What IS Animal Control?
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It’s a community service that helps people and animals live together in harmony.

**Animal Control PROTECTS:**

- People and property from the dangers of disease and the nuisance of roaming, uncontrolled animals.
- Pets and wild animals from the many dangers they face in the wild and on the streets.

**Animal PROBLEMS begin with PEOPLE!**

The health and safety of animals and people are at risk when irresponsible pet owners:

- Let their pets roam free.
- Fail to observe laws and ordinances.
- Allow their pets to have unwanted litters.
- Do not license their pets.

**SOLUTIONS begin with Animal Control.**

Berrien County Animal Control works hard to:

- **Vaccinate** animals: a veterinarian can give animals shots to control the spread of diseases, such as rabies and distemper.
- **Operate** shelter and adoption programs, to protect and find homes for unwanted animals.
- **Enforce** ordinances, such as leash laws, laws governing vaccinations and humane treatment.
- **Sterilize animals**: A veterinarian can spay females and neuter males to prevent the birth of unwanted litters.
- **Educate the public**, and make the community aware of animal control problems as well as ways to solve them.
- **Protect and control** domestic AND wild animals, when necessary.
How Animal Control Helps YOU!

Animal Control helps the community and assists in many situations. Services include:

**CRUELTY INVESTIGATION**
Animal Control officers may remove animals from unsafe or unhealthy conditions, and enforce laws governing humane treatment of animals. They begin legal action against negligent and abusive owners.

**COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION**
Animal Control officers investigate complaints of noisy, destructive or threatening animals. If necessary, they humanely remove the animal and may write a citation, or begin legal action against negligent and abusive owners.

**ANIMAL RESCUE**
Animal Control officers use their special knowledge, resources and equipment to help find and rescue lost or trapped animals.

**ANIMAL QUARANTINE**
Animals that bite are located and captured to make certain that they’re not carrying disease and to protect the community from future attacks.
ANIMAL AMBULANCE
Animal Control officers transport injured animals (including wild animals) safely and humanely to the appropriate animal care facility.

WILDLIFE RESCUE & CONTROL
Animal Control officers use their skills to protect and capture wildlife that are in danger or present a danger to the community.

Animal Control Also:

VACCINATES
To control the spread of diseases like rabies and distemper.

OPERATES
And adoption programs, to protect and find homes for unwanted animals.

STERILIZES
Animals (spay females, neuter males) to prevent the birth of unwanted litters.

EDUCATES
The public to make the community aware of animal control issues and ways to help resolve them.

LICENSES
Animals, to help identify and aid in the return of lost pets.

ENFORCES
Ordinances, such as leash laws, licensing requirements and laws governing vaccinations, as well as the humane treatment of animals.
What is an “uncontrolled” animal?

An uncontrolled animal can be an unlicensed, unsterilized animal that roams free.

These animals MAY:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BITE PEOPLE</th>
<th>SPREAD DISEASE</th>
<th>DESTROY PROPERTY</th>
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<tr>
<td>A lost, frightened or confused animal may be more aggressive and bite unsuspecting people.</td>
<td>- to other animals and to human beings.</td>
<td>- everything from lawns to livestock.</td>
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**BREED**
- at an astounding rate, producing more and more animals - and overpopulation.

**CAUSE TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS**
- resulting in both human and animal injury and/or death.

**DIE**
- from accidents, fights, starvation, disease, exposure and inhumane treatment.
Spay or neuter your pets!

An exploding animal population, without controls creates a financial burden on the community and a tremendous strain on people and animals.

**THE PROBLEM:**

**MILLIONS**
- of puppies and kittens are born every year. Most of them are unwanted.

**ADOPTION/PLACEMENT**
For most unwanted animals, good, permanent homes aren’t available. Instead, they end up in temporary shelters if there is room, or loose on the streets.

**HOMELESS ANIMALS**
- destroy property, spread disease, produce more animals - and face short, miserable lives.

**MYTHS & MISCONCEPTIONS**

“I know I can find good homes for my pet’s litter.”
The homes you find mean that there are that many FEWER homes available to other animals waiting for adoption.

“Won’t spaying or neutering make my pet fat and lazy?”
This is NOT true. You are responsible for seeing that your pet eats right and gets the proper amount of exercise.

“It’s unnatural.”
Spaying and neutering does more than help solve the problem of animal overpopulation, but it actually protects your pet from many health problems and helps him or her live a longer and happier life.
Euthanasia

Unfortunately, Animal Control officers carry the stigma as animal killers, but in actuality, they are burdened with the difficult and tragic necessity of euthanasia in order to control the overpopulation of animals.

THE CHALLENGE:

ANIMAL SHELTERS
Animal Shelters can usually offer only temporary shelter for the millions of unwanted animals. Many shelters cannot take in the large and overwhelming number of these homeless and often abused animals.

THE COST
The cost to taxpayers to pay for housing ALL unwanted animals on a permanent basis would be enormous - billions of dollars each year!

ANIMALS AT LARGE
Allowing animals to live in the wild or on the streets - would inevitably lead to their destruction by starvation, disease and accidents. Many of these animals become feral and vicious, and are a danger to the community.

Animal Control officers work tirelessly to bring animal populations under control. Only cooperation from the people within the community can help stop this tragic end to unwanted animals.
Berrien County Animal Control Officers are trained and knowledgable.

**Animal Control training includes:**
- Courses in communication, law, animals and safety
- On-the-job training and experience
- Instruction in the animal control department’s policies and rules

Many Animal Control officers and humane agents have previous work experience or education in law enforcement and/or animal handling and behavior.

**Advanced training includes:**
- Animal first-aid and rescue
- Shelter management
- Animal handling
- Use of chemicals in animal capture
- Breed identification
- Human relations (communicating and working with people)
- Stress Management
- Legal aspects of Animal Control
- Plus many other topics

In some states, Animal Control officers and humane agents must be certified by appropriate authorities.
How YOU can help.

Support the efforts of your Animal Control Department.

Practice responsible pet ownership:

- Have your pet spayed or neutered. (Bonus: License fees are lower for spayed or neutered pets).
- License your pet so they can be tracked and returned to you.
- Do not let your pet run free. Keep them on a leash.
- Report all cases of inhumane treatment.
- Have your pet vaccinated.
- Obey all other laws that affect you or your pet.

You can also help by:

- Contributing to your Animal Control Department or animal welfare society.
- Adopting a pet from an area animal shelter
- Volunteering at your Animal Control Department, local shelter or animal welfare society.
- Learn about the many services your Animal Control Department has to offer.
If you would like to make a lasting gift to help the animals, please consider donating to Animal Control or including us in your will.

Our county staff would be more than happy to discuss with you the confidential options without obligation.

Call us today at (269) 927-5648. From the hearts of all the animals in Berrien County, THANK YOU!

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Berrien County Animal Control - Donation Form

___ I would like to donate in the amount of $ ____________ to be use toward animal care.

___ I would like to be placed on the newsletter and seminar mailing list.

___ I would like to make a donation in the honor / memory of ________________________________

   in the amount of $ ________________, given by ________________________________

___ Other: __________________________________________________________________________

Name: ______________________________________________________________________________

Phone#: _____________________________________________________________________________

Address: ____________________________________________________________________________

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