

Chapter 9 Animal Control Regulations

§9-8 Public hearings.

- A. Affidavits of Complaint and Requests for Hearing before the Animal Control Commission must be accompanied by the appropriate documentation concerning any evidence substantiating the said complaint.
- B. Affidavits of Complaint and Requests for Hearing before the Animal Control Commission, written statements, and / or evidence may not be submitted anonymously.

§9-10 Animal Control Officers.

- A. Animal Control Officers are permitted to enter the interior of any residence or building with the consent of the owner / occupant.

§9-11 Animal Services Center.

- A. The Animal Services Center shall promptly report all bites of a level 3 or higher on the Dog Star Daily bite classification system to the Animal Control Office.
- B. The Animal Services Center shall have owners or adopters sign an acknowledgement agreement letter agreeing to comply with the restrictions and conditions imposed upon an animal deemed dangerous by the Animal Control Commission, whether the animal will reside in or outside of the County.

§9-12 Animal registration.

- A. An owner/ custodian must register a dog, cat, or ferret within thirty days of County residency.
- B. The Animal Services Center shall issue and maintain records for the registration of dogs, cats, ferrets and dangerous animals.
 - (1) All registration applications must be signed by the owner/custodian who is attesting that all statements made and or answers given are truthful and that all answers given are subject to penalty of perjury.
 - (2) Permanent registration fees for dogs, cats and ferrets shall be \$11.00.
 - (3) Dangerous Animal registration fees shall be \$100.00 for altered, and \$200.00 for unaltered animals.
 - (4) Animals registered as Dangerous Animals may be subject to inspection upon renewal.

§9-13 Licensing of commercial animal establishments.

Commercial Animal Establishments will be regulated using the following seven categories:

- Breeder of dogs, cats, psittacine birds
- Groomer, Mobile Groomer
- Pet Shop
- Boarding Kennel

- Humane Society, Animal Rescue
- Petting Zoo, Zoological Park
- Auction

A. General Standards

(1) Animals are required to:

- (a) have daily access to play and exercise.
- (b) have appropriate access to fresh potable water, and fresh food provided at appropriate intervals to maintain a healthy weight.
- (c) have daily positive human contact and socialization.
- (d) have their overall health and behavior assessed daily and any deviation in its health must be addressed expeditiously and appropriately to ensure good health of the animal.
- (e) be free from internal and external parasites.
- (f) be afforded regular grooming to ensure health and comfort.
- (g) when euthanasia is necessary, it shall be performed humanely.

(2) Primary shelters / enclosures are required to:

- (a) be large enough to allow the animal to sit, stand, stretch to full length and height, lay down, and turn around comfortably and without difficulty.
- (b) be constructed and maintained to securely confine the animals without causing injury.
- (c) have solid non-wire flooring appropriate for species and breed of animal.
- (d) have bedding material available that is clean, safe, and appropriate for species and breed.

(3) Facility standard operation procedures shall:

- (a) provide protection from adverse or extreme weather conditions.
- (b) have regular lighting cycles (natural/artificial) appropriate for animals.
- (c) be kept sanitary, free of odor and debris, and does not pose a risk to animals.
- (d) frequently remove, properly store, and dispose of excrement.
- (e) have sufficient number of staff to carry out appropriate levels of care and for the number, and species of animals kept therein.
- (f) have an emergency preparedness plan that is adequate for the type of facility and breeds of animals kept therein.
- (g) have an established Play and Exercise Plan.
- (h) have an established Feeding Plan.
- (i) have an established Emergency Veterinary Care Procedure.
- (j) have an established Evaluation and Health Program.
- (k) have and maintain Rabies Certificate records for all animals required by law over four months of age.
- (l) have Animal Registration records for all required animals who permanently reside in Queen Anne's County.
- (m) have and maintain Health/Veterinary Certificates and records of appropriate health care, including routine preventative care.
- (n) have a humane Euthanasia Plan.
- (o) have a procedure for the care of Dangerous Animals.

- (4) Groomer/Mobile Groomer Only: In addition to the General Standards, equipment and facility of Groomer/Mobile Groomer shall be maintained according to generally acceptable industry practices.
- (5) Breeders of Dogs, Cats or Psittacine Birds Only: In addition to the General Standards, a breeder shall obtain all age-appropriate shots and temporary registration of animals in owner's or custodian/breeder's name.
- (6) Petting Zoo / Zoological Park Only: In addition to the General Standards, animals shall be groomed and kept in accordance with normal and recognized grooming and keeping practices for their species and breed.

B. Licenses

- (1) Commercial Animal Establishment Licenses shall be valid from January 1 to December 31 of the current calendar year.
- (2) Commercial Animal Establishment License Renewal Applications must be submitted to the Animal Control Office with all required documentation prior to November 1st of each year. Failure to submit required documentation may result in the non-renewal, suspension, or revocation of the license.
- (3) Humane Societies, Animal Rescue: any establishment that primarily functions as an animal rescue is required to submit a signed affidavit that their organization will accept back any animal adopted / placed by it for return within three (3) years of the animal's adoptions / placement.
- (4) Commercial Animal Establishment License Application Fees:

License Category	Initial	Renewal
Breeder, Groomer, Mobile Groomer, Pet Shop, Boarding Kennel	\$200.00	\$100.00
Humane Society, Animal Rescue with current 501C3 in good standing	Exempt	Exempt
Animal Rescue	\$500.00	\$250.00
Petting Zoo, Zoological Park	\$50.00	\$50.00
Auction	\$2,000.00	\$1,000.00
License Transfer		\$100.00

§9-15 Standards of care.

An owner / custodian shall provide their animal(s) with nutritious food in sufficient quantity, necessary veterinary care, proper drink, air space, and shelter or protection from weather. Animals shall be groomed and kept in accordance with normal and recognized grooming and keeping practices for their species or breed type including, but not limited to:

- Small Animals – mice, hamsters, rats, gerbils, guinea pigs, rabbits, sugar gliders
- Cattle – calves, bison, buffalo and other domestic Bovidae
- Poultry – chickens, rooster, capons, hens, ducks, geese, turkeys, doves, pigeons, guinea fowl and ratites

- Small ruminants – sheep, goats, llamas, alpacas, and farm raised Cervidae
- Amphibians
- Reptiles
- Psittacine – parrots, macaws, and parakeets

A. Dogs and Cats

- (1) Food – food shall be provided to an animal with the proper nutrition and quantity for the species and breed to maintain its health, weight and wellbeing and shall be free from contaminants such as feces, mold, mildew, insects, etc.
- (2) Water – fresh drinkable water shall be provided in a sanitary receptacle that is free from ice or contaminants such as feces, mold, mildew, or insects, that is placed, positioned, or secured to prevent tipping.
- (3) Proper air, shelter, space, light, and protection from the weather:
 - (a) Air & Space – all confined environments shall be kept clean, free from feces, urine, and debris by implementing housing and husbandry practices to ensure both the physical and mental health of the animal.
 - (b) Shelter – suitable shelter shall
 - i. provide protection from weather and danger.
 - ii. be of sufficient size to allow the animal to stand, turn, and stretch to its full length and height within the shelter.
 - iii. have a weatherproof roof, enclosed sides, a doorway, and a solid floor raised at least two inches from the ground.
 - iv. not have metal interior surfaces.
 - v. have outdoor access.
 - vi. be properly ventilated.
 - vii. be capable of maintaining a temperature that is considered safe for the animal's health as determined by the species, breed, and condition of the animal.
 - viii. be kept in good repair at all times.
 - (c) Secure Enclosure – suitable secure enclosure shall be a fenced area or building from which an animal cannot escape or be accidentally released and cannot be entered by other animals or unauthorized persons. An electric fence is not considered a secure enclosure for Dangerous Animals.
 - (d) Enclosure – suitable enclosure shall
 - i. be a physically restricted area within which an animal is free to roam.
 - ii. have flooring that is structurally sound and made of a material that does not in itself present a safety or health risk to the animal (wire, cardboard, plywood, chip board, treated lumber, particle board, plastic wrap or sheathing are unacceptable).
 - iii. have sides that are structurally sound and made of a material that does not in itself present a safety or health risk to the animal (chicken wire and solid metal are unacceptable).
 - iv. be controlled for flies, fleas, and parasites.
 - v. be graded and drained to keep the surface reasonably dry and prevent any fluids from running through the enclosure.

- vi. shall meet the minimum size requirements for the number and size of dogs as listed in the table below and are applicable to all kennels, commercial kennels, veterinary hospitals, pet shops, animal care and control facilities and humane organizations.

Number of Dogs	Small (up to 25 pounds)	Medium (25 to 50 pounds)	Large (over 50 pounds)
1	3 x 7 or 21 square feet	6 x 10 or 60 square feet	8 x 10 or 80 square feet
2	4 x 8 or 32 square feet	8 x 10 or 80 square feet	10 x 10 or 100 square feet
3	5 x 9 or 45 square feet	8 x 12 or 96 square feet	10 x 14 or 140 square feet
4	8 x 10 or 80 square feet	10 x 12 or 120 square feet	12 x 16 or 192 square feet

(e) Indoor crates, pens, or enclosures shall:

- i. be large enough to allow the animal to sit, stand, stretch to full length and height, lay down, and turn around comfortably.
- ii. be constructed and maintained to securely confine the animal without causing injury.
- iii. have solid non-wire flooring appropriate for species and breed of animal
- iv. have bedding material available that is clean, safe, and appropriate for species and breed.
- v. have fresh drinkable water secured to the crate to prevent tipping.

(f) Vehicles shall not be utilized for long term shelter or enclosure.

(g) Protection from weather –

- i. Between December 1 and March 15 shelters shall (1) have an offset outer door or a flexible windproof flap facing away from the prevailing winds, (2) have dry bedding material such as wood shavings, straw, or other nonabsorbent material in sufficient quantity for insulation against the cold and damp, (3) if there is no artificial heat source, be small enough to allow the animal to warm the interior and maintain their body heat and large enough for the animal to stand, turn, and stretch to its full length and height, and (4) have fresh drinkable water without ice made available to the animal a minimum of twice daily.
- ii. Between June 1 and September 15, natural or man-made shade shall be available to a confined animal between the hours of 11:00 A.M and 3:30 P.M. Under no circumstances shall a shelter / doghouse be considered shade. Potable water shall be always available.

(4) Veterinary Care – shall include appropriate vaccinations, routine care, and emergency treatment as needed by the situation or circumstance.

(a) Emergency treatment standards

- i. Injured animals – shall be afforded immediate veterinary care if they are known or suspected to have suffered an accidental or deliberate injury or

exhibit any of the following: shock, temperature fluctuations, tremors, swelling, broken bones, open wounds, discharge or bleeding, blistering, irregular or abnormal breathing, inability to eat, drink, or get away from feces or urine, partial or total paralysis, irrational behavior, or any other abnormal sign.

- ii. Ill or diseased animals – shall be afforded veterinary care within 24 hours if they exhibit signs of disease or parasitic infestation such as infection, discharge, weight loss, abnormal skin condition or hair loss, tremors, temperature fluctuations, inability to bear weight on a limb or lameness, or any other such sign.
- iii. Other sick animals – shall be afforded immediate veterinary care if it is debilitated, weakened, or exhibits signs of bloat, persistent vomiting or diarrhea, or any other life-threatening illness.

(5) Humane care and treatment –

(a) Tethering is prohibited unless the animal is in visual range of the responsible party. A tether to confine an animal shall:

- i. be a minimum of 15 feet if the yard permits but under no circumstances less than 10 feet.
- ii. be comprised of a coated cable designed for animal use with swivels at both ends to prevent kinking and knotting.
- iii. not be made of chains or rope.
- iv. be attached to a buckle type collar or properly fitted harness made of a material to prevent choking, which is to be maintained and monitored regularly to assure proper fit and prevent discomfort or injury.
- v. be located in an area that is maintained so that the tether cannot become entangled or pose a substantial risk of injury to the animal.
- vi. be positioned so that the animal cannot wrap the tether around posts, trees, or debris.
- vii. be positioned so that the animal cannot hang from a fence or other structure or drown in a pool or body of water.

(b) Breeding – Dogs shall not be bred more often than 1 breeding every other estrus cycle.

(c) The Animal Control Office shall select and utilize recognized guides / scales to assess body condition, weather safety, and environmental health, and physical care of animals.

B. Equine – including ponies, donkeys, mules, and miniature breeds

(1) Food – food shall be provided in sufficient quality that is wholesome, palatable, and free from contamination such as feces, mold, mildew, insects, etc., and in sufficient quantity to ensure adequate and appropriate nutritive value given the age, breed/type, condition, size, work level, and number of equines.

(a) Food storage and feeding receptacles shall be kept clean and free of contaminants such as feces, mold, mildew, insects, etc.

(b) If more than one animal is fed at one time or in one place, it shall be the responsibility of the owner/custodian to ensure that each animal receives nutrition in sufficient quantity.

- (2) Water – fresh drinkable water shall be provided at all times in a sanitary receptacle that is free from ice or contaminants such as feces, mold, mildew, or insects, and is placed, positioned, or secured to prevent tipping.
 - (a) Exceptions shall be determined by veterinarian consultation or professionally accepted practices for the safety and well-being of the equine.
 - (b) Equines that are being worked or in transport shall be provided water as often as necessary for the health and comfort of the animal taking into consideration the age, breed/type, condition, size, work level, number of equine, and weather conditions.
- (3) Shelter – All equines shall have access to proper/appropriate shelter from weather extremes.
 - (a) Trees and natural weather barriers providing shelter may be considered adequate.
 - (b) Shelters shall have at least a roof and three sides, be kept in good repair and be free of standing water, accumulated waste, sharp objects, and debris.
 - (c) Shelters shall provide protection from inclement weather conditions including prevailing wind, sleet, rain, and temperature extremes.
 - (d) Shelters shall be constructed or modified to allow free flow of air to control temperature, humidity, and prevent air stagnation.
 - (e) Owners/custodians shall ensure that each equine – taking into consideration age, breed/type, and health – has access to proper shelter or protection from the weather and is not excluded from the shelter by more dominant equines.
- (4) Veterinary Care – shall include vaccination, routine care, and emergency treatment as needed by the situation or circumstance.
 - (a) Routine care standards
 - i. Hoof care maintenance and trimming every 6 to 8 weeks, or as directed by a veterinarian or farrier.
 - ii. Parasites kept under control through worming or as directed by a veterinarian.
 - iii. Treatment necessary to ensure proper and adequate food digestion.
 - iv. Vaccinations as recommended by a veterinarian.
 - v. Proof of testing for Equine Infectious Anemia (Coggins Test) is mandated by law when equines are (1) being transported across state lines, (2) bought or sold, or (3) at shows or gatherings.
 - (b) Emergency care standards – An equine shall be afforded immediate veterinary care if known or suspected to have an injury (accidental or deliberate), or is exhibiting such signs as shock, colic, founder, tremors, swelling, broken bones, open wounds, inability to eat or drink, blistering as a result of fire, acid, etc., irregular or abnormal breathing, partial or total paralysis, abnormal discharge or bleeding, signs of disease, severe parasitic infestation or infection, loss of appetite, weight loss, abnormal skin condition or hair loss, temperature fluctuation, persistent diarrhea, inability to bear weight on a limb or lameness, or other such sign.
- (5) Humane care and treatment –

- (a) Space available to the equine must be useable and maintained in a safe and healthful manner free from standing water, accumulated waste, sharp objects, and debris.
- (b) Fencing shall be well maintained and in good repair at all times.
- (c) Equines shall be allowed to exercise and have freedom of movement as necessary to reduce stress and maintain good physical condition.
- (d) Space and provisions for exercise must be appropriate and sufficient for the age, breed/type, quantity, condition, and size of the animals.
- (e) The Animal Control Office shall select and utilize recognized guides to assess body condition, weather safety, environmental health, and physical care of equines.

§9-20 Dangerous Animal.

- A. Owners of animals deemed Dangerous are subject to unannounced inspection by Animal Control Officers for compliance with the restrictions and directives consistent with that designation.
- B. Owners of animals deemed Dangerous shall notify custodians, veterinarians, commercial animal establishments, or any other caregiver of the animal's designation and restrictions.
- C. The owner or custodian of a designated Dangerous Animal may, after five (5) years, file a petition in writing to the Animal Control Commission to request removal of the Dangerous Animal designation or modification of restrictions.

§9-25 Wild animals.

- A. Animal Control will assist with wildlife at the request or direction of the Queen Anne's County Department of Health concerning rabies risks.
- B. Animal Control Officers may assist with wildlife removal only from the interior living space (specifically excluding attics, crawl spaces, and outbuildings) at their discretion and with the permission of the owner/occupant.
- C. The Animal Control Office shall maintain a list of licensed wildlife trappers and rehabilitators to be provided to residents and posted on the County website.
- D. The Animal Control Office shall issue and maintain the records for the registration of wild animals kept by County residents.
 - (1) All registration applications must be signed by the owner / custodian who is attesting all statements made and or answers given are truthful under the penalty of perjury.
 - (2) Registration fees shall be \$11.00.