

ANIMAL CONTROL

INTRODUCTION

The Animal Control Department handles calls dealing with domestic animals and wildlife and provides information on care, feeding, and handling of pets and advice on dealing with nuisance wildlife.

CURRENT PROGRAMS/SERVICES

The following services are performed by the Animal Control Officer:

- Pick up animals caught
- Impound loose dogs
- Rabies vaccination and tax enforcement
- Investigate all other complaints regarding animals
- Issue citations and attend court
- Inspect pet stores
- Pick up and dispose of dead animals
- Report animal bites to Health Department and enforce quarantines
- Provide 24 hour emergency service for life or health threatening situations
- Give advice on animals in general

The City of Morgantown also has a spay/neuter program that provides low income residents free spaying or neutering for up to 4 cats per household and coupons may be obtained from the Animal Control Officer.

PAST YEARS ACTIVITIES

As of December 1, 2002, the Animal Control Officer has handled 717 calls (averaging 70 calls per month). The Officer impounded 33 domestic animals and 46 wild animals and picked up 81 dead animals. The Animal Control Officer also attended a Preston County Humane Society meeting and gave advice to Taylor County Animal Control, Moundsville City Council, and New Martinsville Animal Control on dealing with cats. The Officer talked to the Wayne County Dog Warden, the Clarksburg Animal Control, the Berkley County Animal Control and several WVU Journalism students about animal laws.

The number of rabies cases was high this year with 7 raccoons, 2 skunks and 2 cats as of November 1, 2002. These numbers should go down now that the oral rabies bait drop has been done.

FORECAST FOR 2003

The Animal Control Department will continue to monitor the rabies problem.

The Animal Control will continue to give advice and information on animal matters and in March 2003, will present a one hour talk on current animal laws at the annual Federation of Humane Organizations (FOHO) meeting in Parkersburg.

SUMMARY

The Animal Control Department will continue to handle all calls promptly and resolve all problems regarding animals so that Morgantown can remain a safe and desirable place to live.

IMPOUNDS

| Loose Dogs | Wild-life | Dead | Other |
|------------|-----------|------|-------|
| 18 | 46 | 81 | 14 |

CALLS

| Month | Loose Dogs | Cats | Poop-Scoop | Bark | Cruelty | Bites | Misc. | Dead | Wild-life | Week Total |
|-------|------------|------|------------|------|---------|-------|-------|------|-----------|------------|
| Jan. | 13 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 8 | 8 | 11 | 56 |
| Feb. | 9 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 10 | 5 | 6 | 44 |
| Mar. | 22 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 1 | 11 | 14 | 6 | 70 |
| Apr. | 22 | 8 | 8 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 10 | 5 | 10 | 74 |
| May | 24 | 9 | 0 | 2 | 8 | 0 | 4 | 5 | 13 | 64 |
| June | 22 | 9 | 5 | 2 | 12 | 2 | 13 | 7 | 26 | 98 |
| July | 16 | 10 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 14 | 9 | 25 | 80 |
| Aug. | 14 | 7 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 1 | 11 | 11 | 12 | 71 |
| Sept. | 20 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 10 | 6 | 55 |
| Oct. | 16 | 8 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 11 | 7 | 4 | 51 |
| Nov | 17 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 1 | 10 | 9 | 1 | 54 |
| Dec. | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total | 195 | 66 | 31 | 39 | 54 | 15 | 107 | 90 | 120 | 717 |

