

## ANIMAL BITES

Report all animal bites immediately to the Metropolitan Police Department & Animal Care and Control Facility at **(202) 576-6664**.

Owned animals that have bitten must be brought to the shelter or taken to a licensed veterinarian for examination at the beginning and end of quarantine. Stray animals that have bitten will, if possible, be caught and quarantined at the Animal Care and Control Facility.

Leave wild animals alone. Rabies is far more common in wild animals than it is in dogs and cats. If a wild animal has contact with you or your pet, or you see any animal that is sick or acting strangely, report the animal to the Animal Care and Control Facility RIGHT AWAY.

## SALE OF DC DOG LICENSES

To apply for a new license, renew an existing license or check the status of an existing license dog owners are required to go to <http://doh.dc.gov/dog-licensing> . Dog owners must have proof of current rabies, distemper, sterilization and access to Visa or MasterCard for online payment.

## ADOPTIONS

The DC Animal Care and Control Facility always have many dogs and cats available for adoptions to proper homes. All animals adopted from the shelter must be sterilized. Please visit the shelter if you would like to adopt a pet.



To report animal bites or exposures, please call:

**DC Animal Care and Control Facility  
(24 Hours a day)**

1201 New York Ave NE  
Washington, DC 20002  
**(202) 576 - 6664**

To request information on licenses, dog bites, rabies, hobby permits and other animal related issues, please contact:

**DC Department of Health  
(DC Health)**

**Animal Services Program**

2201 Shannon Place SE, 2nd Floor  
**(202) 535-2323**

For questions or concerns about rabies in the District of Columbia, contact Animal Services by email at: [rabies.info@dc.gov](mailto:rabies.info@dc.gov)

**DC Health Website**

**Rabies and Animal Exposures:**  
<https://dchealth.dc.gov/service/rabies-and-animal-exposures>

# District of Columbia Animal Control Laws



# Animal Control Laws

(Excerpts from D.C. Code  
Title 8, Chapter 18)

## VACCINATIONS

(§ 8-1803, et.seq.)

An owner of a dog over the age of four (4) months shall have the dog vaccinated against rabies and distemper.

An owner of a cat over the age of four (4) months shall have the cat vaccinated against rabies.

## LICENSES AND FEES

(§ 8-1804, et.seq. & § 8-1806, et.seq.)

An owner of a dog over the age of four (4) months shall obtain a dog license annually. An owner shall ensure that his/her dog wears a collar and a dog license. Before any annual license may be issued, the owner of a dog shall have the dog vaccinated against rabies and distemper and shall pay any outstanding fines.

License fees are: \$15 if the dog is spayed/neutered and \$50 if the dog is unspayed/unneutered.

Animals impounded (detained) at the animal facility may be reclaimed by their owners upon payment of a \$15 fee for spayed/neutered animals, or a \$98 fee for unspayed/unneutered animals. The animal's owner must also pay a boarding fee of \$7 per night and any veterinary expenses.

## PROHIBITED CONDUCT

(§ 8-1808, et.seq.)

No owner of an animal shall allow the animal to go at large. ("At large" means any animals found off the premises of its owner and not with its owner.) No person shall import into the District, possess, display, offer for sale, trade, barter exchange, adopt, or give as a household pet any animal, except the following: domestic dogs (excluding hybrids with wolves), domestic cats (excluding hybrid with ocelots or margays), domesticated rodents and rabbits, captive-bred species of common cage birds, nonpoisonous snakes, fish, and turtles. No person shall knowingly and falsely deny ownership of any animal. No person shall remove the license of a dog without the permission of the owner. No dog shall be permitted on school grounds when school is in session or on any public recreation area unless the dog is leashed. No person shall change the natural color of a baby chicken, duckling, other fowl or rabbit. No person shall sell or offer for sale a rabbit under the age of sixteen (16) weeks or a chick or duck under the age of eight (8) weeks.

## ANIMAL HOBBY PERMIT

(§ 8-1809, et.seq.)

No person shall owner of keep seven (7) or more mammals larger than a guinea pig and over the age of four (4) months without obtaining an animal hobby permit.

## PENALTY

(§ 8-1811, et.seq.)

Each person who violates a provision of this chapter shall pay a fine not to exceed \$33 for the first violation, \$66 for the second violation occurring within a 24-month period, and \$99 for each subsequent violation within a 24-month period.

## ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL

### ANIMAL CONTROL LAW ENFORCEMENT:

Stray animal problems and other violations of the Animal Control Laws should be reported to the Animal Care and Control Facility.

### 24-HOUR EMERGENCY RESPONSE:

Animals who are sick, injured, distressed or otherwise in need of protective custody are given immediate attention 24 hours every day, including holidays.

### LOST AND FOUND:

Contact Animal Care and Control Facility for lost or found animals. Complete information is given for how to search for a missing pet.

### VACCINATIONS AND STERILIZATION

The Washington Humane Society offers low cost rabies and distemper vaccinations and spay and neuter services. Contact the Animal Care and Control Facility for times and dates. The DC Health recommends that pet owners have their animals spayed and neutered. Due to overpopulation of dogs and cats, thousands of stray and unwanted animals must be euthanized each year.