

Hello from Charlton Animal Control! The position of dog officer has undergone some big changes over the past six months and we are in the process of broadening our responsibilities to full Animal Control. To accomplish this transition, Animal Control has been placed under the Police Department, an Animal Control Officer (ACO) job description has been created, and the ACO position is now full time and salaried with benefits. Charlton Animal Control currently has one full time Officer and two part time Officers.

Charlton Animal Control Officers are responsible for enforcement of State and local laws and regulations related to animal control. In addition, ACOs will oversee the care and control of domestic animals and, in some instances, wildlife.

It is important that residents recognize and understand that the current town pound is only suitable for impounding dogs. We have no facility to impound cats or wildlife at this time. We will, however, respond to all animal related calls and provide numerous valuable resources for all types of animals.

More detailed information will be available on our webpage at www.townofcharlton.net/animalcontrol.htm, but the following is a brief overview of what you can expect:

Dogs: Catch or pick up stray and/or injured dogs. Return to owner (if known) or impound. Issue citations and fines, when appropriate.

Cats: Work with residents who find stray cats by maintaining a lost and found list. Reunite with owner if possible. Refer to other agency when appropriate.

Wildlife: Respond when needed to reports of injured wildlife. Transport sick or injured wildlife to an appropriate wildlife facility when necessary.

All Domestic Animals and Wildlife: Investigate complaints from the public and respond to each complaint according to the merit of the situation. Respond to reports of domestic or wild animals in distress/trapped in unusual places. Please note that a person or organization duly licensed in removing nuisance animals must be notified in situations that necessitate trapping. Work closely with Animal Inspector on any suspected rabies exposure or other suspected infectious diseases.

The Charlton ACOs will strive to help residents with dogs, cats, other domestics, and wildlife, and educate the public about local resources for a variety of animal related issues.

In addition to the changes being made at the local level, proposed changes to Mass General Law statutes governing animal control are currently under review by the State. If these amendments pass, we will be revising the ACO position and Dog By-Laws accordingly. For all of these reasons, we ask your patience while we expand and grow to full animal control.

We are happy to answer any questions from Charlton residents!

Charlton Animal Control Officers
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