

Charlton Animal Control 508-248-2266

Animal Control Officers

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Municipal Animal Shelter

15 Old Town Road, Charlton, MA
Hours: By appointment

Resources for Pet Owners

Lost and Found Pet Tips and Resources

The best way to ensure that your lost pet will find its way home is to always have a collar with identification tags affixed. The Charlton Dog Restraint and Regulation By-Laws require that all dogs wear collars with license attached. Cats who are indoor/outdoor may wear a break-away collar with an ID tag. Another option for both dogs and cats is microchipping. Microchips are small computer chips (about the size of a grain of rice) that are injected under the skin, typically between the shoulder blades. Each microchip has a unique ID number associated with it and the number corresponds to owner information on file with the microchip company. If your dog or

cat is picked up as a stray, Charlton Animal Control, most local shelters, and many veterinarian offices have scanners that can read the chip and then contact the pet's owner. Talk to your vet or a local shelter about microchipping.

If your pet is missing or if you find a stray pet, follow these steps:

- Notify Charlton Animal Control immediately by calling 508-248-2266. We maintain an active lost and found list for dogs and cats.
- Notify surrounding ACOs and local shelters
- Place a lost or found ad in the local newspaper
- Create a flyer, with a photo if possible, and post it around town
- Go door to door with the flyer to see if the animal belongs to anyone
- Post your lost/found dog or cat for free on lost/found website
- For more tips and a links to ACO lists and shelters, visit us on the web at www.townofcharlton.net/animalcontrol.htm

Low Cost Spay/Neuter, Vaccination, and Microchipping Programs

The following low cost spay/neuter and/or vaccination programs are available for cats and dogs. Some include heartworm/lyme testing for dogs and FELV/FIV testing for cats as well as microchipping. Please contact the appropriate organization for more information, pricing, and participating veterinarians:

1. Second Chance Animal Shelter, www.secondchanceanimals.org, 508-867-5525 (East Brookfield)
2. People for Animals League, www.people4animals.org 774-745-8041 (Spencer)
3. PETCO, 508-721-2241 (Auburn)
4. SpayUSA, www.spayusa.org, 800-248-SPAY (National)
5. MSPCA SNAP, www.mspca.org, 617-522-7400 (Boston)
6. Friends of Animals, www.friendsofanimals.org, 800-321-7387
7. Alliance for Animals, www.afaboston.org/clinics.htm, 617-268-7800, (Boston)
8. Concerned Citizens for Animals, www.cc4animals.org, (413) 565-5383 (Springfield)
9. Quick Fix, www.secondchancefund.org, Second Chance Fund for Animal Welfare, 978-779-8287 (Bolton)
10. STOP, www.thestopclinic.com, Mobile Spay Unit, (617) 571-7151 (South Boston)

Re-homing Your Pet

We believe that pets are for life. But we also understand that there are times when you may need to re-home your cat or dog (or other small animal). Here are some tips if you need to find your pet a new home:

- If your pet was adopted from a shelter, call that shelter and inquire about their return policy.
- Place a "for adoption" ad in the local newspapers and/or post a classified ad on www.petfinder.com. Charging an adoption fee is highly recommended.
- Contact local animal shelters, a list can be found at www.secondchanceanimals.org/localshelters.htm and see if they can accept your pet into their adoption program. Most shelters have waiting lists so don't wait until the last minute to call.
- Call your vet and see if they can help you place the pet.

Feral Cats/Kitten Resources

Semi-feral (semi-wild) or feral (wild) cats/kittens are domestic felines who are not friendly and living in the wild. They do not include friendly stray cats/kittens. They do include feral colonies, i.e., a group of wild cats that live near dumpsters or other food sources, and barn cats who are accustomed to living outdoors on farms and catching mice and other small rodents. You should never attempt to pick up a cat/kitten that you think might not be friendly. Cat bites and scratches expose you to rabies and other diseases. Charlton Animal Control can help you determine if a cat is friendly or semi-feral/feral and which option would be best for the situation. If you are aware of feral cat colonies in Charlton or if you are a barn owner with a feral cat or barn cat overpopulation problem there are two solutions:

1. Trap Neuter and Release (TNR).
2. Trap and Euthanize.

For info: Charlton Animal Control (on case by case basis)

Charlton Animal Control has humane traps available for loan to residents.

Adopting a Pet

Charlton Animal Control does not currently have an adoption program. Instead, we work with local shelters that accept our unclaimed dogs and cats into their adoption programs. The shelters do age appropriate vet work prior to putting the animals up for adoption. Charlton Animal Control will occasionally post animals available for adoption on our petfinder site:

www.petfinder.org/shelters/MA351.html as a courtesy and thank you to the assisting shelter. Contact information for the shelter that has the animal is provided so please read carefully. Thanks for adopting a homeless pet!

General Information

Dogs and cats are required to be vaccinated against rabies by MA General Law, Chapter 140, Sections 137 and 145B.

Dog licensing period is January 1 to December 31. Dogs must be licensed by March 31st at the Town Clerk's Office, 37 Main Street, Charlton, MA. 508-248-2249. A mail in form can be found on line at www.townofcharlton.net/townclerk.htm

THANK YOU!