



Snohomish County Animal Control Services

A Division of the Auditor's Office – Carolyn Weikel, Auditor

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April is Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Month

Everett, WA – April is Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Month. Snohomish County Animal Control Services works to educate animal owners and enforce state and county animal laws designed to protect human and animal health and safety and to prevent cruelty to animals.

The Snohomish County Animal Control Services Division provides services to unincorporated Snohomish County residents and their animals. Animal Control Officers (ACOs) investigate complaints relating to leash law, nuisance dogs, barking dogs, dog bites, loose livestock, vicious dogs, animal cruelty and neglect. ACOs also inspect commercial and private dog kennels, grooming parlors, shelters and other pet related businesses annually.

Each year ACOs conduct approximately 300 animal welfare checks, which is 15% of the calls for service and is second only to nuisance dog complaints (i.e. dogs running at large). Welfare checks are considered a high priority call as they are often related to possible negligence or cruelty issues and through early intervention, a situation can often be remedied before it escalates. Animal Control Officers refer cruelty and neglect cases to the prosecuting attorney's office for criminal charges.

When responding to an animal welfare check, the ACO works to determine if the animal is being provided with adequate food, water, shelter and medical care as required by county ordinance and state law. In addition to conducting a physical assessment on the condition of the animal, the ACO provides the animal owner with educational information, resources and referrals to help improve the standard of care for the animal.

The Animal Control Services Division is dedicated to the health and welfare of animals in Snohomish County. If you observe an animal who is not receiving adequate food, water, shelter or is in need of medical attention, please call 425-388-3440, option 9.

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