

# ANIMALS

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## **Animal Care and Control Center**

### **Where is the Animal Care and Control Center located?**

The Fort Worth Animal Care and Control Center is located at 4900 Martin St. in southeast Fort Worth.

## **Adopting a Pet**

### **How do I adopt a pet?**

You may come to the Animal Care and Control Center or to see an online listing of available pets, go to [www.fortworthgov.org/animals](http://www.fortworthgov.org/animals). The Web site allows you to search by a number of criteria such as age, breed, and gender. Photos of many animals are available.

### **What does it cost to adopt a pet?**

Cats are \$50 and dogs are \$70.

## **Pet Gift Certificates**

### **Why are pet gift certificates a good idea?**

- Unlike a live animal, a gift certificate can be purchased now and wrapped as a gift
- Recipients can choose the dog or cat they want
- Gift certificates are available for purchase year-round and can be redeemed at any time

### **How do I buy a pet gift certificate?**

Purchase your gift certificate at the center from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday - Friday or from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Note: Animals are not available for viewing until noon.

### **What does a pet gift certificate cost?**

Gift certificates for cats are \$50; for dogs, the cost is \$70.

## **Lost Pets**

### **What should I do if my pet is lost?**

Your pet may be at the Chuck Silcox Animal Care and Control Center. Pets are held for three full days after they are picked up. For more information call 817-392-3737 or contact other local animal organizations.

## **Pet Licenses and Regulations**

### **Is licensing for my pet required by the City of Fort Worth?**

Yes, if your pet is a dog, cat, ferret or pot belly pig.

### **Contacts**

**Animal Care and Control Center**  
4900 Martin Street  
Fort Worth, TX 76119  
(817) 392-3737

**Animal Viewing Hours**  
Monday – Friday: noon – 6 p.m.  
Saturday – Sunday: noon – 5 p.m.

**Livestock and Fowl Regulations**  
Code Compliance Department  
(817) 392-6320

**Unsanitary Animals/Too Many Pets**  
(817) 392-3737

**Barking Dogs**  
(817) 392-3737

**Rabies Concerns**  
(817) 392-3737

**Dead Pet Pickup**  
(817) 392-3737

**Dead Animals on Public Property**  
(817) 392-3737

**Animal Shelter Advisory Committee**  
(817) 561-3737

**What is the fee for licensing?**

\$7 for a dog, cat or ferret.

\$50 for a pot belly pig.

**How do I get a license?**

You may get a pet license in three ways:

- In person at most Fort Worth veterinary offices with proof of current rabies vaccination.
- In person at the Animal Care and Control Center with proof of current rabies vaccination.
- By mail to Animal Care and Control with an enclosed copy of your current rabies vaccination certificate and a check for \$7.

**What about license renewals?**

Licenses are valid for one year from the previous expiration date of the license. Always keep your license receipt. It is your proof that your pet's license is current and, if your pet's tag is lost, you may use your receipt to purchase a replacement tag for \$5.

**How many pets may I have?**

Each household may have no more than three dogs and no more than three cats. Residents who wish to keep more pets can apply at the Animal Care and Control Center for an administrative appeal permit. For additional information, call Animal Care and Control at (817) 392-3737.

**May I keep livestock or fowl?**

If your property meets certain distance, size and sanitary requirements, you may keep livestock and fowl. Problems reported to the city are investigated and the resident is given a deadline for correcting the problem. If the problem persists, a citation may be issued. For additional information, contact Code Compliance at (817) 392-1234.

**Does Fort Worth allow the keeping of miniature swine as house pets?**

Yes, however there is a size limit. Swine must weigh less than 175 pounds and measure less than 26 inches in height.

**Does Fort Worth have a leash law? If so, what are the rules?**

Dogs must be walked on leashes. Dogs must be securely enclosed in the owner's property. Cats must be kept from roaming beyond the boundaries of the owner's property.

**If I don't have a fence to keep my pet on my property, can I tether it?**

No. It is illegal to use a chain, rope, tether, leash, cable or other device to attach an unattended dog to a stationary object or trolley system. Any concerns about dog tethering should be reported to Animal Care and Control at (817) 392-3737.

**I noticed an animal left in an unattended vehicle and I'm concerned for its health and safety. Is there anything I can do?**

Animal control, fire and police officers have the authority to rescue an animal left in an unattended vehicle if it is deemed that its healthy, safety and welfare is in danger. For more information contact Animal Care and Control at (817) 392-3737.

**What do I do if my neighbor has too many pets or other animals?**

Call Animal Care and Control at (817) 392-3737.

**What if my neighbor has a dog that barks continually?**

Call Fort Worth Animal Care and Control at (817) 392-3737.

### **Can animals be sold by roadside vendors?**

No. City ordinance makes it illegal to sell, exchange, trade, barter, lease, rent, give away or display for a commercial purpose any live animal at a roadside, public right of way, parkway, median, park, playground, swimming pool, other recreational areas, flea market or commercial or retail parking lot that is generally accessible to the public. Exceptions are provided for animal rescue organizations, pet stores and other scientific, educational and entertainment entities that display but don't sell or give away animals.

Anyone violating the ban on roadside sales could face a fine for each offense. For more information regarding the ban, call Animal Care and Control at (817) 392-3737.

### **Animal Bites/Problem Animals**

#### **What do I do about an animal bite?**

First, wash the wound for one minute with soap and water. Next, contact the Animal Care and Control Center at (817) 392-3737. Please provide information about the location and time of the incident, the animal owner's name, and the breed, size, color, collar and other information about the animal. Then contact your doctor.

#### **May I use a humane trap to capture problem animals?**

Yes. You may borrow a trap from the center. Call first to reserve one for up to 14 days.

#### **What can I do to help prevent the spread of rabies?**

Two good rules of thumb are to be a responsible pet owner by vaccinating and licensing your pet and to avoid direct contact with unfamiliar animals especially bats, skunks, coyotes, raccoons and foxes.

#### **What should I do after possible exposure to a rabid animal?**

Wash the wound thoroughly with soap and water and seek medical attention immediately. Next, contact Animal Care and Control at (817) 392-3737 to begin an investigation and check the animal for rabies symptoms.

### **Dead Animal Disposal**

#### **What should I do when my pet dies?**

When a pet dies, it is important to handle the remains properly, not just out of respect, but also because of concerns for public health and safety. Here are a few tips:

- Wear gloves
- Cover your gloved hand with a plastic trash bag, pick up the remains, invert the trash bag over the remains and seal the bag
- For larger animals, use a shovel to place the remains inside a plastic trash bag, and then rinse off the shovel with water
- Label and place the trash bag on the curb
- Wash your hands
- To request pickup, call Solid Waste Customer Service at (817) 392-3279 weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Animal remains are picked up weekdays, usually within 24 hours of your call.

#### **Volunteer Opportunities**

Volunteers are needed in a variety of roles at the Animal Care and Control Center:

- Walking dogs
- Assisting with low-cost clinics
- Helping with fund raising
- Pet grooming

Other ways to help include donations of newspapers, blankets, bleach, pet food, pet carriers and traps.

Call (817) 392-3737 for more details.

#### **City Speakers/Classes**

Animal Control Officers are available to speak to your group, adults and children on Being a Responsible Pet Owner, Preventing Animal Bites, and other animal health-related topics.

Call (817) 392-3737 to select a topic and arrange a date for your program.

**What about dead livestock on my property?**

Contact a rendering company. Several are listed in the yellow pages.

**What about dead animals on public property?**

Please call Animal Care and Control at (817) 392-3737 for disposal.