

Animal Laws **ARTICLE 12**

Baltimore County Code

1. When off the owner's property, all dogs and cats must be walked on a leash. If chained outside, chains must have swivels. Chain collars may not be used, except when training.
2. All dogs and cats over three months of age must be vaccinated against rabies.
3. All dogs and cats must be licensed at four months of age. New pets and all animals moving into Baltimore County must be licensed within thirty days.
4. All animals must be provided shelter for protection from wind, snow, rain, cold and the sun; plus adequate daily food and water, in clean un-tippable bowls.
5. Owners of female cats and dogs "in heat" must not leave their pets outside unattended. (Although spaying female or neutering male animals is not required, it is highly recommended.)
6. It is a violation of the law to allow dogs to bark excessively.
7. If an animal bites someone, the owner and the bite victim must report the injury to the Police Department. You are responsible if your pet bites or injures another person or animal, or menaces people in the community.
8. Owners are responsible for the timely removal of pet waste on public and private property.
9. Do not abandon or neglect pets you cannot keep. Instead, call Animal Control for assistance.
10. Maryland law requires that any puppy or kitten sold or given away must be at least eight weeks old. Baltimore County law requires anyone selling or giving away a puppy, kitten, dog or cat to provide a health certificate, signed by a licensed veterinarian, along with a statement indicating date of sale or transfer of animal, description of animal, and immunizations given. The name, address and phone number of buyer and seller must also be provided.
11. Inadequate provision of food or water, unsanitary conditions, animal combat, cruelty and neglect are all considered animal abuse.

Animal Control Officers are empowered with enforcement authority for state and local laws involving animals. Persons violating these animal laws may be subject to fines.

First offense: \$25 fine.

Repeated Offenses: \$100 fine.
Criminal penalties may also be imposed with up to \$1,000 in fines, up to ninety (90) days in jail, or both.

Menacing/dangerous animal problems and cruelty to animals charges may incur more stringent penalties/sanctions.

Persons receiving a violation must correct the situation and pay any fines, or may request a hearing *in writing within five (5) days of receiving the violation.*

Animal Hearing Board

The Animal Hearing Board hears appeals of violation notices.

Mail appeal requests to:

Animal Hearing Board
13800 Manor Road
Baldwin, MD 21013.

The Board also holds dangerous animal hearings and advises the County Executive on issues affecting the welfare of animals in the community.

Call 410-887-5964 for details.



ANIMAL LICENSES

Baltimore County Animal licenses are available at these locations:

- County Office Building 410-887-3630
- Balto. Co. Animal Shelter, Baldwin . . 410-887-5961
- Humane Society of Baltimore County, Reisterstown 410-833-8848
- For Licensing Warden in your area . . 410-887-3630

OR any of the Baltimore County Full Service Libraries

NOTE: Proof of current rabies vaccination is required for all dog and cat licenses.

DISCOUNTS:

Discounted licensing for senior citizen pet owners and for pets which have been spayed or neutered.

BALTIMORE COUNTY ANIMAL INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- Animal Bites: Communicable Disease . 410-887-2724
- Animal Control Division 410-887-5961
- Animal Shelter 410-887-5961
- Animal Hearing Board 410-887-5964
- Animal Licensing, Towson 410-887-3630
- Dog Obedience Classes: Rec & Parks 410-887-3871

OTHER ANIMAL INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- Animal Control, Baltimore City 410-396-4694
- Humane Society: spay/neuter 410-833-4480
- SNAP (Spay/Neuter All Pets). . . . 1-410-885-5783
- National Dog Registry 410-277-4485
- Wildlife Problems 1-877-463-6497
- Mediation & Dispute Center 410-242-0388

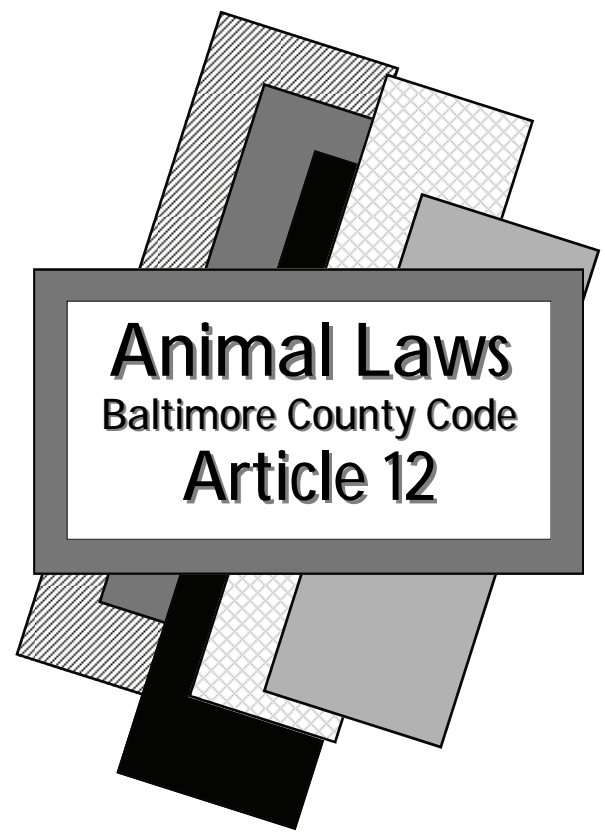
Maryland Relay - Dial 711 or 1-800-735-2258

Baltimore County does not discriminate on the basis of: race, sex, age, color, physical or mental disability, marital status, political affiliation, creed, religion, or national origin. Upon prior request, provisions will be made to accommodate individuals with disabilities. This brochure is available in alternative format upon request. Baltimore County complies with the ADA..

www.baltimorecountymd.gov/go/pets

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ANIMAL CONTROL INFORMATION



Baltimore County
Department of Health
Animal Control Division
13800 Manor Road
Baldwin, MD 21013
410-887-5961

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13800 Manor Road
Baldwin, MD 21013
410-887-5961

DIRECTIONS

- Take Exit 27B North, off the Beltway-1695.
- Follow Dulaney Valley Road to the stop sign at Manor Road.
- Turn left. The Animal Control Division and the Animal Shelter are 1 mile on the left

Animal Shelter Adoptions

Visiting hours for adoption are Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Closed on Sundays and holidays. To see some of our pets or for more information visit our web site:

www.baltimorecountymd/go/petadoptions

Rabies Vaccination

All dogs and cats must have Rabies vaccinations and boosters. Low cost rabies vaccinations are available by appointment.

Micro-chipping is also available by appointment for a reasonable fee.

Spaying & Neutering

Thousands of unwanted animals are born in Baltimore County each year. Most live short, homeless lives. We urge pet owners to have their pets spayed or neutered.

If You Find A Stray Pet

Baltimore County Law requires that all stray dogs and cats be turned over to the Animal Shelter within 24 hours. If the pet you found is not redeemed by its owner, you may reclaim it. A rabies vaccination and an animal license will be necessary at a modest fee. Other fees associated with redemption will be waived.

Redeeming Your Pet

To reclaim your pet at the Animal Shelter, bring proof of current rabies vaccination and proof of a current animal license. If you cannot provide this verification, a rabies vaccination and license will be provided, for a fee, before your pet is released. There are also redemption and boarding fees, *and owner identification is required*

If Your Pet Is Lost

If your pet is micro-chipped or is wearing an animal license, rabies tag or an ID tag, every effort will be made to trace the ID and contact you. Come to the shelter promptly to look for your pet. Bring a picture of your pet and post it on our "lost pet" bulletin board. Stray pets are held for four (4) days.

If You Have More Than Three Dogs On Your Property

All households that shelter four or more dogs, private or commercial kennels, or stables, fancier kennels or catteries, grooming parlors, pet shops, etc. must contact Animal Licensing at 410-887-3630 to obtain information and an application for a Holding Facility License.



The Animal Control Division depends upon your close cooperation to solve animal problems in your community. If your neighbor's pet runs loose, leaves unwelcome deposits on your lawn or barks and howls, attempt to work the problem out with your neighbor before filing a formal complaint. If your neighbor complains about your pet, make every effort to cooperate. Once a formal complaint is made, Animal Control will visit or send out a warning letter, along with the laws about responsible pet ownership. If the problem persists during the few weeks after the letter or visit, call Animal Control. Arrangements may be made for you to complete a notarized Affidavit of Complaint. Nuisance Animal violations may be written at that time.



What Does Animal Control Do ?

- Enforces Article 12 of the Baltimore County Code.
- Responds to animal related emergencies 24 hours a day.
- Investigates reports of animal cruelty and neglect
- Handles nuisance complaints regarding pets running loose, leaving unwelcome deposits and barking
- Responds to reports of injured, sick and/or vicious animals
- Picks up stray and unwanted dogs and cats, and accepts those that are brought to the animal shelter
- Maintains enclosures at police stations for stray dogs and cats
- Provides humane traps to capture loose dogs or cats
- Inspects private and commercial kennels, grooming parlors, pet shops and other holding facilities
- Picks up dead animals (excluding farm animals) from County maintained roadways and properties
- Operates the Baltimore County Animal Shelter. The Shelter finds new homes for more than 1100 pets each year.

County Executive Jim Smith and the Baltimore County Council