



## Companion Animal Management Plan

10 Points

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** This action will retire on **December 31, 2022**. For municipalities currently approved for this action, the points will remain in your application until the action expires. Municipalities applying for certification in 2023 can submit for this action as an Innovative Community Project.

### **Pre-Requirement:** Companion Animal Management Pledge

A Companion Animal Management Plan is a tool for Municipalities to establish humane, efficient, and effective solutions to companion animal (cat and dog) issues. The Plan will provide municipalities with a framework for enhanced community quality of life for animals and people, including improved public health, additional social and recreational opportunities, savings of limited and valuable resources, reduction in human-animal and human-human conflicts, and elevated civic pride.

As a first step in the process of creating a Companion Animal Management Plan, municipal leaders will commit to key essential principles to promote responsible pet ownership, end animal cruelty, encourage innovative approaches to improve effectiveness and reduce costs of animal services, and minimize nuisance complaints about companion animals. This commitment is demonstrated by adopting the Companion Animal Management Pledge.

Once the Pledge is adopted, the community can build upon that expressed intent by publicly soliciting residents, businesses, and other stakeholders to aid the development of a comprehensive plan. Development of a Companion Animal Management Plan recognizes diverse community values and encourages constructive debate among stakeholders while building a sense of community and shared purpose in accordance with the goals of the Sustainable Jersey initiative by ensuring a balance between the needs of pets and their owners and the interests of the wider community.

### **What is Companion Animal Management?**

Companion Animal Management aims to promote and facilitate a municipal environment of responsible and considerate ownership of dogs and cats and addresses the following:

The well-being of the community, including animals as well as people; costs of animal control and sheltering; wildlife and environmental protection; governance and community relations.

Both formal and informal education programs play a vital role in achieving responsible pet ownership. Please see the Animals in the Community – Education action, which outlines educational outreach activities for schools, animal organizations, businesses, and other stakeholder groups.

Municipalities are responsible for addressing issues such as public health, public safety, and public resources as they relate to the ownership of pet animals. The field of animal services operates within a complex and changing environment that requires an understanding of animal behavior, human behavior, and community behavior.

The development of a Companion Animal Management Plan engages the community by involving all stakeholders, and through outreach and marketing, guiding them to modify their behavior in support of the municipality's responsible pet ownership goals, which are likely to include:

- Promoting socially responsible pet ownership through community engagement, outreach, and marketing.

- Creating pet-friendly communities where pet nuisance is minimized.
- Improving the care and protection of pet animals in the community.
- Decreasing relinquishment and abandonment of cats and dogs and improving re-homing rates.  
Reducing dog fights and dog bites.
- Increasing the numbers of canine good citizens.
- Reducing the number of dogs and cats euthanized in New Jersey each year.
- Enabling the municipality to take a consistent approach to companion animal management issues throughout the municipality.
- Providing a strategic plan to support the activities of animal services within the municipality.  
Reducing public and environmental nuisance(s) caused by dogs and cats.
- Managing the population of dogs and cats (including encouraging neutering of dogs and cats).

## **Why is it Important?**

The well-being of humans and animals is inextricably linked and integral to human quality of life, mirroring the general health of a community as a whole. If animals are not taken into consideration within the scope of community sustainability, a community leaves itself vulnerable to human-animal and human-human conflict resulting from animal population issues and cruelty, and valuable community resources are wasted.

In contrast, fostering respect for and understanding of the relationships between animals, and people, and the benefits provided by these interactions is a critical step towards sustaining community quality-of-life over the long term.

Municipalities and local animal groups do not, on their own, have the capacity to solve many pet ownership problems. Problems concerning cats and dogs arise as a result of a failure on the part of humans, and result in difficult situations for pet owners and community members alike, sometimes with dire consequences for those involved, both people and animals.

Specifically, the problem of abandoned and feral animals in New Jersey is significant. According to the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services' Office of Animal Welfare, animal impoundment facilities take in over 100,000 animals annually. Approximately 37% of these animals are euthanized, which equals about 3,000 animals euthanized per month.

Although a clear cause and effect relationship is not always easy to identify, problems concerning cats and dogs in the community are linked to a number of factors, including some or all of the following: impulse acquisition; lack of knowledge or resources to provide adequate care; change in circumstances for owner; unforeseen animal behavioral issues; unforeseen animal or human health issues; unexpected financial circumstances; abandonment or cruelty.

Solutions include education and training; financial support; provision of temporary accommodation; veterinary intervention; legal intervention; social services intervention; municipal intervention.

Preparation of a Companion Animal Management Plan provides a fresh opportunity for municipalities and their animal control and public health divisions to engage with individual residents, not-for-profit organizations, local businesses, and other relevant stakeholders in a local effort to improve the community's relationship with animals and to ensure socially-responsible pet ownership. This process provides a chance to identify innovative solutions that are relevant to the municipality, appropriate to meet the challenges, and acceptable to stakeholders.

With a high rate of stakeholder participation, it should be possible to balance the concerns of everyone who is likely to be affected. The development of a plan with clearly defined outcomes will enable communities to track and monitor progress within their community and to see measurable results. Reporting the success and progress of the program will allow community members to witness their participation, contributing to a community-wide movement.

## **Who should lead and be involved with this action?**

This action is designed to facilitate the development of best practices in Companion Animal Management by providing a framework for stakeholder involvement with municipal departments, organizations, or businesses that are already involved in this field.

The team should consist of stakeholders related to the effort, such as community planners, animal control officers, animal cruelty investigators, veterinarians, animal shelter staff, animal advocacy and service groups, and other relevant community stakeholders, such as businesses, residents, and social service organizations. The

public should be invited to participate in this process.

All levels of municipal government should be informed of the Companion Animal Management Plan's goals and be provided with information to distribute in order to serve as a resource for residents. When possible, many communities will choose to rely on internal municipal departments to oversee the development of the Companion Animal Management Plan and implement the actions in consultation with community stakeholders.

In many cases, departments such as Health and Social Services, Public Works, Recreation, Planning, and any departments involving animal welfare or environmental protection can serve as useful resources and internal support systems.

The involvement of these entities is especially important if their cooperation is required in working with pet owners or stakeholders to support the goals outlined in the Companion Animal Management Plan. An example would be animal control officers agreeing to distribute Responsible Pet Ownership materials. Staff in these municipal departments can help to educate the public and to host workshops for working groups and residents. These internal departments can also collect relevant data.

## Timeframe

Launching a Companion Animal Management Plan program will take two to six months to organize a team, identify stakeholders, publicize the initiative to the community, and adopt a municipal resolution or pledge. Once the resolution/pledge is adopted and the initiative is launched, it may take several months to complete the first draft document, which then should be sent to stakeholder groups for comment.

This strategy will provide a Township Council or other governing body with a sound basis and direction from which it can plan, coordinate, and make future decisions to meet the needs of the community over the subsequent 5.5 years.

## Project costs and resource needs

1. Materials needed for effective publicity will vary in cost based on current outreach capabilities and the size of the community. In addition to a webpage or section on the existing municipal website, the following printed educational materials should be provided to all residents: informational brochures, flyers and signs, mailings.
2. Dedicated time from a municipal staff person or department is necessary to initiate and oversee the development of a Companion Animal Management Plan. The workload will be similar to that of planning a significant community event.
3. Plan development and implementation may require educational workshops for residents, the use of outside consultants, and participation by municipal departments.

## What to do and how to do it ("How to")

Below we have listed the requirements for earning points for this action.

1. First, in order to launch the action it is necessary to secure a Pledge/Resolution from the governing body. The Companion Animal Management Pledge is a pre-requisite and must be officially adopted and distributed to appropriate municipal personnel prior to earning points for this action. While the Pledge/Resolution may be adapted to your municipality's unique conditions, the core provisions of the model must be addressed. These include the intent to treat companion animals humanely, respectfully, and responsibly, and include the items listed in the "What to Do" section of the Companion Animal Management Pledge action. At a minimum, the Pledge/Resolution should be distributed to Planning and Zoning Board members, as well as to the Health Department, Parks Department, Animal Control officers, and Environmental Commission.
2. The Companion Animal Management Plan must be a comprehensive plan dealing with one or many aspects of cats and/or dogs within the community. It must have been developed with significant stakeholder input, and the public at large must have been invited to participate. The Plan must include goals and actions to achieve them, as well as measures by which to evaluate success. The Companion Animal Management Plan must have been developed or updated **from within 5.5 years of the June submission deadline.**
3. Outreach must have been performed to raise awareness of the municipality's action plan.

We have provided extensive guidance and recommendations for implementing the action. You do not need to follow this guidance exactly as long as your final product meets the requirements.

1) Form a task force to organize and lead the Companion Animal Management Plan effort. The purpose of the Task Force is to identify local issues and key stakeholders, to set goals, and to measure and evaluate progress. The Task Force should engage as many stakeholder groups as possible, as well as the public and local media.

2) Select a leader to coordinate and serve as a point person for the action. The leader should have the ability to interface with municipal departments, have the support of the governing body, and know how to conduct public outreach. The leader would also have responsibility for tracking overall progress in implementing actions, collecting data to verify and measure results, and reporting.

3) Draft and introduce the Resolution of Municipal Support for Responsible Pet Ownership in the Community (aka Companion Animal Management Pledge) and provide for a public discussion period. The Pledge/Resolution should be officially adopted by the governing body and distributed to relevant municipal departments (Health Department, Animal Control, Parks Department, Planning and Zoning board(s), Environmental Commission). The Pledge/Resolution should be distributed to these parties with a memo to explain expectations for their use of the Pledge/Resolution and forthcoming Plan. The Pledge/Resolution can be adapted as necessary from the following template:

4) Increasing compliance and income from licensing can underwrite the costs of implementing the Plan. Identify the most significant priority issues for your municipality in terms of companion animals. These issues may include the humane and effective reduction of feral cat populations; promoting spay/neuter efforts; providing recreational opportunities (e.g. dog parks); setting priorities related to animal control and cruelty investigation; providing training, etc. Working within the guidelines provided below, develop a comprehensive companion animal plan and work to implement actions related to at least one of the priorities in your municipality.

It is vital that you:

a. Engage stakeholders beyond the municipal government, such as non-profit organizations, veterinarians, and residents to identify priorities and develop the action plan.

b. Identify goals and objectives that have measurable results. The objectives should be specific actions that community members can take to help the municipality achieve its final goals.

For example, the goal may be to reduce the number of homeless and feral cats in the community. The objectives, therefore, may include returning lost animals to their original homes and ensuring that feral cat colonies are managed. While historically, these strategies have been evaluated by the relative decrease in shelter animal populations and nuisance complaints, the only accurate measure of progress is by taking a census of managed colonies. Enlisting the support of unofficial caregivers in this cause is extremely important.

Another example goal would be to create a more pet-friendly community, and objectives may include creating dog parks or increasing pet-friendly rental housing. The success of these strategies can be evaluated by determining how many parks or pet-friendly rental units are created.

The New South Wales (Australia) Department of Local Government has produced a Guide to Preparing Strategic Companion Animals Management Plans. Their material has been invaluable in the preparation of this Action. <http://www.dlg.nsw.gov.au/dlg/dlghome/documents/Forms/gpscamp.pdf>

(If the link to this, or any other resources, does not seem to work when you click on it, cut and paste the link into your browser.)

There must be sufficient agreement among stakeholders on each action before the Action Program goes public. The process for identifying actions could include public meetings or consultation(s) with external stakeholder groups, as well as vetting with municipal departments. Common sense should be the guide.

The New Jersey Department of Health & Senior Services, Office of Animal Welfare can provide a wealth of information and guidelines on dog licensing, animal control, animal facility inspection, feral cats, animal cruelty, and more. <http://www.state.nj.us/health/animalwelfare/index.shtml>

The New Jersey Certified Animal Control Officers Association can help with understanding the diverse duties and responsibilities, as well as best practices, of municipal Animal Control Officers and Animal Cruelty Investigators. <http://www.njcacoa.org/>

New Jersey Animal Control Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) were developed to provide clarification on animal control requirements in New Jersey and to address the most commonly received questions. The document is intended to serve as an aid to local health departments and municipal governments throughout New Jersey in meeting animal control requirements. <http://www.state.nj.us/health/animalwelfare/faqs.shtml>



Calgary Animal Services (Canada) is often cited as the most successful model in North America. The service is self-funded through licensing and related income and the income is used to develop animal friendly services as well as responsible pet ownership initiatives. [Calgary Animal Services](#)

5) Develop a communications plan to raise public awareness of the Plan. (Save money with community mailings by piggybacking on an existing mailing that goes to all households, such as recycling or tax information.)

Further promotional efforts may include:

a. Sending a press release to all media outlets and suggesting a spot in the local newspapers that will introduce the community to the Companion Animal Management Pledge (aka Responsible Pet Ownership Resolution) and supporting Plan and regularly provide updates and reports. Alternately, submit timely press releases to appropriate news outlets announcing initiation of the program, as well as reporting on successes achieved.

b. Announcing priorities and progress at public events and meetings of other community groups.

c. Establishing a website, or a section on the community website that provides regular news and updates on the research and development of the plan.

d. Municipal leaders can set an example by making their personal support of the initiative highly visible.

6) Establish a system for tracking progress and measuring results. Performance measures may include the numbers of animals impounded; return to owner rates; aggressive incidents; euthanasia rate; percentage of animals licensed; number of by-law infractions charged, and financial performance of animal control and management programs.

7) Publicly report and celebrate the community's success.

### **What to submit to earn points for this action?**

In order to earn points, your submission must meet the following standards:

**The Companion Animal Management Pledge is a pre-requisite** and must be officially adopted and distributed to appropriate municipal personnel prior to earning points for this action. While the Pledge/Resolution may be adapted to your municipality's unique conditions, the core provisions of the model must be addressed. These include the intent to treat companion animals humanely, respectfully, and responsibly, and include the items listed in the "What to Do" section of the Companion Animal Management Pledge action. Municipal pledge. At a minimum, the Pledge/Resolution should be distributed to Planning and Zoning Board members, as well as to the Health Department, Parks Department, Animal Control officers, and Environmental Commission.

1. The Companion Animal Management Plan must be a comprehensive plan dealing with one or many aspects of cats and/or dogs within the community. It must have been developed with significant stakeholder input, and the public at large must have been invited to participate. The Plan must include goals and actions to achieve them, as well as measures by which to evaluate success. The Companion Animal Management Plan must have been developed or updated \*\*from within 5.5 years of the June submission deadline
2. Outreach must have been performed to raise awareness of the municipality's action plan.

Submit the following documentation to verify the action was completed to the above standards. (Log in to the password protected webpage where you submit your online application for certification to write in the text box and upload documents).

In the text box, please provide a short narrative (300 word max) to summarize what was accomplished and the general steps taken to accomplish it. Describe how stakeholders were involved.

- Upload: Officially adopted copy of the Companion Animal Management Pledge/Resolution. Attach to that file a memo introducing the resolution and Companion Animal Plan that outlines expectations for the municipal staff regarding implementation. Please include the list of staff receiving the memo as well as their affiliations.
- Upload: Companion Animal Management Plan.
- Upload: Outreach materials, such as media reports, educational materials, etc.

**IMPORTANT NOTES:** You can upload up to six separate documents for each action. Please excerpt relevant information from large documents. Please remember that your submissions will be viewable by the public as part of your certified report.

## Spotlight: What NJ municipalities are doing

### Pitman, NJ: Canine friendly initiatives

The Borough of Pitman, New Jersey, has implemented various initiatives supporting canine-friendly causes and has worked with many local businesses. The Greater Pitman Chamber of Commerce has introduced an initiative to make a downtown stroll a little more pleasant for those traveling with leashed companions. This includes the purchase of dog-friendly kits by several local businesses that include a water bowl, treats, and clean-up bags for the dogs that pass by their shops. Eight businesses are now participating in the initiative. Proceeds from sales of each kit (\$25) go to local animal shelters. Some of the businesses have also begun to take up collections from their clients for local shelters. For more information, contact John De Cotiis, D.C. at [jrdchiropractic@yahoo.com](mailto:jrdchiropractic@yahoo.com).

### Ocean City Dog Park Project

The Ocean City Dog Park was founded to create a fenced-in, off-leash dog park where dogs can exercise in a clean, safe environment without endangering or annoying people, property, or wildlife. The park is a community project in partnership with the County of Cape May and the City of Ocean City designed to satisfy the needs of both dog owners and non-dog owners. Part of their mission is to promote education, training, and recreational activities that facilitate responsible dog ownership and better-behaved dogs through the use of volunteers and professional dog trainers. The park is open seven days per week from 8 a.m. until dusk, and residents pay a \$25 annual fee at the City Hall. Visitor and non-resident passes are also available.

<http://www.oceancitydogpark.org/>

### Burlington County Feral Cat Initiative (BCCI)

The philosophy behind the BCCI is based on the application of Trap-Neuter- Return (TNR). The BCCI offers a win-win for feral cats and for health departments charged with protecting the public health. This is a public-private animal control program designed to protect the public health, reduce shelter euthanasia, and preserve scarce shelter resources, as well as solve the community's severe feral and stray cat overpopulation crisis through the use of TNR. The proposed program includes workshops to train members of the public in how to perform TNR support services such as trap banks and free or low-cost spay/neuter; feral microchipping to allow feral census-taking and re-homing of picked up or lost ferals to their home colonies; referrals by animal control of feral and stray cat complaints to the program, and shelter policies designed to encourage the use of TNR by the public.

<http://www.njferals.org>

## Resources

### Calgary Model of Animal Services

The City of Calgary Animal & Bylaw Services' animal programs are considered to be some of the most successful programs on the continent. This is based on statistics such as Calgary's 88% return-to-owner rate for dogs and a 55% return to owner rate for cats, which results in Calgary's low dog and cat euthanasia rates. These successes, along with a steady decrease in the number of aggressive dog incidents, have all been accomplished without specific breed banning or regulating the number of dogs and cats that citizens are allowed to own. Calgary's animal programs are also self funding with no tax supported dollars used to develop and provide the services. [Calgary Animal Services](#)

### New Jersey Department of Health & Senior Services, Office of Animal Welfare

The Office of Animal Welfare is dedicated to promoting and protecting the health, safety, and welfare of companion animals in the state of New Jersey. Information is available on dog licensing, animal control, animal facility inspection, feral cats, animal cruelty, and more. <http://www.state.nj.us/health/animalwelfare/index.shtml>

### The New South Wales (Australia) Department of Local Government

has produced a Guide to Preparing Strategic Companion Animals' Management Plans. Their material has been invaluable in the preparation of this Action. [Download the PDF](#)

## Funding Resources

### American Humane

<http://www.americanhumane.org/protecting-animals/shelter-professionals/grants/>

#### a. Foreclosure Pets Grant

Grant monies are available based on resources and the generosity of American Humane's donors and are awarded to qualifying American Humane member shelters. Grant monies must be used to offset expenses already incurred in providing direct care to animals that have been impacted by a foreclosure situation. <http://www.americanhumane.org/protecting-animals/shelter-professionals/grants/foreclosure-pets/>

#### **b. Meacham Foundation Memorial Grants**

The Meacham Foundation Memorial Grant was established to provide financial assistance to agencies for shelter expansion or improvements. Grant money must be used to increase and/or improve the quality of care given to animals. Grants may be awarded in any amount up to \$4,000.

<http://www.americanhumane.org/animals/professional-resources/for-shelter-professionals/grant-programs/meacham-foundation.html>

#### **c. Second Chance Fund**

The Second Chance Fund is one way American Humane works to support member organizations in their vital work. By providing financial assistance, in select cases, to animal welfare organizations responsible for the temporary care of animals as they are prepared for adoption into permanent, loving homes, the program provides animal victims of abuse or neglect with a second chance at life.

<http://www.americanhumane.org/protecting-animals/shelter-professionals/grants/second-chance-fund/>

#### **Animal Welfare Trust**

The Animal Welfare Trust's priorities include humane education, farm animal welfare, and vegetarianism. General organizational funding will be considered, but preference is given to well-defined projects with clear goals and objectives. Capital projects are not considered. Grants generally range from \$2500 - \$20,000.

<http://foundationcenter.org/grantmaker/awt/prog.html>

#### **ASPCA**

The ASPCA offers grants in the range of \$500 - \$5000 for project costs associated with disaster recovery and preparedness, humane education programs, and costs associated with large seizures of animals. There is also a general shelter outreach grant program. <http://aspca.org/feature/aspca-grants.html>

#### **The Bernice Barbour Foundation**

The Bernice Barbour Foundation was established in 1986 by the late Bernice Wall Barbour, a lifelong resident of New Jersey. The 2009 funding awards included projects in the areas of spay/neuter, feral cats, and animal behavior. <http://www.bernicebarbour.org/>

#### **Build-A-Bear Workshop Foundation**

The Build-A-Bear Workshop Foundation offers grants in the range of \$1,000 - \$10,000 for animals in domestic pet programs including animal welfare organizations, pet rescue and rehabilitation organizations, and therapeutic and humane education pet programs. <http://www.buildabear.com/shopping/contents/content.jsp?catId=400002&id=700010>

#### **Feeding Pets of the Homeless**

Feeding Pets of the Homeless provides pet food and veterinary care to the companion animals of the less fortunate in communities around the United States. Grants are awarded to licensed veterinarians in the state in which services will be rendered, to 501(c)(3) organizations, or to a branch of state or local government.

<http://www.petsofthehomeless.org/what-we-do/grant-program.html>

#### **Maddie's Fund**

Maddie's Fund grants are designed to help build a no-kill nation so that all shelter dogs and cats can be guaranteed a loving home. Maddie's Fund currently offers fifteen different kinds of grants, ranging in size from \$500 marketing awards to community collaborative grants worth millions of dollars. Applications are accepted year round - there are no deadlines. [http://www.maddies.org/grant/fund\\_guide.html](http://www.maddies.org/grant/fund_guide.html)

#### **New Jersey Veterinary Medical Association (NJVMA) Teaching Grants Program**

The NJVMA has commissioned a teaching guide with the goal of encouraging New Jersey middle grade

teachers to introduce the idea of responsible pet ownership in the classroom, and through the classroom into the community. Funding is offered up to a maximum of \$750 per grantee for the purchase of supplies needed to carry out the exercises described in the teaching guide or expenses incurred for similar exercises.

<http://www.njvma.org/grants/default.asp>

### **PetCo Foundation**

The PETCO Foundation dedicates its programs to serving their **Four Rs** - Reduce, Rescue, Rehabilitate, Rejoice. Their grants strive to achieve their mission by creating responsible pet owners, reducing the number of animals euthanized, rescuing animals in crisis, and rehabilitating undesirable behaviors in pets to keep them in loving homes. Applications from organizations that are able to enlist the support of their local PETCO store receive higher priority for consideration than those that do not have a relationship with their local store.

<http://www.petco.com/Content/Content.aspx?PC=welfareapplication&Nav=384>

### **PetSmart Charities**

PetSmart Charities has several funding opportunities available, including a spay/neuter clinic equipment grants program, a targeted spay/neuter program, and a free-roaming cat program.

<http://www.petsmartcharities.org/grants/>

### **Planet Dog Foundation**

The Planet Dog Foundation offers funding nationwide to promote and financially support service-oriented canine programs such as assistance dogs, therapy dogs, search and rescue programs or police, fire, and military dogs. Cash grants (up to \$10,000), product donations, and in-kind support are offered.

<http://www.planetdogfoundation.org/about.aspx>

### **William & Charlotte Parks Foundation for Animal Welfare**

The Parks Foundation for Animal Welfare offers grants to organizational or institutional projects, grassroots activities, or academic studies that promise to advance animal welfare in areas such as: best practices in companion animal care, including shelter medicine projects and services, conferences, capital needs for animal shelters, humane education, and prevention of cruelty or violence. Awards may also be made for specific projects that benefit animals or for general operating expenses.

<http://www.parksfoundation.org/index.html>

### **Municipal Resources**

**Animal Welfare Task Force Report**, Submitted to New Jersey Governor James E. McGreevey, Attorney General Peter C. Harvey, Commissioner

Clifton R. Lacy, November 2004.

<http://www.state.nj.us/animalwelfare/taskforcereport.pdf>

**International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) and Career Development Institute** Programs to help municipalities manage feral cat populations safely and effectively include, "A Municipal Approach to a Trap, Neuter, Vaccinate & Manage Program: A Guide to Animals in the Community Feral Cat Program" which was developed with funding from IFAW and input from members of Sustainable Jersey's Animals in the Community Task Force. A companion document, a Resources Compendium, lists resources to help municipalities set up humane and effective municipal cat population control programs.

[A Municipal Approach to a Trap, Neuter, Vaccinate & Manage Program: A Guide to Animals in the Community Feral Cat Program](#)

[Resources Compendium: A Municipal Approach to Community Cats](#)

### **New Jersey Department of Agriculture - Emergency Preparedness for Animals**

The New Jersey Department of Agriculture (NJDA) is the state agency responsible for animals in disasters. NJDA coordinates animal information and resources during disasters. NJDA also has the responsibility for developing state-wide plans and procedures regarding animals and meeting with local, state, and federal agencies to ensure that animals are incorporated into disaster planning and response.

[http://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/ah/prog/emergency\\_preparedness.html](http://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/ah/prog/emergency_preparedness.html)



## **People, Pets & Planning: Living in a Healthy Community – Symposium**

(An Australian example)

<http://www.petnet.com.au/sites/default/files/PIAS - People Pets and Planning.pdf>

**Public Open Space and Dogs: A Design and Management Guide for Space Professionals**(an Australian example)

<http://www.petnet.com.au/sites/default/files/PIAS - public open space and dogs.pdf>

**Renting with Pets: Humane Society of the United States (HSUS)** Online Resource for Rental Managers and Pet Owners

HSUS offers information, articles, and brochures on topics that include: Finding Animal-Friendly Rental Housing, How a Pets-Allowed Policy can Work for Rental Managers, Opening Doors (and Minds) to Pets, and Renting with Pets Booklets. [http://www.humanesociety.org/animals/resources/tips/renting\\_with\\_pets.html](http://www.humanesociety.org/animals/resources/tips/renting_with_pets.html)

**Sustainable Jersey's Animals in the Community Task Force** has created a document which suggests methods by which municipalities may enhance their ability to meet their legal and ethical responsibilities for the care and management of animals in the community without expending tax dollars. These suggestions will help municipalities generate funds and reduce costs, which will help sustain animal welfare programs without increasing the financial burden on taxpayers. (This document was developed by the Task Force with funding from IFAW.)

[A Municipal Approach to a Self-Sustaining Community Animal Welfare & Enhanced License Compliance Program](#)

**Sustainable Jersey's Animals in the Community Task Force** has also developed a Press Release kit which municipalities can adapt to help inform the community about animal related issues and services such as rabies clinics. Each press release is designed to be easily personalized in seconds to add the name of the municipality and that of the public official issuing it. It is recommended that you issue one press release a month to your local papers depending on the subject matter and time of year.

[Municipal Press Release Kit](#)

## **Animal Welfare Resources**

**Animal Sheltering.org** (for shelter professionals)

An online (and print) publication by the Humane Society of the United States, targeted toward animal shelter professionals. Offers a wide range of resources. <http://www.animalsheltering.org/>

**Animal Welfare Federation of New Jersey** maintains a comprehensive web site of past and pending state legislation regarding shelter regulations and animal cruelty laws. The site is also a resource hub of educational opportunities for animal control officers and animal cruelty investigators, as well as news regarding pet-related issues (spay/neuter, feral cats).

[www.awfnj.org](http://www.awfnj.org)

## **Association of Shelter Veterinarians (ASV)**

The ASV is a national organization working to “advance the practice of shelter medicine and to act as a resource for the dissemination of information and the support of ongoing study of veterinary medicine in a shelter environment.” They have recently produced the first comprehensive shelter standards document. <http://www.sheltervet.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=29>

<http://www.sheltervet.org/>

## **Animal Control Resources**

### **Dog Bite Law**

This is a non-commercial, extensive resource for Animal Control Officers, dog bite victims, dog owners, parents,

and others needing to learn about the legal rights of victims, and other aspects of the dog bite epidemic. According to the site, Dog bite losses exceed \$1 billion per year nationally, with over \$300 million paid by homeowners insurance. <http://www.dogbitelaw.com/>

### **National Animal Control Association (NACA)**

NACA's mission is to define and promote professionalism in the animal protection, care, and humane law enforcement field by providing quality services, education, training, and support. A range of resources and information about training opportunities is available at this site. <http://www.nacenet.org/>

### **New Jersey Animal Control Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**

These FAQs provide clarification on animal control requirements in New Jersey and address the most common questions. It is intended to serve as an aid to local health departments and municipal governments throughout the State in meeting their animal control requirements. <http://www.state.nj.us/health/animalwelfare/faqs.shtml>

### **New Jersey Certified Animal Control Officers Association**

This website provides information to Animal Control Officers and Animal Cruelty Investigators, and helps the residents of New Jersey understand the diverse duties and responsibilities of those professions. <http://www.njcacoa.org/>

### **The New Jersey Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (NJSPCA)**

The NJSPCA is a non-profit organization providing humane law enforcement and animal cruelty investigation. Their website includes information on topics including NJ Animal Welfare statutes, dog fighting, evacuation tips, and more. <http://njspca.org/about-njspca-statutes.htm>

### **Community & Business Resources**

**Animal Assisted Therapy AAT and Animal Assisted Activities** This website provides information about the benefits of Animal-Assisted Therapy and activities. Phil Arkow, who teaches the Survey and Independent Study courses on Animal-Assisted Therapy and Animal-Assisted Activities at Camden County College in Blackwood, NJ, writes "Companion animals are being introduced into the therapeutic regimens of many health care institutions: nursing homes, hospitals, rehabilitation centers, psychiatric institutions and others. Therapeutic riding programs improve the motor skills and coordination of the physically challenged. Pets help inmates in correctional facilities and juvenile offenders to learn empathy and compassion." <http://www.animaltherapy.net/>

**FUR ALERT:** Like Amber Alert for pets, FurAlert allows animal lovers to help each other! Use the free iPhone app to notify people nearby about your missing pet so they can help you quickly reunite. Help others find their missing pets and be a hero!

### **Community Wildlife Habitat Program**

<https://www.nwf.org/CommunityWildlifeHabitat/>

### **Frequently Asked Questions about Pets and Foreclosed Homes**

<https://www.avma.org/KB/Resources/FAQs/Pages/Frequently-asked-questions-about-pets-and-foreclosed-homes.aspx>

### **Veterinary Resources**

#### **American Veterinary Medical Association**

The AVMA website is an in-depth resource on a wide range of companion animal topics, including a section on public resources providing animal health brochures, disaster preparedness information, dog bite prevention, pet care, selecting a pet, spaying and neutering, zoonotic diseases, and more. <http://www.avma.org/>

#### **Animal Welfare Association**

Located in Voorhees, NJ, the Animal Welfare Association operates a low-cost spay/neuter clinic that is open to all members of the public regardless of residence or income. [http://www.awanj.org/site/PageServer?pagename=clinic\\_fa](http://www.awanj.org/site/PageServer?pagename=clinic_fa)

### **East Coast New Jersey Spay Clinic**

912 Hazlewood Dr., Toms River, New Jersey 08753, 732-929-9449. Clinic offering low-cost spaying and neutering.

### **The Neuter Commuter**

This is a mobile, low-cost spay-neuter clinic based out of Passaic, NJ.

[http://www.neutercommuter.org/who\\_are\\_we0.aspx](http://www.neutercommuter.org/who_are_we0.aspx)

### **New Jersey Veterinary Medical Association (NJVMA)**

The NJVMA website offers a wide range of educational and information resources on companion animal care. The All Things Animal Center provides information on health, pet care, and behavioral topics, and there is an extensive list of articles on topics such as traveling with pets, lyme disease, heartworm, pet first aid, nutrition basics for dogs and cats, etc. Grant and scholarship programs are available. [www.njvma.org](http://www.njvma.org)

### **People for Animals**

Hillside, NJ, 973-282-0890 Robbinsville, NJ 609-208-3252

Low-cost spay/neuter clinic and pet rescue. New Jersey's largest spay/neuter clinic performing over 22,000 surgeries annually. <http://www.pfaonline.org/>

### **Spay / Neuter Resources**

#### **Monmouth County SPCA Spay/Neuter Clinic**

260 Wall St., Eatontown, NJ 07724, 732-542-3125

Provides low-cost spay/neuter services, vaccines, and flea products

[Services](#) and [Clinic](#)

#### **State of New Jersey Low Cost Spaying/Neutering Program**

The program offers low-cost services to New Jersey resident owners of shelter-adopted pets, and to low-income individuals in the state. Information about eligibility can be found on the website.

<http://www.state.nj.us/health/cd/spayneut.htm>