

Frequently Asked Questions, Animal Control

How can we contact you?

Our office number is (508) 252-5421. You may leave a message. If you have an emergency or the Animal Control Officer can't be reached, call the Police Department at (508) 252-3722 for further instructions, or try Rob Johnson's cell phone, (508) 509-5691 (Animal Control Officer).

How do I give donations or money to the Animal Shelter?

Cash donations are very welcome — please make checks payable to The Rehoboth Animal Welfare Account, and mail to Rehoboth Animal Shelter, 148 Peck Street, Rehoboth, MA 02769. Other donations such as food, towels, blankets, toys, etc., can be dropped off at the gate to the Animal Shelter or inside the front door to the Town Hall. It is good to consult our site first or call about donation of goods, because we have different needs at different times.

Bad situations

My dog / cat is lost! Can Animal Control help?

Definitely alert Animal Control with a description of the pet and information about location. We will be on the look-out as we patrol the neighborhood. We may get a call if someone sees your pet. We may already have your animal! Please keep dog licenses current and have your pet microchipped.

Can Animal Control pick up a dog that is running loose along a road or on my property?

Call and inform us about such a situation. If an animal is a nuisance, threatening, or itself in danger, we will definitely try to help. Refer to the [Guideline on Loose Dogs](#) for a detailed overview.

What can be done about stray cats in my neighborhood?

Some places in town have cats, often called community cats, living in established colonies. Unfortunately, sometimes people dump unwanted pets in Rehoboth, or a lost pet roams and isn't found. Whatever your case is, we can evaluate the situation and help find the right solution. Rehoboth has active Trap-Neuter-Release cat intervention programs, permitting unowned cats to continue to live in colonies. Such cats have one ear clipped. Please call Animal Control or contact the [Rehoboth Animal Advocates](#) group. [Project Spay](#) also assists in our town.

I think an animal is being abused or neglected. What can I do?

Definitely call Animal Control. We do not recommend confronting the owners of the animal yourself. Town bylaws and state laws provide procedures for interventions we can take.

Can Animal Control remove an aggressive dog from an irresponsible owner?

Yes. Rehoboth has specific by-laws that apply, which were recently up-dated by voters in town meeting. If you have a concern, do call us.

How do I get a dead animal removed?

Call us. Removing dead domestic or wild animals hit by cars along roadsides is one of the sad tasks that Animal Control performs. The remains receive respectful, sanitary disposal. We can provide advice in other situations.

Animals as pets

How do I adopt a pet?

We recommend “The Adoption Option.” Please check us first! Our animals will be vetted, altered, and have their shots, and we’ll advise about their temperament and needs. A [link on our page](#) tell about current adoptions available and give instructions. You can also consider other shelters and rescue groups (some specialize in certain kinds or breeds). “Adopt, don’t shop!” is a good slogan.

How many dogs can I have?

Rehoboth’s bylaws and state law permit no more than four dogs. Citizens wishing to have more than four can apply for a personal kennel license. The Town Clerk has information on the process.

I can no longer keep a dog, cat, or other animal. Can Animal Control help?

Animal Control will assist with information about places that can take the animal. Do contact us for guidance, especially in a crisis situation. Never abandon an animal.

I am having difficulty with a pet but would like to keep it. Can I get help?

Pets can be hard to care for if one’s life circumstances change. They can present behavior problems. Animal Control can help you find local resources to assist. Please, never abandon a pet.

Wild animal problems

A wild animal bit my pet. What do I do?

Immediately call us or the police. *Do not approach the wild animal*, but note time and location so we can try to find it if needed. Take your pet to a veterinarian. If the animal presents a rabies risk (for example, from a raccoon, skunk, woodchuck, fox, or bat), handle your pet with gloves and wash with soap any area that may have saliva from the attacker on it. If the attacking animal is dead, *do not handle it*, but preserve the remains for Animal Control to inspect.

Can Animal Control help with a problem skunk, raccoon, bat, squirrel, or other wild animal problem at our place?

We intervene if there is an immediate threat to human welfare or property. Otherwise, Animal Control maintains lists of local companies you can call in. Don’t try to take care

of the problem without help; professionals know what to do, have the right equipment, and understand rabies threats.

Can I trap or catch a wild animal and relocate it away from my place?

In brief, *no!* It is a violation of Massachusetts law to relocate a wild animal. Call us for advice, or another public agency. Consult the [Wildlife](#) link posted on our website.

I found an injured wild bird or other animal. Can I bring it to you?

Do not to handle any wild animal! Call us for advice or check the link about [Wildlife](#) on the website. Experienced people will know what is best to do. In some cases, doing nothing is best! Fledgling birds may seem to be in trouble, but it is natural for many kinds to be on the ground for a day or two while they learn to fly.

How do we keep our pets safe from wild animals?

Keep pets under control at all times and in the house at night. (Consult the website's [summary of regulations](#) about shelter, pens, and tethering of dogs.) Our town has increasing instances of animal predators like coyotes.

Other animals

We see a loose horse or farm animal; whom do we call?

Call Animal Control. Our Animal Control Officers serve as "Field Drivers" in town, charged with rounding-up loose farm animals and horses.

What is the role of the Animal Inspector in town?

Our Animal Control Officers are also appointed as Animal Inspectors for the town. They inspect all barns and other animal enclosures annually, reporting issues to the state authorities. They intervene in all cases of suspected rabies or other diseases.

Helping the Animal Shelter and the Animals in our Town

Can I volunteer at the shelter?

Yes. Volunteers perform many important roles for the shelter. Prospective volunteers apply, are screened and appointed, and then are trained.

Can I help the town's Trap/Neuter/Return program for community cats?

Please contact the [Rehoboth Animal Advocates](#) organization. They are a non-profit 501(C)(3) volunteer organization, and invite you help out and also to join as a member.