

Animal Control FAQ

My neighbor's dog barks continuously when they are not home. What should I do? Animal Control will respond to reports of barking dogs. Residents should be aware that the city ordinance for barking dog is enforceable at any time day or night. When Animal Control responds, he will park in the area of the complaint and monitor for barking. If the dog barks continuously the Animal Control Officer will try to make contact with the owner. If no one is home, a call tag will be left at the residence asking them to contact animal control. The Animal Control Officer works with the owner to ensure the barking dog does not become a neighborhood problem. If the contact with Animal Control does not resolve the issue, the owner will be cited.

There is a dog running loose in my neighborhood. What can be done about this? The City of Owatonna has an ordinance that requires all dogs to be leashed when not on their owner's property. If you have a dog running loose, please contact Animal Control at 507-451-8232. If the animal is picked up it will be transported to the pound.

You picked up my dog. What do I need to do to get it back? You will need to contact Animal Control to see if your dog is in custody. Animal Control will explain the procedure and any fees you will be required to pay.

My child was bit by my neighbor's dog. What should I do? You should first seek medical attention if needed. Then contact the Owatonna Police Department by calling 507-451-8232. Dispatch will then send an officer or CSO to take the report. We will then require the animal to be quarantined for ten days. At the end of the ten days, Animal Control will check the dog to ensure it is healthy and then follow-up with the victim.

Any dog that has bit someone may be declared potentially dangerous. Depending on the severity of the bite, the dog may be declared potentially dangerous or dangerous after one incident. This is another reason we require people to report dog bites.

We have a stray cat in the neighborhood. Does Animal Control pick up cats? Animal Control will pick up cats. By city ordinance cats, like dogs, must be leashed if not on the owner's private property.

I have a raccoon that keeps getting in my garbage or bird feeder. Can animal control help me? Animal Control does not respond to wild animal calls. We do not remove wildlife simply because it is on your property. However, if the animal is causing property damage you may set your own live traps. If you trap an animal do not take it to some other part of town and release it. This could potentially spread disease.

There is an injured bird in my yard. Will you pick it up? We are unable to assist with injured birds. Animal Control does not pick up birds for West Nile virus testing.