



# BERRIEN COUNTY ANIMAL CONTROL 2016 NEWSLETTER

## Paws in the Law



### Did you know?

Berrien County Animal Control kennels average **45-60 dogs a week** and admit **100-400 cats each month!**



### Rabies Shot Clinics!

Go online for dates:  
[www.berriencounty.org/animalcontrol](http://www.berriencounty.org/animalcontrol)



Spay & Neuter Fundraiser  
**SEE INSIDE** for the **#1 DOG** in the county!  
(Still accepting donations)



▼ Photo Credit: Don Campbell/ The Herald-Palladium ▲



Val Grimes  
Chief Animal Control Officer

Berrien County Animal Control  
**NEW Building**  
in the works!  
Due to be completed in 2016.

## A HUGE THANKS TO YOU!

## THE RESPONSIBLE PET OWNER!

-  ...for licensing your pet(s).
-  ...keeping your pet(s) healthy.
-  ...spaying/neutering to help reduce our pet population.

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# DOG LICENSES

**Licenses** save many pets' lives and decrease the chances of a rabies outbreak. License fees also help **Berrien County Animal Control** protect you, your pet and your community.

Dog licenses are **required** for dogs over four months of age, for newly purchased or acquired dogs, and for those dogs just becoming a Michigan resident.

BCAC continues its efforts to locate and license every K-9 in Berrien County.



## WHERE CAN YOU OBTAIN A LICENSE?

From **December 1st to February 28th** most area vets and township/city offices sell our license tags. You may also purchase them at the County Clerk's Office (Niles location only) and the County Treasurer's Office.

- **BERRIEN COUNTY ANIMAL CONTROL** - 9204 Huckleberry Rd., Berrien Center, MI 49102
- **BERRIEN COUNTY TREASURER'S OFFICE** - 701 Main St., St. Joseph, MI 49085
- **SOUTH COUNTY COURTHOUSE** - County Clerk's Office - 1205 N. Front St., Niles, MI 49120

Some area **vets** will sell licenses year-round for new puppies getting first licenses. Please check with your vet to see if they participate. **After February 28th**, you can **only** purchase your tags from Animal Control.

## LICENSES FEES

**\$10 Altered / \$25 Un-Altered (BEFORE March 1, 2016)**

**\$30 Altered / \$45 Un-Altered (AFTER March 1, 2016 + \$20 Late Fee)**

**(3 yr) \$25 Altered / \$70 Un-Altered (AFTER March 1, 2016 + \$20 Late Fee)**

### BCAC RABIES SHOT CLINICS



Berrien County Animal Control hosts several Rabies Shot Clinics in the next few months. You will also be able to purchase your county license at the same time.

*Please bring your license renewal form with you.*

**FOR CLINIC DATES GO TO:  
[www.berriencounty.org](http://www.berriencounty.org)**

**REGISTRATION IS HELPFUL - CASH ONLY!  
WALK-INS WELCOME**

### NEW BCAC BUILDING IS UNDER CONSTRUCTION!

BCAC broke ground late this past summer and the completion of Animal Control's new shelter is set for **June of 2016!**

With the help of Pearson Construction Company, the new facility will include a larger shelter, plus a large and small animal barn.



### 1ST ANNUAL SPAY/NEUTER FUNDRAISER WINNERS!



**# 1 DOG in the county!  
"SASSY"**

owned by Karen Coffey of St. Joseph

**#2 "CHOPPER"** owned by Jane Holloway of Niles

**#3 "SNOOPY"** owned by Frank Mangialardi of New Buffalo

**#4 "PHOEBE"** owned by Maralee Marshall of Benton Harbor

**#5 "SOPHIE"** owned by Audrey Skamer of St. Joseph

*(Still accepting donations!)*

*Christmas Carols for Canines & Cats*

**VISIT US ON  
CHRISTMAS EVE  
10 AM - 2PM**

**PLEASE, bring an item to donate, take a dog for a walk, brush a cat or adopt your new friend!  
ALL proceeds go towards BC Animal Control.**



## LET'S GIVE A HEARTFELT THANKS!

...to the hard working **staff** at **Berrien County Animal Control!**

These **dedicated folks** are on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, including holidays. They respond to auto accidents, drug raids, homicides, hoarders, cruelty cases, dog bites, EMT Assist, livestock hauler accidents and livestock on roadways. They also deal with wild animals, snakes, bats, and farm animals at large. They prep all animals for rabies testing through the Health Department and the list goes on...

Only 4 full time Officers & 3 part time officers handled over 6,401 complaints in 2014 and over 6,000 so far in 2015.



Val Grimes -  
Chief Animal Control Officer



(L-R) Officer Cahill (part-time) &  
Officer Erickson



Lisa Howe -  
Office/Animal Control Officer



Robert Ponders -  
Animal Control Officer

## WE'RE NOT THE BAD GUYS!

In a letter sent to Berrien County Animal Control, a grateful community member thanks us and appreciates our efforts!

*"I am presently a caregiver to my autistic son and my wheel-chair bound brother (who has MS). My 90 yr. old mother had a crisis and had to be moved into the St. Joseph Hospice center, leaving me with the extra task of rehoming her 5 cats.*

*Hours were spent on the phone, contacting all the "no-kill" shelters in Berrien and LaPorte counties. Every one of them told me that they were bursting at the seams and could not help me. Several told me to try them in a couple of months and maybe they could take one or two.*

*These are old, plain cats and I needed their removal "asap." I started to understand why people desperately dump their animals by the road-side.*

*A local veterinarian took pity on me and told me about Animal Control. Finally, help! BC Animal Control immediately provided me with someone willing to help me catch and remove my mother's cats. At this very stressful time in my life; Lisa, in the office, and Officer Sweet; offered me more support, patience, and kindness than all the "no-kill" shelters put together.*

*The reality of my situation had to be dealt with. I can't express how grateful I am to the BC Animal Control organization for their professional/compassionate attitude."*

Most sincerely,  
Mxxxxx Cxxxxx, New Buffalo, MI



**PET SUPPLIES,  
DONATIONS &  
VOLUNTEERS  
ALWAYS  
WELCOME!**

**PET SUPPLIES:** If you would like to donate to Berrien County Animal Control, the following is a list of the most needed items:

- 🐾 PUPPY FOOD
- 🐾 BLEACH
- 🐾 KITTEN FOOD
- 🐾 LITTER PANS
- 🐾 KITTY LITTER
- 🐾 PET BOWLS
- 🐾 PET CARRIERS
- 🐾 BROOMS AND MOPS
- 🐾 LAUNDRY SOAP
- 🐾 HAY & GRAIN
- 🐾 DISH SOAP

**VOLUNTEERS:** Volunteers are **always welcome and appreciated**. BC Animal Control sponsors many events to help raise money, and additional hands are needed. We also welcome volunteers to come and walk, feed or play with the animals, or just to help within the shelter. Many schools now require community service hours and volunteering at Animal Control offers a great way for someone to collect those hours. (Some requirements for parental supervision do exist, so contact BCAC for details).

## DONATIONS:

Those that would like to donate money may do so in many ways and forms. Contributions to **Berrien County Animal Control** may be specified for the purchase of certain items such as pet supplies. Donations can be made in memory / honor of those you love, or beloved pets.

**SEE THE DONATION FORM ON THE BACK PAGE**

Special **THANKS** to the folks at "**Pit Bulls of South Bend**" for donating Kuranda Beds!



# NOT ENOUGH PEOPLE ARE ADOPTING...



For most people concerned about animal welfare, adopting pets from an animal shelter is unquestionably the right thing to do – both for the pets brought into loving homes as well as to create more room and resources for animals left behind. It's easy to assume the general public understands this imperative.

But when you drive by a family-filled pet store selling dogs as if they were toasters, or learn about horrific puppy mills still profiting from cruelty, you begin to realize the adoption message is still not getting out strongly or widely enough.

Many people who purchase pets may feel a certain breed best fits their family needs, or subscribe to misinformation about shelters and shelter animals.

## BENEFITS OF ADOPTING A SHELTER PET:

- ***You help decrease the homeless animal population***
- ***You create more space at shelters and rescue organizations***
- ***You help reduce demand that supports puppy mills***

Reach out to a potential pet owner, whether it's a family member, a neighbor, a friend or colleague. Adopting shelter animals might be enough to change people's minds, save more lives, and transform the community and community shelters.

## KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER:

- **You're saving more than one life.**

*Of the approximately 7.6 million companion animals entering animal shelters nationwide every year, approximately 2.7 million are euthanized. Adoption not only moves an animal from vulnerability to safety, but creates space at the shelter, and moves more resources and attention to the remaining animals.*

- **You're fighting puppy mills and backyard breeders.**

*Most pet store puppies come from puppy mills. Puppies born in puppy mills are usually removed from their mothers at six weeks of age and the mothers, meanwhile, have little to no recovery time between bearing litters.*

*Breeding dogs typically spend their entire lives in tiny, wire-bottom cages barely bigger than the dogs themselves. They often do not receive adequate veterinary care or socialization. When these dogs can no longer produce puppies or when their breed becomes unpopular, they're often abandoned, shot, or sometimes starved to death.*

*Because puppy mill operators sometimes fail to remove sick dogs from their breeding pools, puppies from puppy mills can also have congenital and hereditary conditions including epilepsy, heart disease, kidney disease, and musculoskeletal problems like hip dysplasia. Purchasing anything at a pet store that sells animals – even pet supplies – keeps this deplorable industry in business.*

- **You're sending a message!**

*When you proudly tell others you chose to rescue an animal, you're sending a message that an individual CAN take effective action to save lives, fight cruelty, and end suffering. The movement starts with one, but can expand to a family, then to a community, then to many communities.*

*In nearly 100 U.S. cities and localities that message has influenced the passing of local ordinances and state bills that regulate where pet stores can get the puppies they sell. In many cases, these laws prohibit pet stores from selling non-shelter dogs entirely.*

*What these communities have in common is a commitment to the idea that animals deserve our love, our homes, and – just as importantly – our protection.*

- **You'll get a great pet and change a homeless animal's whole world !**

*And you'll get a new best friend in the bargain!*

*Information taken in part from the Humane Society and ASPCA*

# THINKING ABOUT BREEDING A LITTER?

- **Think** it can't make a difference if you don't spay or neuter your pet?
- **Think** that because your dog or cat is a purebred or "has papers" that its offspring will be of value?
- **Think** that having "just one litter" can't possibly hurt?



## PLEASE...THINK AGAIN!

The sad **facts** about the growing problem of unwanted pets in the United states:

- Each year, **6-8 million dogs and cats** are turned in or picked up by shelters.
- Over **half** of the healthy, adoptable animals are euthanized because there simply is **not enough space at many shelters or homes available.**
- Shelter dogs are not always mixed breeds. **25% of all dogs in shelters are purebreds.**



**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, can become feral and dangerous, cause traffic accidents and face short, miserable lives.

### The Challenge:

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



## PLEASE SPAY & NEUTER...



**OVERPOPULATION IS KILLING US!**

# EPM (Equine Protozoal Myeloencephalitis)



**Equine Protozoal Myeloencephalitis (EPM)** is a master of disguise. This serious disease can be difficult to diagnose because its signs often mimic other health problems in the horse and signs can range from mild to severe.

More than 50 percent of all horses in the United States may have been exposed to the organism that causes EPM. The causative organism is a **protozoal parasite called *Sarcocystis neurona***. The disease is not transmitted from horse to horse. The protozoa are spread by the definitive host, **the opossum**, which acquires the organism from cats, raccoons, skunks and armadillos and possibly even from harbor seals and sea otters. The infective stage of the organism (the sporocysts) is passed in the opossum's feces. The horse comes into contact with the infective sporocysts while grazing or eating contaminated feed or drinking water.

Once ingested, the sporocysts migrate from the intestinal tract into the bloodstream and cross the blood/brain barrier. There they begin to attack the horse's central nervous system. The onset of the disease may be slow or sudden. If left undiagnosed and untreated, EPM can cause devastating and lasting neurological damage.

The clinical signs of EPM can be quite varied. Clinical signs are usually asymmetrical (not the same on both sides of the horse). Actual signs may depend on the severity and location of the lesions that develop in the brain, brain stem or spinal cord.

## **Signs may include:**

- **Ataxia** (incoordination), spasticity (stiff, stilted movements), abnormal gait or lameness
- **Incoordination and weakness**, which worsens when going up or down slopes or when head is elevated
- **Muscle atrophy**, most noticeable along the topline or in the large muscles of the hindquarters, but can sometimes involve the muscles of the face or front limbs
- **Paralysis of muscles** of the eyes, face or mouth, evident by drooping eyes, ears or lips
- **Difficulty swallowing**
- **Seizures or collapse**
- **Abnormal sweating**
- **Loss of sensation** along the face, neck or body
- **Head tilt with poor balance**; horse may assume a splay-footed stance or lean against stall walls for support

## **Several factors may influence the progression of the disease, especially the below 4:**

- The extent of the infection (i.e. the number of organisms ingested);
- How long the horse harbors the parasite prior to treatment;
- The point(s) in the brain or spinal cord where the organism localizes and damage occurs;
- Stressful events following infection or stressful events while infected.

## **Horses at Risk**

EPM causes clinical disease in approximately **one percent** of exposed horses. Almost every part of the country has reported cases of EPM, but much lower in regions with small opossum populations. Due to the transport of horses and feedstuffs from one part of the country to another, almost all horses are at risk.

Not all horses exposed to the protozoan *Sarcocystis neurona* will develop the disease and show clinical signs of EPM. Some horses seem to mount an effective immune response and are able to combat the disease before it gains a foothold. Other horses, especially those under stress, can succumb rapidly to the debilitating effects of EPM. Still others may harbor the organisms for months or years and then slowly or suddenly develop symptoms.

# EPM (Equine Protozoal Myeloencephalitis)

## Diagnosis

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## Treatment

The sooner treatment begins, the better the horse's chances are for recovery. Sixty to 70 percent of EPM cases aggressively treated show significant or complete reversal of symptoms. Many horses are able to return to normal activity. **Here are some things you should know about treating EPM:**

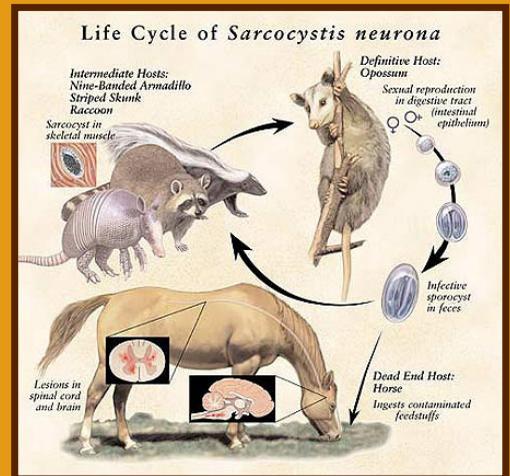
- Although there are drug combinations available to treat EPM, there are proprietary anti-protozoal drugs specifically labeled by the FDA to treat the disease. Consult with your veterinarian for more detailed information and treatment options.
- Anti-inflammatory drugs may be prescribed to alleviate symptoms and prevent reactions to parasite die-off during treatment.
- Supplementation with vitamin E, an antioxidant, is often recommended to aid healing of nervous tissue.
- Average duration of treatment is one month with the proprietary products, although depending on which medication is used can sometimes be longer (up to three to six months with combinations).

## Methods of Prevention

Based on published research, there are several things horse owners can do to protect their horses from infection with EPM. There is currently a vaccine to immunize against *Sarcocystis neurona*; however, the efficacy is unknown at this time. At best, good horse-keeping practices will discourage unwanted visitors such as opossums and other rodents from contaminating hay, grain and bedding.

### Here are a few suggestions:

- Keep feed rooms and containers closed and sealed.
- Use feeders, which minimize spillage and are difficult for wild animals to access.
- Clean up any dropped grain immediately to discourage scavengers.
- Feed heat-treated cereal grains and extruded feeds since these processes seem to kill the infective sporocysts.
- Keep water tanks clean and filled with clean, fresh water.
- Maximize your horse's health and fitness through proper nutrition, regular exercise and routine deworming and vaccinations.
- Schedule regular appointments with your equine veterinarian.



# SPOTTING A SKETCHY RESCUE...



We should support **good rescues**. Including horse rescues. Since humane societies are often full, and rarely equipped to take in equines, these private organizations fill a huge need. However, some "rescues" are really scams, hoarders or pet dealers in disguise. It's important to learn how to tell the altruists from the underhanded. Good rescues provide a wonderful service.

**Here's how to tell the solid from the shady:**

## EMOTIONAL SCARE TACTICS



First and foremost, be wary of excessive pathos. Every animal rescue is going to have some emotional, heart-wrenching stories to tell, and that's OK occasionally in order to gain the right attention and interest.

However, if an organization is constantly bombarding the public with tales of woe and pitiful pictures, that's a sign that they're deliberately milking tragedies. This is especially true when the sad stories are about the rescue manager's personal life: medical bills, feeling let down or persecuted by others, vehicle breakdowns, etc.

Anyone who continually cries "pity me!" should not be in charge of what is essentially a very demanding animal business!



## SHADY TACTICS

Then there are the pet dealers posing as rescuers. These brokers care only about quick profit. They prey on the public's sympathy, and take donations in for feed, vet and farrier bills - and pocket most of the money.

Dealers disguised as rescuers rarely bother with any real adoption requirements or contracts. They will sell intact studs and sometimes even breeding females regardless of their conformation or health. They don't quarantine new intakes and will lie about an animal's health and abilities in order to sell it. They actively seek out animals to take in, even from out of state, so they can sell them again quickly.

## RED FLAGS:

- Pleas combined with threats, "Donate NOW or this animal will be euthanized!" Especially on social media like Facebook and/or Twitter etc.
- Reluctance to let anyone visit the property.
- Dangerous or poor fencing.
- Junk, deep mud or lots of rocks in yard or paddocks.
- Unwillingness or inability to take back an animal from an adopter who can't keep it.
- Polite questions about specific animals or operation remain unanswered.
- Basic utilities like water and electricity are often shut off at any time.
- The rescue never holds fundraisers or open houses.
- Vague or secretive of how they gained ownership of their animals.
- There are no "after rehab" photos or stories about successful adoptions.
- Lack of professionalism in spelling, grammar and public relations in general.

## REPUTABLE RESCUES:

- Make sure it is a 501(c)3 shelter. They must register with the state.
- They make adoption a top priority (but not without provisions).
- Recruit volunteers who stick around.
- Allow or encourage donors to send money directly to their vet or farrier.
- Keep on top of vet and farrier care, as well as record-keeping.
- Explain exactly how and when donations are used.
- Always advocate for what's best for the animals.

*Information taken in part from the  
horseillustrated.com / Dec 2015*

# RESCUING A DOG: 5 TIPS FOR SUCCESS

**So you want to rescue a shelter dog?** You are ready for a new four legged companion and have your eye on a new friend at a shelter. Once you choose each other, and you're ready to take him/her home, do you know the best way to integrate them into your family and life style? Here are some tips to ensure a good transition that will teach your new friend how to quickly become a perfect member of your family and at the same time reduce his/her stress levels.

## TIP #1:

When we rescue a pet we may feel bad or sorry for it, thinking about what its past life may have entailed. Rather than worry about this, be happy and think about the great future he/she will have with you.

Dogs live in the moment and if you project a happy, positive up-beat attitude they will quickly follow suit. If you continue to reflect and dwell on the horrible past they might have had, they will as well. So **celebrate his/her new life with you and he/she will as well.**

## TIP #2:

**Restrict access.** Giving too much access too quickly can cause more stress on a dog and allow them to start to create some bad habits. Crate your new friend for meals, bed-time and whenever you cannot directly supervise. Before giving free access, leash your new pet in the home restricting access so that they may learn the rules first.

## TIP #3:

**Build a routine.** Dogs love routine, this will help your new pup become less stressed and aid in teaching some good habits.

## TIP #4:

**Seek help sooner rather than later.** If you start to see unwanted behaviors seek help from a professional ASAP. Often times the sooner you contact a professional the easier it is to fix. Dogs don't grow out of behaviors, they grown into them.

## TIP #5:

**Honor the dog, not your own emotional needs.** A dog is a dog and is proud to be one. Treat him/her as a dog first. This means giving it what it needs – food, shelter, exercise, discipline, most important leadership and last affection. Even the smallest of dogs require these necessities to be happy, healthy and balanced. Requiring your dog to be your 'baby' first and fulfill your emotional needs puts added stress on the dog and relationship, it's just not fair. So love your dog by honoring who he/she really is, a wonderful, loving dog.



Provided by Lisa Antonini,  
Stay & Obey - owner



Bring your new pooch (and receipt) from Berrien County Animal Control to Stay & Obey and get 10% off training!

[www.stayandobey.com](http://www.stayandobey.com)



# TOP PET DANGERS

## • COMMON HOUSEHOLD DANGERS FOR PETS



The average home is filled with items that could potentially harm a pet. If you toss old razors into your bathroom trash can, your pet could get into it and end up with cuts. If you leave chocolate where a pet can reach it, you're likely heading to the vet soon.

When you make the decision to own a pet, keeping them safe becomes a part of your responsibility. You should take the time to research and understand what items you have around that could hurt them. These may include:

- Prescription Medicine
- Household Cleaners
- Exposed Electrical Cords
- Over-the-Counter Medicines
- Detergents
- Mothballs
- Insecticides
- Antifreeze
- Tobacco
- Batteries
- Rat Poison & Traps
- String
- Fertilizers & Plant Food
- Razors & Sharp Utensils
- Rubber Bands & Floss



## • FOOD SAFETY FOR PETS

Animals, especially dogs, have a way of looking at their owners so sweetly during meals that it seems downright cruel not to pass a little of the food on your plate. It's a natural and kind-seeming desire that can actually cause a lot of harm. Unfortunately, animals can't properly digest all the foods that people eat.

Some foods will cause sickness and could even lead to death soon after they're ingested, and there are others that are bad for animals if consumed regularly. Most foods can lead to upset stomachs, vomiting, and diarrhea - some of the top causes for vet visits. Learn this list and make sure you keep all of these foods out of your pet's reach to avoid a trip to the vet or worse:

- Alcohol
- Chocolate
- Chewing Gum/Candy
- Mushrooms
- Macadamia Nuts
- Toothpaste
- Moldy, Spoiled Food
- Avacadoes
- Cat Food
- Artificial Sweeteners
- Coffee
- Fat Trimmings
- Garlic
- Grapes
- Raw Meat/Eggs
- Yeast Dough
- Onions, Leeks & Chives
- Meat Bones
- Salt
- Milk

IF YOU SUSPECT THAT YOUR PET HAS BEEN POISONED:

Call your veterinarian!

OR



24/7 Animal Poison Control Center  
**800-213-6680**

## • PET PROOFING YOUR HOME

There's no uniform way to pet-proof your home - it varies by pet and home. To get a more personalized idea of what you can and should do to make your home safe for a pet, you may benefit from talking to an expert. Here are some **basic tips** to get started:

- **Keep all food** high up on the counters and away from the edges of tables and countertops where your pet can't reach. Train cats to stay off the countertops and tables with water spray bottles.
- **Install a gate** to make it impossible for pets to enter a room without you letting them in. If you have a large pet or a "leaper", make sure the gate is tall enough and strong enough.
- Buy a **special garbage can with a lid** that locks to keep pets out, or keep garbage stored in a pantry or cabinet door.
- **Install child safety locks** on cabinets where garbage, toxic cleaning chemicals, glass, sharp utensils, etc., are stored.
- Keep **electrical cords** off the ground and out of reach, or block them with furniture if that isn't an option. Tape them to walls or look for a product that discourages chewing like a cord cover or chew deterrent spray.
- Review each room that could be a risk for **medicine, toxic chemicals and choking hazards**, and store items out of reach; either up high on a shelf, locked in a cabinet, or in a box with a sealed lid that your pet can't access.

# SAFETY TIPS: PREVENTING A DOG BITE

**Children** are the most common victims of dog bites and at least half the people who receive medical care for dog bites are children.

To reduce the number of these injuries, adults and children should be educated about bite prevention, and dog owners need to practice responsible dog guardianship.

Here are **5 basic tips** to help avoid bites in your community:

- **Ask first before petting a dog.** Never allow your child to rush up to a strange dog. When meeting an unfamiliar dog, don't reach out to pet it. First, ask its owner "May I pet your dog?"
- **After you receive permission to pet the dog, let it sniff your closed hand.** Then you may proceed to pet its shoulders and chest. Avoid petting the top of the dog's head.
- **Don't touch a dog who is sleeping, eating or chewing a toy or bone.** Respect its space. Startled dogs are more likely to bite.
- **Avoid dogs who are barking or growling.** It is also best to steer clear of dogs who are looser, behind a fence or tied up.
- If an unknown dog approaches you, stay **still and quiet**. Do not run or scream.



# TOP 10 REASONS TO ADOPT A CAT



**Adopting a cat** is not only a wonderful way to support a local animal shelter, it's also an excellent way to bring some cuddly love into your life.

Here are the top ten reasons why adopting a cat is the right move.

1. **They're independent** - They don't need to be walked, though feel free to try!
2. **They're cuddly** - Plus warm...and fuzzy and fit perfectly on your lap, or shoulder or neck.
3. **They bathe themselves**- 'nuff said.
4. **They don't need to be housebroken** - You don't have to rush home to let them out, or walk them.
5. **They're avid hunters** - Rodent and bug problem? Not anymore.
6. **They're great entertainment** - Small box, large cat...hours of entertainment.
7. **They're perfect couch potatoes** - They sleep around 15 hours a day. They're always ready for a nap
8. **You're saving a life** - 6-8 million cats are brought to shelters each year. You could single-handedly save a life!
9. **They're saving your life** - Having a cat has been known to lower blood pressure and risk of heart disease and releases "feel good" endorphins in the brain.
10. **They're awesome!** - They're adorable, loving, easy companions that make you super happy (and healthy).

**Berrien County Animal Control salutes all of our troops serving stateside and overseas, our returning veterans and fallen heroes. Thank you!**



# BERRIEN COUNTY ANIMAL CONTROL SAVING LIVES!

## MISSION STATEMENT

TO STRIVE FOR EXCELLENCE, MAINTAINING THE HIGHEST QUALITY OF LIFE FOR HUMANS AND ANIMALS BY:

- PROTECTING AND SERVING THE RESIDENTS OF BERRIEN COUNTY, ENFORCING STATE AND COUNTY LAWS, PROVIDING EDUCATION TO
- PROMOTE PET RESPONSIBILITY
- SPAYING/NEUTERING OF COMPANION ANIMALS.



*"I may not be so pretty,  
Not much to behold  
But I assure you my love is real  
I have a heart of gold.*

*Maybe I'm not so young  
Not as sharp as a kitten or puppy might be  
I'll clean myself up in no time  
I'll earn my forever home, you'll see.*

*There's a difference between life and death.  
And deep inside you know it's true  
That difference low and behold...  
Is me going home with YOU!"*



If you would like to make a lasting gift to help the animals, consider including Animal Control 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) 471-7531. From the hearts of all the animals in Berrien County, THANK YOU!

## Berrien County Animal Control - DONATION FORM

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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

to the Building Fund towards a new shelter in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

to general animal care in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone#: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_



THANK YOU!!!

9204 Huckleberry Road  
Berrien Center, MI 49102  
Phone: 269-471-7531  
Fax: 269-473-2809



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[www.berriencounty.org/animal control](http://www.berriencounty.org/animal%20control)

Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm  
(Except County holidays)