

# Animal Laws **ARTICLE 12**

Baltimore County Code

- 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.
- All dogs and cats over three months of age must be vaccinated against rabies.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.)
- It is a violation of the law to allow dogs to bark excessively.
- 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.
- Owners are responsible for the timely removal of pet waste on public and private property.
- Do not abandon or neglect pets you cannot keep. Instead, call Animal Control for assistance.
- Any puppy or kitten sold or given away must be at least eight weeks old. Anyone selling or giving away a puppy, kitten, dog or cat must 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.
- 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.

<b>First Offense</b>	\$30 fine
<b>Repeated Offenses</b>	\$150 fine
<b>Animal Licensing Offense</b>	\$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.



Healthy people living, working, and playing in Baltimore County

Gregory Wm. Branch, M.D., MBA, CPE - Health Officer and Director  
Baltimore County Executive Kevin Kamenetz and the Baltimore County Council

Revised May 2011

## Baltimore County Animal Licenses

Baltimore County Animal licenses are sold at the following locations:

County Office Building	410-887-3630
Baltimore County Animal Shelter	410-887-5961
Any Baltimore County Full Service Libraries	410-887-6100

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

**SUBMIT:** Two (2) copies of the licensing application.

**DISCOUNTS:** Discounted licensing for senior citizen pet owners and for spayed or neutered pets.

## Baltimore County Animal Information and Resources

Animal Bites (Communicable Disease)	410-887-2724
Animal Control Division/Animal Shelter	410-887-5961
Animal Hearing Board	410-887-5964
Animal Licensing	410-887-3630
Dog Obedience Classes (Recreation & Parks)	410-887-3871

## Additional Animal Resources

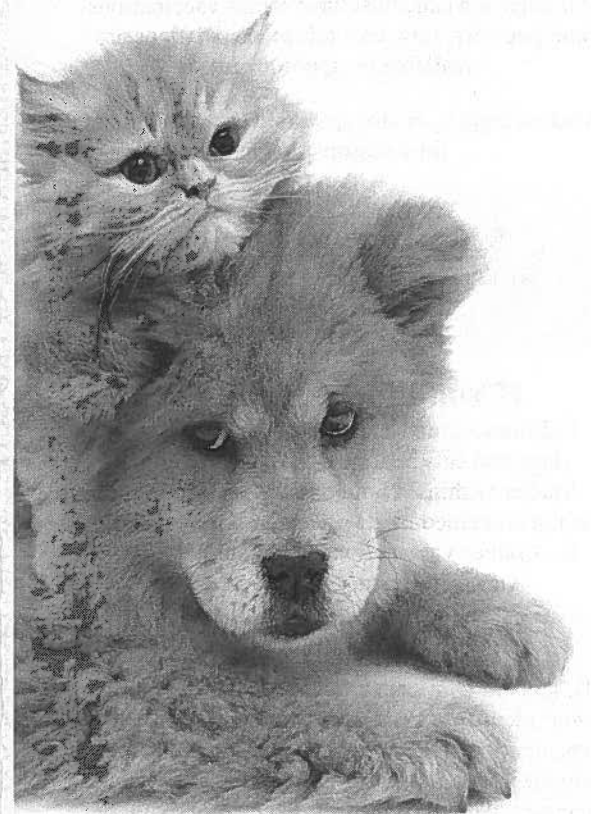
Baltimore City Animal Control	410-396-4694
Humane Society (spay/neuter)	410-833-4480
SNAP (Spay/Neuter All Pets)	1-410-885-5783
MD SPCA	410-235-8826
Mediation & Dispute Center	410-467-9165
National Dog Registry	1-800-637-3647
Wildlife Problems	1-877-463-6497

## TTY users call Maryland Relay

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.

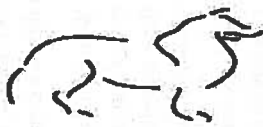
BALTIMORE COUNTY

# Animal Control Information



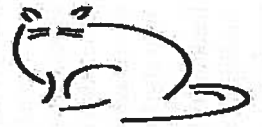
## Animal Laws & Licensing

Baltimore County Department of Health  
Animal Control Division  
13800 Manor Road | Baltimore, MD 21013  
Phone: 410-887-5961  
[www.baltimorecountymd.gov/go/pets](http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/go/pets)



# ANNUAL CAT & DOG LICENSE APPLICATION

License Year: July 1 through June 30  
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD  
DEPARTMENT OF PERMITS, APPROVALS AND INSPECTIONS  
111 W. CHESAPEAKE AVENUE, ROOM 101  
TOWSON, MARYLAND 21284  
410-887-3630



If you have more than 3 dogs, you are required to obtain a Holding Facility/kennel license. Contact this office for details.

FEE SCHEDULE: Circle applicable fee	REGULAR FEE (May 1 to July 31)	PENALTY FEE (for renewals after July 31)
Owner under 60/ animal altered:	\$ 7.00	\$ 12.25
Owner under 60/ animal unaltered:	\$ 15.00	\$ 26.25
Owner 60 & over/ animal altered:	\$ 7.00	\$ 12.25
Owner 60 & over/ animal unaltered:	\$ 9.00	\$ 15.75
Library Convenience Fee:	\$ 2.00	
Replacement Fee:	\$ 5.00	

(Checks made payable to "Baltimore County, MD")



Licenses are available through Baltimore County Full-Service Library branches, Animal Control, Office of Permits and Licenses, and by mail at the above address. Call this office to find the most convenient location.

## OWNER INFORMATION

OWNER'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_ HOME PHONE NO. \_\_\_\_\_ TDD/TTY: Yes

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CONTACT PHONE NO. \_\_\_\_\_ TDD/TTY: Yes

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

**SENIOR CITIZEN (60 years or older)** - If you have reached your 60<sup>th</sup> birthday, you are entitled to the senior citizen discount. **PROOF OF AGE MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THIS APPLICATION:** ex., driver's license, copy of your birth certificate, senior citizen discount card (photocopies may be used). An AARP or social security card may NOT be used as proof of age.

SENIOR CITIZEN OWNER (1): BIRTHDATE \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_, INITIAL \_\_\_\_; SENIOR CITIZEN OWNER (2): BIRTHDATE \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_, INITIAL \_\_\_\_

Proof of Age Verified By \_\_\_\_\_ (Processor's Initials)

## ANIMAL INFORMATION

An application for a Baltimore County animal license must be made within 30 days after moving to the county; within 30 days after obtaining a dog or cat; or by the time the cat or dog is 4 months old.

ANIMAL'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_ YEAR BORN \_\_\_\_\_ ANIMAL TYPE: (check one)  Cat  Dog

BREED \_\_\_\_\_ MIXED:  No  Yes PREDOMINATE COLOR(S) \_\_\_\_\_

FEMALE: (check one)  Spayed /  Not Spayed MALE: (check one)  Neutered /  Not Neutered

Proof of alteration (spayed/neutered) from a veterinarian is attached.

I do not have and/or cannot obtain proof from a veterinarian, but I hereby certify that my pet is altered.

## RABIES INFORMATION:

EVIDENCE OF AN UP-TO-DATE RABIES VACCINATION CERTIFICATE MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THIS APPLICATION (Both cats and dogs must be continuously vaccinated against rabies.) Only a certificate signed by a veterinarian (or a photocopy of the certificate) stating the date of the vaccination, expiration date, and the type of vaccine is acceptable.

FACILITY NAME \_\_\_\_\_ (Clinic, Veterinary Hospital, Pet Center, etc.) NAME \_\_\_\_\_ (Veterinarian) PHONE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

This is an application for: (check one)  New  Renewal  Replacement animal license tag

For renewal or replacement of lost tag (current license year), provide the PREVIOUS LICENSE TAG NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

Check box below where applicable, and contact this office for necessary forms (available only at Office of Permits & Licenses, 410-887-3630)

GUIDE DOG:  Seeing Eye  Hearing Ear  Mobility Impaired (attach required affidavits)

CANINE GUARD - If you checked this box, a permit is required, see Baltimore County Code Title 2, §12-2-301 - §12-2-303. Canine Guards

PROTECTION-TRAINED DOG - If you checked this box, see Baltimore County Code Title 2, §12-2-304. Protection-Trained Dog Warning

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE INFORMATION IS TRUE AND CORRECT.

OWNER'S SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

License Tag No.	Date Received	Cash Rcpt. No.	Cash Rcpt. Date
Amount Paid	RABIES TAG NO.	RABIES EXPIRATION DATE	____/____/____
Location Sold: TM TC AC LIBRARY	Processor's Initials	Date Entered (PDM)	By _____

REV 04/11

**\*\*PLEASE REMEMBER TO SEND TWO COPIES OF THE LICENSE APPLICATION\*\***

### Animal Shelter Adoptions

Visiting hours for adoptions:  
Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Closed on Sundays and holidays.

Get more information or view adoptable pets at:  
[www.baltimorecountymd/go/pets](http://www.baltimorecountymd/go/pets)

### 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

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.

### Redeeming Your Pet

To redeem your pet at the Animal Shelter, bring your identification and proof of current rabies vaccination and a 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.

### 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.

## DO'S AND DON'TS OF DOG SAFETY

### DO:

1. Ask the owner's permission before petting a dog.
2. Remember not every dog that wags its tail is friendly.
3. Approach dogs slowly and carefully.
4. When meeting a new dog, let it come to you and smell you first.
5. Know where the dogs in your neighborhood live.
6. Stay away from stray dogs.
7. Remain calm if a dog approaches you. Don't scream. Stand like a tree!
8. Always protect your face, neck and arms.
9. Give a dog a book or backpack to chew on if you're attacked.
10. Curl up into a ball if a dog knocks you on the ground.
11. Cover your head, neck and face if you're attacked.
13. Use a leash when you walk your dog.
14. Tell all your friends what you've learned about dog safety.



### DO NOT:

1. Make loud noises around dogs.
2. Bother a dog while it is sleeping or eating.
3. Tease a dog.
4. Reach through a fence to pet a dog.
5. Put your hand between two dogs.
6. Put your face close to a dog.
7. Help a hurt dog; get an adult to help.
8. Enter a yard with a dog in it without permission.
9. Leave a baby alone with a dog.
10. Bother a mother dog when she's caring for her puppies.
11. Pull a dog's ears or tail.



Healthy people living, working, and playing in Baltimore County

Gregory Wm. Branch, M.D., MBA, CPE - Health Officer and Director  
Baltimore County Executive and the Baltimore County Council

This brochure has been created by the Division of Animal Control  
in cooperation with the Snyder Foundation for Animals.

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9/2010

# PREVENTING DOG BITES

A Guide for Children and Parents



*Any dog can bite!*

*This brochure contains tips for children and parents to help families stay safe around dogs.*

BALTIMORE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
Animal Control Division & Baltimore County Animal Shelter  
13800 Manor Road  
Baldwin, MD 21013

Phone: 410-887-5961

TTY users—call through Maryland Relay

E-mail: [animalcontrol@baltimorecountymd.gov](mailto:animalcontrol@baltimorecountymd.gov)  
Web site: [www.baltimorecountymd.gov/go/pets](http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/go/pets)



## TIPS FOR CHILDREN

- Do not play with a dog unless a grown up is with you.
- Do not walk up to a dog that you do not know.
- Do not run from a dog and scream. Dogs like things to be calm and quiet.
- Remain still if a strange dog comes up to you (be still like a tree).
- Do not disturb a dog that is sleeping, eating, or caring for puppies.
- Do not try to take a toy or treat from a dog.
- Never walk up to pet a dog that is chained up or inside its fenced yard.
- If you are knocked over by a dog, roll into a ball and lie still (be like a log).
- Always ask the pet owner for permission before you pet his dog.
- Dogs don't like to be hugged, kissed, thumped on the head or too close face-to-face.
- Always walk your dog on a leash.
- Report stray, sick or injured dogs to a grown up.

## TIPS FOR PARENTS

- Wait before adding a dog to your household if your child is fearful or apprehensive around dogs.
- Modeling kind, appropriate behavior with your dog is very important for children to see. Don't play rough or aggressive games with your dog, like wrestling and tug of war.
- Dogs with a history of aggression are inappropriate in households with children.
- Never leave infants or young children alone with a dog. Even very gentle dogs can bite if they are provoked.
- Monitor playtime, so that you can redirect activity or create a time out if necessary.
- Spaying or neutering reduces aggressive tendencies.
- Immediately seek professional advice from a veterinarian, or obedience trainer if your dog develops aggressive behaviors.
- Take your dog to obedience school and socialize him to a variety of situations. Train him to relinquish toys and food without growling and reward his good behavior.
- **Report stray dogs to Baltimore County Animal Control at 410-887-5961.**
- **Keep your dog's rabies vaccinations up-to-date and purchase an individual dog license annually.**

# **Humane Trapping Instructions**

## **About the Trap**

- You may borrow the trap for one week, unless other arrangements are made.
- You are financially responsible if the trap is damaged or lost.
- Animal Control will work with you if you own a trap or if you rent one from a rental center. You must follow the humane trapping rules.

## **When to Trap**

- Set your trap in the evening, Sunday through Thursday only.
- Don't set the trap on Fridays or Saturdays unless you are trying to trap an animal that has bitten someone.
- If you have been feeding the animals, stop feeding them before you set the trap.
- If you don't capture an animal by noon, trip the trap and try again in the evening with fresh bait. Check the trap often.

## **Setting the Trap**

Place fresh, canned cat or dog food behind the metal trip pan as far back in the trap as possible. Clip the trap door shut.

1. Push the top of the door in and pull the bottom of the door upward. There is a small hook attached to the right side of the trap top.
2. Secure the hook so that the door is held wide open. This also raises the trip plate.
3. Test the trap by inserting a pencil through the cage and pressing on the metal trip pan. Reset the trap. Be sure to replace the bait with fresh food every day.

## **Capturing an Animal**

Watch the trap closely and call Animal Control when you have trapped an animal. If you call between 8:00 a.m. and noon, the animal will be picked up the same day. You may also bring the trapped animal to the Animal Shelter. Keep the trapped animal in a safe, protected place.

## **Baltimore County Code Reference about Turning in Stray Animals**

Article 12-3-201 requires that all stray animals be turned in to Animal Control within 24 hours. The person who turned the stray animal in may make arrangements to claim the animal after the holding period if the animal is not claimed by its owner.

## **Trapping Wildlife**

Trapping wildlife without a permit is a violation of Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) law. If you trap wild animals while trapping for cats, adjust your trapping hours to avoid the night hours. For help with nuisance wildlife problems, call the State's toll-free wildlife hotline at 1-877-463-6497.

Baltimore County Department of Health  
Animal Control Division Office Hours: Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
Telephone: 410-887-5961  
Fax: 410-817-4257

**[www.baltimorecountymd.gov/go/health](http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/go/health)**

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