



## Attention Pet Owners

### Unexpected consequences of CoVid 19

By bringing awareness and being proactive we can keep our community and pets safe.

During these unprecedented times everyone's day to day life has been altered. With these changes our pet's lives have also been affected, and most for the better because now they have their owner's full attention. We have all seen memes of pets complaining about the current state of being; that their owners no longer leave the house to let them nap or are being taken for yet another walk because their humans have been made to stay at home. While these memes are made to make us giggle, we realize the truth of our situation. We must also realize with these changes we need to reassess how we go about our days with pets in tow. Animal Control Officers have seen an increase in the following areas:

#### 1. Stray dogs

With warmer weather doors and gates are being left open or blown open by the wind. The kids are playing outside more and are in and out of the house, etc. Be mindful and put safety measures in place. Maybe only allowing one door to be used so the dog will not have easy access to free roam and leave your property. There are a multitude of problems that can arise from a free roaming dog. Dogs can be hit by cars, possibly causing an accident injuring to people, or leave you with a vet bill if your pet is lucky enough to survive. Additionally, a stray dog could cause people to come in contact unexpectedly risking possible CoVid exposure.

We are asking all pet owners to keep current identification on your pets' collars (even if written w marker - your name address and cell phone number) to assist in a fast reunification, thus keeping everyone's potential exposures to a minimum. Also, many pets that have microchips are not registered or have inaccurate information. Too many of our fur babies are not wearing identification- this is a required by law responsibility of the owner.

#### 2. Dog bites

Staying at home means many of us are ordering items that are delivered right to our door. Even the most family friendly dog can bite if they feel the delivery person is invading their property or posing a threat to their family.

Please keep dogs behind securely closed doors during times of delivery, not only during the pandemic but always.

Retractable leashes are very popular however unfortunately many are being used incorrectly. While giving your dog a very long lead when on your private property is nice, that should not be

the case when you are walking your dog off your property. Your dog out on the end of an extended lead can be in trouble before you have the time to retract it. This can result in an unnecessary altercation. Whether that be a wayward raccoon, another dog or you are inadvertently allowing your dog to be upon someone's property that may also have a dog; before you can react, your dog is in danger.

Another dicey practice is not using a leash at all because you have never had a problem taking your dog out in the front yard with you or going from house to car. However now there are many more people and dogs around the neighborhood and the opportunity for an interaction to occur.

Having a properly fitted collar and leash or tie out is important for your dog's safety as well as the safety of others.

Delivery people, other dogs, wildlife, children, and other people can all become victims of being bitten. A bite will often result in someone needing to seek medical treatment. This in turn puts innocent people in situations having to take unnecessary risks of possible exposure to the CoVid virus. Please take every preventative measure to keep your dog safe and secure.

### 3. Accountability

Pet ownership comes with many responsibilities and your pet is counting on you!

Stray dogs that are picked up by Animal Control are brought to the North Jersey Community Animal Shelter. There is a reclaim fee associated with this service. The reclaim fee graduates with each offense.

Licenses are required by state law. All dogs and cats over 6 months of age are required to be licensed. Pet license applications available on your town's website. Licenses can be purchased through the mail provided you include proof of rabies and applicable licensing fee. Those found without a license are subject to a summons.

Leashes are required by law. Unleashed or Running at Large summonses may be issued for those found in violation.

The owners of dogs who bite will be held accountable and subject to summonses and a court appearance may be required and in certain circumstances your dog may be impounded.

Animal Control Officers are committed to public safety as it pertains to humans/animals, rabies control and aggressive animals.

**Be** Bloomingdale Animal Control Office 973 838-8959

**Aware** North Jersey Community Animal Shelter 973 850-6767

**Responsible &**

**Kind**