

# Care is More Than Kindness: It's is the Law



Animal  
Care Centers  
of NYC

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

## Shelter is Essential

Animals must have easy access to natural or artificial shelter that protects them from extreme temperatures. The shelter must also provide adequate ventilation and drainage, and must be available throughout the year.

Any artificial shelter, such as a dog house, must be well-built and maintained in good repair. It must be large enough for the animal to enter, stand and lie down in a natural manner.

During warmer weather, it is critically important that animals are brought inside or have shade at all times during the day. Remember, as the sun moves across the sky, shady spots often become sunny spots.

The law requires that animals be kept in a clean and healthful environment, free from accumulated feces. Keeping the animal's area clean reduces odors and insects and makes for a more pleasant area for your pets, and will reduce the possibility of neighbor complaints.

## Hot Cars are Deadly!

It is against the law to leave an animal in a parked car without food, water, or adequate ventilation. Children and pets die every year in hot cars. The temperature inside your car or the back of your pick-up truck can reach 130°F to 160°F in just a few minutes, even on a pleasant day. Leaving pets inside a closed car, or even one with the windows rolled down, is dangerous, deadly and illegal. Report children or pets in hot cars to the police immediately by calling 911.

## Leash: Mandatory

The Leash Law prohibits you from allowing your dog to run at large outside your property at any time. Your dog must be kept confined to your home or property, either inside the home or within a walled or fenced yard or area on your property.

When you take your dog outside of his confined area, he must be restrained on a leash that is no longer than six feet in length, and you must have control of your dog. If your dog is on a lash, he will be safely under your control and will be less likely to be hit and killed by a car, to be lost, or to suffer any of the many tragedies that often befall free-roaming animals.

## Licensing and Identification is Mandatory!

It is required by law in the city of New York that your dog always wear a collar displaying his current dog license. In addition to the license tag, it is a good idea to attach a separate tag that lists your name, current address and telephone number. You should microchip your pet with the same information.

## Vaccinations: Mandatory

It is required by law that your dog of 4 months of age or older have a current rabies vaccination. It is highly recommended that you visit your local veterinarian for a yearly check-up.

## Responsible Pet Guardianship

You are responsible if your pet bites or injures someone. This means that you could be held financially liable. Take the time to learn more about responsible pet guardianship, how to prevent behavior problems and reduce the risk that your pet will bite.

## Food and Water

Animals must be provided with the basic needs of life, including food, water and shelter. All animals must receive food on a daily basis. This food must be free from contamination, and must be offered in a quantity and quality sufficient to maintain the animal's good health.

Animals must also have access to clean, drinkable water. Water should always be provided in a container

that cannot be tipped over or spilled. Animals will not drink warm water, so be sure to situate the container where it will not be heated by the sun during the day.

### **Chaining Pets**

It is against the law to chain or tie an animal out for longer than three hours. A dog that is chained or tied is at the mercy of the elements; it may become entangled in the chain itself, unable to move or reach its source of water. Death can occur quickly in the heat. The dog's access to food, water, shade and shelter may easily become restricted or eliminated because of a chain or tie-out. Besides being dangerous, tie-outs and chains can cause frustration and aggressiveness, increasing the possibility of dog bites. The safest alternative to a chain or tie-out is a securely fenced yard. "Escape artists" may be safely confined in covered kennel runs.

### **Barking Dogs**

You are responsible for controlling the excessive barking of your dog. If he barks too much, your neighbor can file a report and you can be cited for a noise violation.

### **Cruelty**

It is illegal to beat, torment, hurt or otherwise harm any animal in any manner. People who beat their animals or otherwise cause an animal to suffer pain or discomfort can be charged with a crime. If you see such a crime being committed, please call your local police department immediately.

### **Abandonment**

It is cruel as well as illegal to deliberately abandon an animal. Domestic animals cannot fend for themselves; they frequently fall victim to cars, the elements and predators.

Before you abandon, give away or turn in your pet, please call Pets for Life (917.468.2938). They have programs that may help your situation and result in you keeping your pet.

### **Medical Care**

You must provide your animal with proper medical care. This means that if your pet is injured, is very sick, or becomes infested with parasites, you are responsible for getting adequate veterinary attention so that he remains in good health and does not suffer. If you need a list of programs that offer veterinary financial aid, please visit our website.

### **Spay or Neuter Your Pets**

It is extremely important that all pet animals be spayed or neutered to ensure that they will not bring more unwanted and homeless animals into the world. There is a tremendous excess of companion animals that will never be fortunate enough to live out their lives in responsible and loving homes. Please don't let your pet add to this tragic situation. Have him spayed or neutered as soon as possible. Additional benefits of sterilizing your pet include the elimination of potential health and temperament problems, and a greatly reduced license fee. Please visit our website for a list of services.



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To promote and protect the health, safety and welfare of pets and people in NYC.  
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