



What every animal owner in the city of San Antonio should know!

PERMITS REQUIRED!

*Permits allow Animal Care Services access to your private property without a search warrant.
An application must be made for each permit and numerous requirements met.
All permits are granted at the discretion of the ACS director and not granted automatically.
Animals in violation are subject to seizure and impoundment.*

*All dogs over 6 months of age must be spayed or neutered
Or purchase an annual \$50 Intact Dog Permit plus annual Pet License.*

*All outdoor cats must be spayed or neutered and licensed annually.
Cats are no longer subject to Confinement and Restraint Laws.*

*\$50 Litter Permit plus \$50 Intact Dog Permits and Pet Licenses for each adult animal.
This permit is required for all puppies or kittens whether for sale,
trade, or giveaway and must be displayed in advertisements.*

*\$25 Excess Animal Permit: If over the limit of 5 dogs or 8 cats or 8 aggregate.
Can't be kept exclusively outside, must be sterilized and other requirements. Valid for 3 years.*

*\$25 Excess Animal Permit required for more than 3 domestic fowl which
includes birds, chickens (any animal with feathers) kept for purpose of ornament or food .*

*Total number fowl and livestock allowed is five which
may include up to three domestic fowl and two livestock animals.
If maximum number is exceeded, an owner must apply for the
\$25 Excess Animal Permit in addition to the other permit fees below:*

\$150 Livestock Permit per horse/cattle annually.

\$75 Livestock Permit per hog, sheep, goat, llama, etc. annually.

\$10 Cat Colony Permit required annually if caring for more than 8 outside cats.

OTHER NEW SECTIONS

New Vicious Dog Section. Animal Care Services can seize and impound a dog from its own backyard "before" the Vicious Dog Hearing is held, based upon one neighbor's complaint. Upon receipt of a sworn notarized affidavit of complaint from an individual, Animal Care Services will investigate and the animal may be seized and impounded until determination is made following a hearing and all appeals. The animal owner pays all costs.

"Mandatory Dog and Cat Spay/Neuter on second impoundment at Animal Care Services."

“Pet Tips”
from the Responsible Pet Owners Alliance
(Permission to reprint in newsletters)
Having a "bad pet day?" Dial (210) 822-6763
PETS R US!

1. Why should my dog, cat or ferret have a Rabies vaccination?

Rabies is a fatal disease for people and animals. Vaccinations of dogs, cats and ferrets beginning at sixteen (16) weeks of age is required by local, county and state law. Annual or 3 Year Rabies Vaccine is available. Noncompliance means a \$100 fine plus \$80 court costs. Cats have outnumbered dogs in reported Rabies Cases since 1981. Cats are nocturnal and more likely to encounter rabid wildlife. Children should be taught never to play with wild animals; especially sick or dead bats found on school grounds.

2. What can I do about a neighbor who is not taking good care of his pet?"

Cases of Animal Neglect and Cruelty can be reported to the Animal Care Services Division. Call 311 and ask for the Animal Cruelty Investigator. If an animal is deprived of fresh air, food, water, veterinary care, shelter or exercise, the Animal Cruelty Investigator will visit the pet owner and resolve any identifiable problems or the animal can be impounded.

3. What can I do about my neighbor's barking dog?

First, talk to the neighbor as he may not know the dog is barking. If the barking continues, talk to the neighbor again and tell him that this is a "nuisance" violation covered in city ordinance. Simply bringing the dog inside the house or garage will stop the barking. Training collars are available for dogs and a surgical option exists that will lower the volume, not stop the barking altogether. If the neighbor is uncooperative, tell him you will be forced to do something about it. If the barking continues, go to Animal Care Services and file a complaint stating "the existence of a public nuisance." A complaint filed by two or more neighbors within a twelve-month period regarding the barking gives rise to the presumption that the animal is a public nuisance. Each neighbor must occupy a different residence.

4. Why should I have to "scoop poop" and keep my dog on a leash when off my property?

Because it can be a \$100 fine for each offense plus \$80 court costs if you don't. San Antonio ordinance states that an animal owner can't take animals onto private property for the purpose of allowing the animal to defecate, but must keep the animal in the public right-of-way, and then remove his pet's fecal matter. This is easily done with a plastic baggie.

5. If I am scratched or bitten by a dog, cat or ferret, what should I do?

If there is any break in the skin, wash wound thoroughly with soap and water. See the doctor as soon as possible. Remember what the animal looked like so it can be found for Rabies testing. Anyone who knows of an animal biting or scratching so as to break the skin is required by Texas State Law to report the incident to the local health authority. This may be done in San Antonio by calling 311 and ask for the Animal Control Bite Investigator. Biting animals are required by city, county and state law to be quarantined for Rabies observation for 10 days from the date of the bite, regardless of the vaccination status of the animal. The Animal Care Services director can give permission to quarantine the animal at home if he so chooses.

6. What is the best way to identify my pet so it can be returned to me if it gets lost?

A microchip is proof of ownership! All species of pets can be microchipped: dogs, cats, exotic birds, ferrets, potbellied pigs, and reptiles, etc. This procedure injects a computer chip about the size of a grain of rice between the pet's shoulder blades. A scanner can be passed over the pet, read the chip and the ID number that identifies the owner. Veterinarians and animal shelters are now scanning pets for

microchips. Keep a collar and tag on the pet also with their city pet license tag. All pets are required to have a city license tag to prove they have their Rabies Vaccination, which is state law.

7. What do July 4th and New Year's Eve have in common?

Scared dogs and firecrackers! Many dogs panic when hearing firecrackers and run away from home, sometimes going over or under fences. Keep your dogs and cats inside on these holidays if at all possible -- either crated or confined in a laundry room or garage. More lost dogs are reported following these holidays than any other time.

8. Why should I keep my animals confined to my yard?

Because it can cost \$200 - \$300 for impoundment fees and citations if they are picked up and taken to the Animal Care Services Facility. In San Antonio dogs must be confined to their owner's property at all times except when on a leash. Cats are no longer subject to the confinement requirements unless they are deemed to be a nuisance. Loose cats can pose a serious problem in neighborhoods. They can carry fleas, spread disease transmissible to humans, ruin neighbors' flower beds, track and cause scratches across the top of cars and cause neighbors' dogs to bark all day and night! Allowing pets to run loose exposes them to disease, predators, dog and cat fights requiring veterinary care, and the possibility of being run over by a car which can result in expensive veterinary bills.

9. What can be done about a neighbor's dog that is terrorizing our family?

One or more individuals can go to the Animal Care Services Facility and file an affidavit of complaint about a potentially vicious animal. There will be an investigation, with seizure of the animal possible and a hearing will be scheduled if so determined. The animal owner has the right to provide an affidavit and witnesses in defense of the animal. The Animal Care Services director or his designee will conduct the vicious animal determination hearing. Should the animal be declared vicious, it must be sterilized, kept in a specially built enclosure, be muzzled and leashed when out of the enclosure, carry a liability insurance policy of \$100,000 and be microchipped for identification among other requirements.

10. What can I do about loose dogs and cats roaming my neighborhood?

Call Animal Care Services at 311 if they are sick, injured or biting animals. Animal Care Services no longer picks up any other dogs and cats. Cats are no longer subject to Leash Laws. The Facility only accepts animals at the door on a limited basis which has resulted in more dumped dogs and cats in the city.

11. What can I do if I lose or find an animal?

Notify the following groups who maintain Lost & Found Pet Lists: Man & Beast 590-7387 and Responsible Pet Owners Alliance 822-6763. If you find a dog, the Express-News offers a free 3 line ad for "found" animals only in their Classified Ads Section. Call: 225-1666. For lost dogs, visit (don't call) the Animal Care Services Facility at 4710 Hwy 151 and check their kennels every day. Animals are only held 72 hours before being euthanized. Owners are called if the animal is microchipped or wearing their city license tags. Some impounded animals are on the city's website. Go to www.sanantonio.gov, click on Animal Care Services and then choose "Lost Animals."

Place flyers in your neighborhood vet clinics, stores and elsewhere with your phone number and a photo. Offer a reward. Place a brief ad in newspapers giving description, species, color and markings, long or shorthaired, size, and your phone number. Write out the ad before calling the newspaper. Visit area animal shelters and check their kennels. Don't give up as sometimes it takes months to be reunited with a lost pet.

12. What can I do to help my pet live a longer, healthier life?

Preventive medicine! All pets should have annual check-ups and vaccinations. Vaccinations are inexpensive protection against costly treatment later or even the early death of your pet. Dogs should be kept on heartworm preventive medication year round due to our warm climate. Heartworm treatment can be very expensive. Consult your veterinarian about necessary vaccinations and topical flea preventives.