

purpose & philosophy



The purpose of the Animal Control Officer is first and foremost, is public safety.

Ravalli Animal Control Officer operates under the philosophy of community health. The intention is to promote health, safety, and general welfare of the people of Ravalli County. This includes the protection of the people and animals, preservation of peace and good order within the County.

Pets are members of the family and we acknowledge this through our concern for the animals in the course of our duties. We realize that most situations involve friends & neighbors, therefore, we strive to mediate long term solutions which afford the best protection for all.

To this end, we deal with the public by explaining the local and state laws to them before actual enforcement becomes necessary. When necessary, we enforce laws through warnings and citations.

County Dog Ordinance #16

YES. Ravalli County has a dog ordinance established in 2007.

Any person owning, keeping or harboring a dog must obtain a license. To license your animal you can go to most county veterinarian, The Bitterroot Humane Association, the County Treasurer's Office or print the form and mail in your request. The form is on the Ravalli County website under Animal Protection and Control .



In order to license your animal you must show proof of current rabies vaccination from a licensed veterinarian. Your county dog license can be either a 1 year or 3 year license, depending on the expiration date of the rabies vaccination.

Spayed/Neutered

1 yr = \$10 3 yr = \$25

Unaltered dogs

1 yr = 25 3 yr = \$60

responsible pet owner

Ravalli County Animal Control can work with you to promote proper care for pets. You can be a responsible pet owner by making sure that your pet does not pose a threat to public safety.

- Vaccinate-Provide veterinary care . Keep their vaccinations current and maintain their health.
- License- Keep your dog licensed with Ravalli County -Its the Law!
- ID -Keep an ID tag on your pet so we many contact you quickly .

Many behavioral problems, including barking, can be reduced IF you provide adequate food, shelter, water, and exercise. Dogs are social animals, help them become good community citizens by walking them, socializing and obedience training them.

Give extra care and attention to senior pets.

Never leave an animal without shelter and water on warm days. Never leave animals in vehicle on hot days.



Dangerous/ Vicious Dog

Animal Control will respond to calls regarding dangerous or vicious dog complaints. It is unlawful to own or harbor any animal that bites or has attempted to bite, harasses, chases, bites, or attempts to bite any other animal or human. This includes livestock, wildlife and domestic pets.

When an animal bites:

- Seek medical attention for all bites
- Call Dispatch @ 363-3033 to speak with an officer
- Identify the animal-breed, color, markings, location where seen, & size



RAVALLI COUNTY ANIMAL CONTROL will:

- Protect citizens through control of dangerous and vicious dogs
- Reduce animals running at large and nuisance dogs through use of licensing for purpose of identification and protection.
- Reduce abandonment, neglect and abuse of animals in Ravalli County.

With your help, we can all work together to make Ravalli County a place of high quality of life and health for all of the animal population.

Be a **responsible pet owner** by keeping your pets on your property.

Loose or stray dogs are in danger. They can get hit by cars, get lost or stolen, get in fights with other animals, eat poison, be exposed to extreme weather, and encounter many other potential dangers. But stray dogs also may be a danger to people, especially children.

Just because a dog may look friendly--perhaps even be someone's companion--there is still a very good possibility that he may bite. It is important to remember that any dog, regardless of breed or size, has the potential to bite.

It is helpful to Animal Control to have a stray or loose dog already contained. ONLY if you are safe in doing so. Often, by the time Animal Control responds to a location the loose dog is already gone.

Caring for your animals is not only your responsibility but it is the law!

Ravalli County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff's Office: 406.375.4060

Emergency: 9-1-1

205 Bedford St, Suite G • Hamilton, MT 59840



ACO Office: 406.363.7720
Dispatch: 406.363.3033

Together we can make Ravalli County a place of high quality of life for animals"

