

The City
of
Port St. Lucie
Welcomes Your Pet(s)



1133 SW SOUTH MACEDO BLVD.
PORT ST. LUCIE, FL 34983
772-871-5042
772-871-5237 (FAX)
772-871-5296 (TDD)
www.cityofpsl.com

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICE HOURS:
MONDAY - FRIDAY, 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICERS
ARE ON DUTY
SEVEN DAYS PER WEEK, 8:00 AM - 5:30 PM

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICERS ARE ON-CALL FOR
EMERGENCY CALL-OUTS FROM 5:30 PM - 8:00
AM, SEVEN DAYS PER WEEK AND
24 HOURS ON HOLIDAYS.

*For a complete listing of the City of Port St. Lucie
Ordinances, please visit:
www.municode.com/library/FL/Port_St._Lucie*

DANGEROUS DOGS

Per Florida State Statute 767.14, it is not permitted for a governmental entity to discriminate based upon the breed of any dog. Therefore, the animal ordinances of the City of Port St. Lucie reflect that mandated law.

There is a great misconception that a dog acting aggressively is automatically considered to be a dangerous dog. Where the law is concerned, certain requirements outlined by FSS 767.12 must be met before Animal Control may even consider declaring a dog dangerous.

Below is a sample of the criteria required for Animal Control to declare a dog dangerous.

F.S.S. 767.11 DANGEROUS DOG DEFINITIONS

- > Has aggressively bitten, attacked, endangered, or has inflicted severe injury on a human being on public or private property.
- > Has more than once severely injured or killed a domestic pet while off the owner's property.
- > Has, when unprovoked, chased or approached a person upon the streets, sidewalks, or any public grounds in a menacing fashion or apparent attitude of attack provided that such actions are attested to in a sworn statement by one (1) or more persons and dutifully investigated by Animal Control.

Once these criteria are met and Animal Control formally declares a dog dangerous, the owner of that animal has to meet numerous mandated restrictions. Should a violation of any of these restrictions occur, the penalties for violations are as follows:

F.S.S. DANGEROUS DOG FINES

1st Offense: \$500.00 per violation
2nd Offense: \$500.00 per violation and mandatory court appearance.

The following fees are prescribed for certificates of registration of dangerous dogs as provided pursuant to F.S.S. 767.12

F.S.S. Dangerous Dog Tag initial - \$125.00
Annual renewal - \$35.00

NUISANCE WILDLIFE

On July 1, 2008, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission changed its policy on the trapping and relocation of nuisance wildlife. Per this new policy, the City of Port St. Lucie may no longer relocate any nuisance animal. If a resident is having a problem with a nuisance wild animal, they may contact the Animal Control department at 772-871-5042 and request information for possible deterrents to solve the issue. In extreme cases where deterrents will not work, it will be the responsibility of the resident to contact a local trapper to remove the nuisance animal(s).

Information on trappers can be obtained by use of the local yellow pages or online at www.myfwc.com and clicking on the wildlife link. Traps will be set by the Animal Control department for any sick, injured animals or rabies suspects.

ORPHANED WILDLIFE

Do not touch or handle baby/young wildlife. The animal's mother is usually nearby feeding or caring for other young. If you believe the animal has been abandoned, injured, or its mother killed or injured, contact a wildlife rehabilitator or request an Animal Control Officer.

TNVR Program

The Trap, neuter, vaccinate and release program was authorized by the City Manager to address concerns about feral cats in the city. This is a 5-year pilot program that was started in 2019. Animal Control will no longer pick up feral cats or cats without identification unless they are sick or injured. If you need information regarding deterrents or need to report a sick or injured loose cat please call 9-1-1. For information on the TNVR Program or to be put on the list to have the feral cats in your area go through the program, please call Operation CatSnip at 772-293-4621

STATE SENATE BILL 60-2021

In July of 2021 State Senate Bill 60-2021 was passed prohibiting municipal code enforcement officers to respond to anonymous violations of codes and ordinances that do not present an imminent threat to public health, safety, or welfare or imminent destruction of habitat.

Calls we will not respond to if anonymous:

- 92.04 Animals allowed to be kept in the city
- 92.07 Confinement of animals in heat
- 92.09 Noisy animals prohibited
- 92.15 Prohibiting the use of animals as prizes
- 92.16 Removal of animal defecation on public or private property
- 92.17 Teasing an animal
- 92.18 Number of animals
- 92.20 Retail sale of dogs, cats and rabbits
- 92.40 License required

TO HAVE AN ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER DISPATCHED CALL 9-1-1

We are dispatched on the non-emergency channel.

**ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICERS' DUTIES
& POWERS
IMMUNITY FROM PROSECUTION 92.27(A)**

The City's Animal Control Officers' duties and power are, but not limited to, the following:

- >Protection and safety of both the citizens and animals of our community.
- >Enforcement of City and State laws dealing with animals.
- >Responding to animal complaints.
- >Issue notices and citations to animal owners in violation of City ordinances.
- >Investigation of animal attacks to humans and other animals.
- >Obtain arrest warrants for violators of State laws regarding animal cruelty, dangerous dogs, and neglect.
- >Removal of wildlife from inside residences.
- >Emergency response to sick, injured, abandoned, and aggressive animals.
- >Educating the citizens of the City in animal care.

PRIVATE PROPERTY 92.27(B)

Animal Control Officers are empowered to enter onto private property and demand animal(s) and/or tag(s) be exhibited. The officer may enter into a fenced enclosure (not a dwelling or structure) for the purposes of, but not limited to, apprehending a rabid animal, assisting an animal at large, animal in need of medical attention, cruelty investigations, or aggressive animals not properly controlled. Officers are granted immunity from prosecution for a reasonable, good faith trespass on private property. Refusal by any property owner to allow the officer to enter shall constitute a violation.

**INTERFERENCE WITH AN ANIMAL CONTROL
OFFICER 92.28**

It is unlawful to forcibly interfere with, hinder, or molest an Animal Control Officer in the performance of their duties or to unlawfully seek to release any animal in the custody of an officer.

**INVESTIGATION BY AN ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER
92.29**

A formal complaint may be filed for violations not witnessed by an Animal Control Officer if a complaint affidavit is written and signed by one or more residents of the City and subsequently notarized. The affidavit should include the nature, date, and time of the violation, a description of the offending animal(s), and the animal owner's name (if known) and address.

Upon receipt of the affidavit, an Animal Control Officer will investigate the case to determine if there is probable cause to believe a violation of law has occurred. If the determination is that probable cause does in fact exist, a citation may be issued to the offending animal(s) owner.

PORT ST. LUCIE ANIMAL ORDINANCES

This is a partial list and a brief explanation of the Animal Control ordinances for the City of Port St. Lucie. Any violation may result in a citation being issued to the animal(s) owner. Currently, the citation amounts for each infraction are as follows:

- > **First Offense - \$50.00**
- > **Second Offense - \$100.00**
- > **Third & Subsequent Offenses- \$200.00 & mandatory court appearance**

ANIMALS AT LARGE 92.03 (A)

It shall be unlawful for any person to permit his/her dog, cat, or miniature Vietnamese potbellied pig to run at large in the City. Animals shall not be allowed outside the confines of their owner's home without proper restraint. Animals captured running loose are transported to the Animal Control holding facility for the owner to pick up. An impound fee of \$25.00 is charged for each animal picked up, and \$10.00 for each night the animal remains. If the owner fails to pick up the animal, it is transported to the Humane Society of St. Lucie County, 772-672-8189

LIVESTOCK NOT PERMITTED 92.05 (3)

It is unlawful to keep or permit to run at large horses, donkeys, cattle, swine, sheep, chickens, ducks, geese, roosters, goats or other animals considered to be a farm animal within the corporate limits of the City.

FEMALE PET(S) IN HEAT 92.07

It is unlawful to permit female domestic pets to be unrestrained or in any public place while they are in heat. They must be securely confined in a building or enclosure so they are inaccessible to males of a like species.

BITE CASES AND QUARANTINE REQUIREMENTS 92.08

Per Florida Law, a domestic pet involved in a bite to a human must be quarantined for a 10-day period and a bite report filed with the Animal Control Department. If the animal's rabies shot is current then the animal may be quarantined at home. However, if the animal is not current, it is impounded and quarantined at either the Humane Society of St. Lucie County or the animal's veterinarian at the owner's expense.

NOISY ANIMALS PROHIBITED 92.09

> It shall be unlawful for any person to keep, harbor, or own or maintain any animal which causes a noise disturbance by barking, yelping, howling, screeching, squawking, chirping, cawing, crowing, or whistling between the hours of 11:00 PM and 6:00 AM, or barking, yelping, howling, screeching, squawking, chirping, cawing, crowing, or whistling for continuous periods of five minutes or more at a time between 6:00 AM and 11:00 PM.

ANIMAL CARE; MANNER OF KEEPING 92.14

- > Clean, sanitary and humane conditions; kennels, runs and doghouses shall be kept clean of animal excrement; housing facilities must be structurally sound and in good repair and shall have no sharp points or edges
- > Sufficient quantities of food and fresh water daily; food should be free from contamination. Clean fresh water must be available to the animal at all times and placed in a container that cannot be tipped over or spilled
- > Proper air ventilation and circulation
- > Sufficient shelter and protection from the elements and environment; the shelter must provide protection from inclement weather. Each animal kept outdoors must have shelter of an appropriate size for the breed.
- > Medical attention and/or necessary veterinary care when it is sick, diseased or injured
- > Inoculations against the rabies virus in accordance with F.S.S. 828.30
- > Animals placed on a tether must be in an area free of objects that may cause entanglements. If no fence exists, the length must not allow the animal unauthorized access to adjoining properties. All tethers must be a minimum of six feet in length or three times the length of the animal. Choke or prong type collars are prohibited while tethered. A responsible person must be outside and within view of the animal at all times while tethered.
- > Animals kept outdoors must be brought into the residence if the outside heat index temperature reaches one hundred (100) degrees Fahrenheit or higher or wind chill factor reaches thirty-five (35) degrees Fahrenheit or lower; or during severe, inclement weather.
- > If prior case history of three (3) or more confirmed at large or manner of keeping violations exist, a resident eighteen (18) years of age or older must be home if the animal is tethered or kept outside the residence.

REMOVAL OF ANIMAL DEFECATION 92.16

It is unlawful for any person to allow an animal to defecate upon private property not owned by the person or upon public property, including but not limited to sidewalks and swales, without removing the defecation. This shall not apply to physically challenged persons or if the owner has the consent of the property owner in question.

NUMBER OF DOMESTIC ANIMAL(S) 92.18

The number of domestic animals allowed per household within the City is a total of five (5). Included under this restriction are dogs, cats, and miniature Vietnamese potbellied pigs. Miniature Vietnamese pot-bellied pigs are limited to two per household.

ANIMAL LICENSING 92.40 & 92.41(A)

All dogs, cats, and miniature Vietnamese potbellied pigs over the age of 6 months old must have a City of Port St. Lucie animal license. Annual licenses must be displayed on the animal. Proof of current rabies vaccination is required. Please call our office for current licensing fees. 772-871-5042