

Animal Control Guidelines

Union County Sheriff's Office

Animal Control is a department of the Sheriff's Office. Animal Control provides services to rural Union County and the cities of Imbler, Cove, North Powder, Summerville and Island City. La Grande contracts 50% of the time of the Animal Control Officer and pays into the budget for Animal Control. Elgin and Union do their own Animal Control. To contact Animal Control, call the Sheriff's Office at 963-1017 or come to the office at 1109 K Ave., La Grande.

Services include, but are not limited to, investigation of possible animal abuse or neglect, capture of loose dogs or livestock, removal of dead domestic animals from the roadways, issuing citations or making arrests for violations of the county ordinance or state law.

Quick References

Animal Shelter (<http://www.bmhumane.org/>)

Animal Bites

Every year in the U.S., animals bite more than a million people, most of them children; seriously injure thousands of people; and kill about one hundred people. You can prevent many bites by knowing how to recognize the warning signs of an animal that is likely to bite. Dog and cat bites are the most common type of animal bites, and many can be avoided by paying attention to the pet's behavior and actions.

Don't approach a dog or cat that is eating, fighting or mating.

If you must break up a fight, use a water hose or blanket to separate the animals, not your body.

Don't startle a sleeping pet.

Don't leave small children alone or unsupervised with pets.

When a dog approaches in a threatening manner, stop walking and in a loud, firm voice command the dog to "go home" or "lay down". Do not run, as this may trigger an instinctive chase reflex, especially in stock or hunting dogs. Back away from the dog, continuing to speak in a loud, firm voice, until you are in a safe area. If you are riding a bicycle, dismount and keep the bike between you and the dog.

If a dog bites you, even your own, consult with your doctor for wound care and call Animal Control at 963-1017. State law requires all dog bites to be reported to the proper authority. All other animal bites should be reported to Public Health at 962-8800.

Restraint and the Law

Definitions:

"At Large"-means dogs off the premises of the owner and not under the control of either the owner or a person authorized by the owner.

"Under Control"-means the voice, signal or physical control so as to be restrained from approaching a bystander, from entering private property and from causing damage to property. An animal is presumed not to have been under control if injury, damage or trespass has occurred.

"Restraint"-means any dog secured by a leash or a lead under the control of a responsible person and obedient to the person's commands or under competent voice control. Dogs in open pickup beds shall be restrained so as to prevent jumping or falling from the vehicle any time the vehicle is in motion on public roads at more than 25 MPH, or parked and unattended in a public area. This may include a dog box or crate.

Dog owners may be fined up to \$150.00 per incident of violation.

Cats are not regulated or required to be under control.

Scoop the Poop

Union County's ordinance requires dog owners to "scoop up" after their pets, both at home and in public places. Dog droppings are both a nuisance and a health hazard. They attract flies, spread disease and contribute to water pollution. It's important for pet owners to "scoop up" after Rover on trails, bike paths, school grounds and parks. It is especially inconsiderate and rude to allow your dog to "poop" on someone's lawn or parking strip and just walk off. Carry a supply of plastic bags to clean up after your dog. To use, slip a bag over your hand and collect the droppings. Then pull the bag off of your hand so the droppings are inside (like pulling off a sock cuff first). Tie the bag shut and dispose of it in a trash can.

Barking Dogs

Few things in life are as annoying as having to listen to the constant bark, howl, whine or cry of another person's dog. The noise from barking can disrupt sleep, lower the quality of your leisure hours, disturb your work, and make being at home not enjoyable. The first reaction of many people faced with a barking dog problem is to call the authorities. Believe it or not, this is not always the best route to resolve the problem. This problem has been looked at nationally and the conclusions reached have been uniformly the same: Barking is a neighborhood problem. Here are a few facts about the owners of barking dogs that may help you deal with what is really a neighborhood problem:

1. The owner of a barking dog often doesn't know the dog is barking. Owners may leave for work with a quiet dog in the back yard and return home to a quiet dog.
2. The dog may only be barking because its owner is gone.
3. The dog barking may be a comfort to the owner. Barking may tell the owner the dog is well and the property is protected. The owner may assume it gives the neighbor the same feeling.
4. The owner may be desensitized to the barking. People that are around barking dogs all of the time learn to tune out the noise.
5. The owner may assume that if it is daylight, everyone must be awake and it is okay to make noise. Owners may not think about people who sleep in the daytime, or that peace and quiet may be desired during normal working hours.
6. The owners may assume that because they haven't had anyone complain about the noise the dog is making, that the barking doesn't bother anyone.

Owners of barking dogs falling into the above categories are best dealt with as neighbors. Letting an owner know, on a personal level, that the dog's noise is disrupting your life can be very effective. People that do not first attempt to solve the problem as neighbors often begin long-term neighborhood feuds. Tell the person, very politely, in person, in writing or by phone exactly what the nature of the annoyance is. Communicate things such as "I can't sleep"; "I can't hear my television"; "I work nights and sleep days" or "I can't study because of the noise your dog is making". Neighborhood communication is a very important part of neighborhood security. Even the act of telling someone his or her dog is bothering you can further communication.

If these methods fail then you should call Animal Control at 963-1017. Do not try to silence the animal yourself or wait until you can no longer handle the barking. Tackle the problem early on. Animals are family and disciplining someone else's family member can result in violence.

Licensing

Dog licenses are required for all dogs at the age of six months, or within 30 days of residency in the County. Licenses are \$15 a year regardless of whether the dog is spay/neutered or not. Before a license can be issued, a dog must have a rabies vaccination at a veterinarian's clinic. Owners of unlicensed dogs may be fined up to \$150.00 per dog. Dog licenses are purchased at the animal shelter at 3212 Hwy30, or call 963-0807 for information.

Dog owners can have up to three adult dogs (not including puppies) on the premises at a time. If you have more than 3 adult dogs contact Animal Control to see if a Kennel License is required. A Kennel License is \$50.00.

A license identifies your dog as yours, showing everyone your dog is not a homeless stray, that the owner cares enough to register the pet legally. Your dog's personal data is kept on computer. Should an officer or private party find your dog, you will be notified as soon as possible. If your dog is injured or sick and impounded, Animal Control

guarantees emergency or life threatening treatment or stabilization of a sick or injured animal bearing a license tag. Local veterinarians are also more willing to invest emergency treatment in a sick or injured animal bearing a license tag.

Lost Pets

If your pet becomes lost, **don't give up!** Pets have been returned to their owner's weeks and months after being lost. Call Animal Control at 963-1017 and the Animal Shelter at 963-0807 to report the loss. Put an ad in the paper. Put up posters in your neighborhood; talk to people at least 10 blocks around. Check at schools, parks and other places where people and pets go. Check with the vets. Check with the road department (in the case of a deceased animal). Go to the shelter and look at the impounded animals every other day.

Preventing a loss can be easier than looking for the lost pet. Make sure a collar with a license tag or ID tag is securely on the pet. Ask your vet about micro chipping or tattooing. Make sure your fence is secure and the gates latch tightly. Let caretakers know whom to call if the pets get lost.

Spaying and Neutering

Why you should have your pets spayed or neutered:

1. It is the best solution to uncontrolled breeding. A spayed or neutered pet will never add to the tens of thousands of surplus puppies and kittens born each year for which there are no homes.
2. It is good for your pet. Altered pets are healthier, happier and more affectionate. They are less prone to reproductive cancers. They are less likely to roam, especially the males.
3. It is good for your pet's temperament. Unaltered animals often exhibit more behavior and aggression problems than "fixed" ones.
4. It's less expensive to "bail" your dog out of impound. Dog owners who have fertile dogs pay more than owners with altered dogs.

Contact your veterinarian for more information, or one listed below:

- Animal Health Center 963-6621
- County Animal Clinic 963-2748
- Small Animal Clinic 963-8002
- Tamarack Pet Hospital 963-0287

Do you know how you will care for your pets during a disaster?

The key to keeping your family safe during a disaster is to have a disaster plan already in place. If you are a pet owner, that plan must include your pets. Being prepared can save lives. Some tips for developing your plan include:

1. Always keep a collar and tag on those animals that should normally wear a collar.
2. Identify possible locations where you can take your animals should you have to evacuate. People shelters generally cannot accept pets due to health and safety regulations and other considerations. Do not leave your pets behind if you must evacuate.
3. Start a buddy system with someone in your neighborhood so that they will check on your animal during a disaster in case you aren't home.
4. Store at least a one-week supply of dry animal food and water. Also store bowls and a cat litter pan.
5. Take several pictures of all your animals and keep these pictures with your important insurance papers that you would take with you if you have to evacuate. Store them in a re-sealable plastic bag in case you have to post them in the rain.
6. Talk to your veterinarian to see if he/she has a disaster plan. Your animal may need medical attention after a disaster has struck and you need to know where to take your animal. If your regular veterinarian does not have a plan, locate a veterinarian in your community who does.
7. Keep a backup supply of your long-term animal medications.
8. Have assembled and ready to go a carrier to evacuate each cat, bird, reptile, or hamster in your household.
9. Have a harness; stake out chain and a leash for all the dogs in your household.
10. If your dog is kept in an outdoor run, make sure it's in a location where falling debris (tree limbs, shingles, power lines, chimney bricks, etc.) won't fall on the run and possibly injure the dog.
11. Be sure and comfort your animals during a disaster. They are frightened too, and having you near to give them a hug will help.
12. Know where the animal shelters or animal rescue organizations are in your area. It is important to start looking for a missing animal as soon as you realize it is gone.