

Oklahoma City Animal Welfare



Questions About Stray Animals in Oklahoma City

Unwanted and Stray Dogs

Oklahoma City Animal Welfare runs lost and found as well as adoption programs for stray and unwanted dogs and cats. We also rescue dogs in police emergencies, quarantine dogs and cats that have bitten a human being, and assist with animal-related issues, including animal cruelty or abuse, in OKC. OKCAW field officers do not pick up cats unless they have bitten a human being, are injured or are involved in an animal cruelty situation; however, they can be brought to our shelter.

Once a dog or cat comes into our shelter as a stray, meaning we don't know his owner, he is held a minimum of three days not including the first day of intake in the hopes of finding the owner(s). If the animal is wearing identification, microchipped or tattooed, we will attempt to contact the owner and hold the animal up to five days. Unless an animal has clear identification, has been rescued in a police related situation and the police tell us who the owner is or, OKCAW is told otherwise, the animal will be held as a stray. In general, animals will not be held longer than the normal three-day or five-day holding period without a court order. Therefore, law enforcement officials need to keep in close contact with OKCAW during investigations. Adoptable animals as well as lost and found pets can be found at www.okc.gov/animalwelfare.

Once the holding period is up, animals are evaluated for their behavior and health to determine if they are eligible for adoption, transfer or foster care. Please call 405-297-3100 for assistance with a stray or aggressive dog.

Animal Cruelty

OKCAW enforces animal cruelty laws in OKC. On felony level cases we work with the local police department to prepare documentation for prosecution. If the OKC Police department enforces an animal cruelty situation, the animal will be brought to OKCAWD for a medical exam and housing. Members of the public are encouraged to contact dispatch at 405-297-3100 if you witness animal cruelty.

Injured Animals

OKCAW will provide needed medical care to sick or injured stray animals in an emergency situation. If you encounter an injured animal including wildlife, contact dispatch at 405-297-3100. An animal control officer will bring the animal in to our clinic where staff will assess the animal's needs. Whenever possible, injured animals are given medical attention and placed in foster care for recovery or cared for at our shelter unless determined by a veterinarian that the animal is suffering. Once cured, the animal is available for adoption.

Our program called the Angel Fund provides needed support to go above and beyond to care for injured animals. This program is solely supported by donations. Donations can be made online at www.okc.gov/animalwelfare.

Dead Animals

To report a dead animal in the roadway, contact us at 405-297-3100 for removal services. We accept dead personal pets at our shelter located at 2811 SE 29th Street in Oklahoma City.



OKC Animal Welfare, 2811 SE 29th Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73129
Call 405.297.3100 to report animal welfare concerns
www.okc.gov/animalwelfare
awinfo@okc.gov

Updated June 1, 2015

Dogs off Leash

Animal Control Officers enforce the animal control ordinances in OKC. These can be found in Chapters 8 and 35 in the City Municipal Code. All dogs over four months of age in OKC are required to have a current rabies vaccination with a tag affixed to their collar. All dogs are required to be on leash or confined on your property at all times, unless in an approved off-leash area.

Animal Adoptions

Once an animal is deemed adoptable there is no set time that an animal is held available for adoption. This is based solely upon availability of space at our shelter and the continued health and behavior of the animal. Animals that are turned in by an owner are evaluated within 24 hours; if suitable they are then made available for adoption or transferred to a partner organization. The fee to adopt an animal is \$60 unless OKCAW is hosting a special fee event.

Alternatives to Pet Relinquishment

OKCAW can take in 100-200 dogs and cats each day. Many of these animals are euthanized due to lack of space and homes. We are asking for your help with this problem. If you plan to turn your own animal in to the shelter, please reconsider. OKCAW has spay/neuter and a pet food bank program available to assist you in keeping your family pet. There are also many other community programs to help. Call 405-316-3663 for more information.

Feral Cats

OKCAW is committed to effectively and humanely controlling the free-roaming cat problem in OKC. In examining effective programs across the country, OKCAW has concluded that the most effective solution is a Trap, Neuter, Return (TNR) program. Our Community Cat program will assist you with individual cats, getting them sterilized and returning them to your community. We partner with the

Central Oklahoma Humane Society who helps with TNR programs.

Livestock

OKC Animal Welfare rescues horses, cows, and other livestock who are lost, stray or involved in animal cruelty situations. We house them in our barn and hold them accordingly depending upon why they are in our care. Once their hold period is up, they will be placed with a livestock transfer partner or placed up for adoption.

Barking Dogs

OKCAW enforces barking dog complaints from residents. It is not a violation for a dog to bark. It is only a violation if a dog barks excessively. Most pet owners do not know their dogs bark. We can provide you with basic information to share with a neighbor to assist with the barking dog. If the dog owner refused to take reasonable efforts to control the dogs barking, you can file a barking dog complaint by coming to our office at 2811 SE 29th Street. You will sign a citation and we will serve it to the dog owner. You will need to be prepared to prove your case in court.

Wildlife

OKCAW will rescue injured wild animals in the field. We also take in any wildlife over the counter. When appropriate, we transfer wild animals to a local organization to rehabilitate and release. We do not address nuisance wildlife issues.

Pocket Pets

OKCAW takes in all types of animals including hamsters, guinea pigs, snakes, and more. We will pick up a lost, stray, or injured pocket pet but we do not pick up owned animals. Once at the shelter, all normal holding times apply and then they are placed for adoption or transferred to a partner.



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