

ANIMAL CONTROL FAQs

HOW CAN I FIND OUT ABOUT A CAREER WORKING WITH ANIMALS?

Contact your local community college or even the guidance counselor at your local high school for education opportunities involving animal related careers.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I SEE A WILD ANIMAL IN MY YARD?

If the animal is a nocturnal animal such as a raccoon or skunk and it is in your yard in broad daylight, report it to animal control or the police department. An officer will respond, observe the animal's behavior and determine whether the animal should be disposed of or not. If the animal is acting normally and is just passing through or using your yard, leave the animal alone. Be sure your children and pets do not come into contact with any wild animal.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF MY CHILD OR PET COMES INTO CONTACT WITH A WILD ANIMAL?

If your child or pet does come into contact with a wild animal, notify animal control immediately. The animal, if possible, will be killed and tested for rabies.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF A DOG OR CAT BITES ME?

Get the owner's name, address and telephone number. Notify animal control or the police department immediately. If the animal is not with an owner and the ownership of the animal is unknown, try to follow the animal so that animal control will be able to impound the animal for quarantine. If the bite occurred on the owner's property and the animal has a current rabies vaccine, the animal will be quarantined on the owner's property for fourteen days. If the bite occurred away from the owner's property or if the animal does not have a current rabies vaccination, the animal will be quarantined at the animal shelter or at a licensed commercial vet or kennel at the owner's expense.

HOW DO I KNOW WHEN MY FAMILY IS READY TO ADOPT A DOG OR CAT?

Adding a dog or cat to your family should be a carefully considered decision. Think back to the last month or six months of your family's activities and trips. Do you have the time and resources necessary to care for an additional member of the family? Pets need daily attention, special food and yearly veterinary care (or more often if there is an injury or illness). Children cannot be relied upon to provide the necessary care a pet requires so parents should be aware that the responsibility will be theirs, no matter what the child says as he/she is hopping up and down in front of the cage at the pound.

WHAT KIND OF ANIMAL SHOULD WE ADOPT?

When the decision to adopt has been reached, a trip to the library and/or a consultation with your chosen veterinarian or local animal control officer is a good idea. Adoption counselors at your local shelter or humane society can steer you toward an appropriate choice if you have an idea of the type of dog you are looking for when you go in. Considerations such as the size of your home, the amount of time you can dedicate to the pet and the ages of your children and grandchildren should all be taken into account when choosing your new family member.