

WHY MUST WE EUTHANIZE?

Anyone who works in or cares about animal welfare must eventually face the fact that millions of dogs and cats must be euthanized (humanely put to death) each year. No one, least of all Keokuk Animal Control, is happy about this. Nevertheless, we realize it is a necessary kindness to humanely put to death unwanted and diseased or vicious animals.

Some people have great difficulty accepting this. They see the kindness in euthanizing an animal that is in great pain, or terminally ill. They question why young, healthy animals are destroyed simply because no one will take them home. They ask why they can't be kept at the shelter indefinitely, to live out their lives in warmth with plenty of food and good veterinary care.

Economically, this is rarely, if ever possible. The cost of feeding and caring for millions of unwanted animals would be tremendous. Yet, that isn't the most important reason. Animals, like humans need more than food and shelter. They need affection and companionship. Without it they suffer and may become cage crazy.

The Animal Control Officer must euthanize many animals per month in the City of Keokuk. This is the worst part of our job...AND IT COULD BE PREVENTED!

PLEASE spay or neuter your pet. Prevent the unwanted litters of animals.

The overpopulation starts with your ONE LITTER! Only you can prevent it! There is NO EXCUSE for having even one litter unless you are willing to accept the LIFE-TIME commitment for every single animal your animal ever reproduces and their lit-

ters reproduce!

For more information on spaying or neutering your pet contact the Keokuk Animal Shelter or your local veterinarian.

TIPS FOR PET CARE

- Make sure that fresh cool water is available for your pet at all times in a heavy bowl to avoid spills. This is especially important when you're not home. Never use a metal dish in the hot sun. Clean the bowl **daily**.
- Brush and comb your pets daily to free them of loose, shedding hair.
- In the hot summer consider thinning a pet's fur rather than shaving it to prevent sunburn & insect bites.
- Check every day for fleas and ticks.
- Do NOT use insect sprays, weed killers, or allow antifreeze to spill in any area frequented by pets. Animals can ingest poisons by licking paws and fur.
- Exercise your pet in the early morning or evening in the summer when it's cooler to avoid heat exhaustion.
- Make sure that shelter is available at all times. In the summer your pet needs shade from the sun, in the winter from cold drafts.
- If you must tie your dog, contact the Keokuk Animal Control Officer or the Keokuk Animal Shelter for safety tips and information.
- Check your animal's fur daily to prevent plants or other things from getting tangled in the matted hair that could work their way into their ears or eyes.
- Heartworms are transmitted by mosquitoes. A veterinarian should check your pet yearly by a blood test for this disease. Preventive medication should be given according to their instructions.

Leashes, Licensing And the Law



Keokuk Animal Control
249 Carbide Lane
P.O. Box 1147
Keokuk, IA 52632
(319) 526-5421

**Adoption, Licensing,
and Reclaim Hours**
Mon.-Fri.
1:00-5:00 PM
Emergency No.
(319) 524-2741

The Keokuk Animal Control Officer is responsible for the enforcement of all City of Keokuk Ordinances pertaining to animals.

THE LAW

It is the LAW that you vaccinate your dogs and cats against RABIES once they have reached 3 months of age. Rabies vaccinations MUST be given by a LICENSED VETERINARIAN on a yearly basis for cats and dogs under 1 year old, and a 3 year basis for older dogs and cats. Your dog and/or cat is required to wear the rabies tag and City License tag at all times while they are in the city limits. THERE IS A LEASH LAW IN THE CITY OF KEOKUK. NO DOGS SHALL BE "AT-LARGE."

ANY DOG IN THE CITY "AT-LARGE" SHALL BE IMPOUNDED AND THE OWNER SHALL BE CITED.

There are other ordinances addressing animal problems within our community.

Keokuk has a limit of four animals per household.

A property owner is legally liable for any animals he/she allows to be kept on their property. This includes a rabies vaccination, a city license tag, and liability if the animal bites someone. Each dog kept outside must have a doghouse with a floor and appropriate shade and bedding

for current weather conditions.

CRUELTY IS AGAINST THE LAW! If you know of, or suspect cruelty to animals—contact Animal Control.

DOGFIGHTING IS AGAINST THE LAW! Contact the nearest Law Enforcement Agency immediately.

You have the right to be protected against vicious animals. YOU DO NOT HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL SOMEONE IS BITTEN OR MAULED. If you encounter an animal that attempts to attack or threatens you, contact Animal Control.

NUISANCE ANIMALS are animals which cause property damage, bark constantly, cause sanitation problems, harass passers-by or vehicles, or attack other animals.

FEMALE DOGS "in-heat" are required to be kept indoors. Female scent is reported to travel 3-5 miles. Fenced yards and pens are NOT adequate to protect a female during this period. Dogs "in-heat" must be kept inside.

If you have trouble keeping your dog or cat on your property and want some helpful hints, contact Animal Control at 526-5421.

All droppings (feces) must be picked up when walking a dog or In your own yard.

ANIMALS WILL BE IMPOUNDED IF:

- A dog is violating the city leash law which states no dog shall be at-large, running loose without a leash and not in direct voice (heel) control of its owner.
- A dog is found "at-large" in the city.
- An animal is found in a life-threatening condition or situation.

The legal holding periods for animals which have no identification are 7 days for dogs & cats. Owners of tagged animals are notified of impoundment by phone or mail.

If the owner fails to personally identify, claim, and pay restitution for the animal within the above time frame, all legal rights are forfeited and the animal may be placed for adoption or disposed of at the discretion of the Animal Control Department.

COSTS FOR IMPOUNDMENT (CASH ONLY)

Boarding Fee per day	\$ 8.00
Pick up Fee	\$10.00
Rabies Vaccination	\$13.00
(Required unless proof can be provided of current vaccination.)	
City License Tag Fee	\$5-10.00

If you have any questions regarding your pet and the law please call (319) 526-5421.