag to use the park.

### Excessive Barking

Dogs must be restrained from excessive barking and making other disturbing noises in the owner's home and on the owner's property so they do not cause an unreasonable annoyance or discomfort to neighboring residents.

If your dog barks in your home when you are away, leave the radio or television on to keep him company. Keep all blinds and windows closed. Close certain doors to keep your dog away from areas of your house where his barking is most bothersome to your neighbors.



If your dog barks in the yard, bring him into your home so he does not disturb neighboring residents. Dogs bark excessively for a number of reasons: hunger, thirst, discomfort to temperature extremes, pain, boredom and loneliness. If you are meeting all of your dogs needs and he still has a barking problem, consult a reputable dog trainer or animal behaviorist. Do not beat or muzzle your dog and leave him unattended to correct this problem.

### Failing to Clean up After Pets

Owners must immediately clean up after their pet and properly dispose of the waste if their dog and/or cat defecates on public property.

### Unsanitary Conditions

Owners must not allow pet waste to accumulate on their property in a manner that causes unsanitary, dangerous or otherwise offensive environmental conditions.

*Penalty for Violation of Animal Public Nuisance Complaints ..... \$100*

