Princeton Animal Control Services

Animal Control Officers get involved in a wide array of encounters between animals and humans, whether it's a report of stray dogs, feral cats, or wild animals acting abnormally in one's yard. ACOs are trained officers responsible for enforcing Princeton ordinances and state laws that pertain to animals and their treatment. The primary function of the Princeton Animal Control Officer is to help protect residents and visitors while dealing with pets and animals as humanely as possible.

Animal Control Officer duties include:

- Enforcement of Princeton codes and state laws that pertain to domestic, as well as wild animals
- Investigation of animal cruelty complaints
- Investigation of dog attacks or bites to humans and animals
- Response to emergencies involving sick or seriously injured domestic or wild animals, including potential human exposure to the rabies virus
- Removal of stray dogs and cats from streets and other public areas
- Animal Control Officers enforce the dog license code

What to report and how to make a report:

Call the Princeton Police non-emergency dispatch number at 609-921-2100 to report:

- Dog bites
- Animal cruelty or neglect
- Sick or injured wildlife
- Human exposure/encounters with potentially rabid wildlife

Princeton Animal Control Officer will respond to the following wildlife encounters/emergencies:

- In a home or business that poses a threat to humans or pets
- Between humans or domestic animals that could result in rabies exposures
- When wildlife shows signs and symptoms of rabies
    - The first symptoms of rabies may be nonspecific and include lethargy, fever, vomiting, and anorexia. Signs progress within days to cerebral dysfunction, cranial nerve dysfunction, ataxia, weakness, paralysis, seizures, difficulty breathing, difficulty swallowing, excessive salivation, abnormal behavior, aggression, and/or self-mutilation.

- When wildlife poses a threat to humans or pets
- When wildlife appear sick or injured

Princeton Animal Control Officer do NOT respond to the following:

- Calls reporting wildlife nuisances
- When wildlife poses no real threat to humans or pets
- Examples:
    - Wild animals living under decks, storage sheds, porches
    - Wild animals living in populated areas
    - Wild animals in attics, basements, detached garages and sheds
    - Wildlife has damaged gardens, flower beds or shrubs

***If a resident is not sure if a wild or domestic animal is a safety or public health hazard, please contact the Princeton Animal Control Officer for additional information (609) 921-2100.*

Dog licenses are mandatory in Princeton

A license will ensure quick identification and reunion if your dog becomes lost or missing.

- All dogs age 4 months and older must be licensed
- Licenses are good for one year and expire May 31
- New licenses must be purchased between January 1st and May 31st

How to obtain a dog license in Princeton:

The fee for a dog license is $12 for spayed neutered dogs and $15 for non-spayed/neutered dogs. Only cash or check will be accepted. Make checks payable to Princeton.

To obtain a dog license you must have the following:

- A copy of dog license application
- Cash or check (payable to Princeton)
- A current certificate of rabies vaccination (that doesn't expire prior to November 1st)
- Proof the dog has been spayed/neutered

Mail or deliver the required paperwork to:

- Office of the Clerk, 400 Witherspoon Street, Princeton, NJ 08540
    - 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday - Friday
- **More information**: 609-924-5704

Penalties for an un-licensed dog:

- $50 fine (1st offense)
- $75 fine (2nd offense)

Failure to wear/display official metal registration tag on dog

- $50 fine

Learn more about the rabies virus.

- Rabies is a deadly disease, to both humans and animals
- All dogs and cats over four months old must be vaccinated against rabies by a licensed vet
- In New Jersey, the rabies virus has appeared in raccoons, foxes, skunks, bats, and occasionally dogs, cats and ferrets
- Minimize contact between pets and wildlife.
- Report animal bites: 609-921-2100
- Report animals acting strangely or altercations between wild and domestic animals: 609-921-2100
- Learn more about this deadly virus at: http://www.state.nj.us/health/cd/rabies/techinfo.shtml