

DOG OWNERSHIP

A license, leash and vaccinations will help keep your dog – and your community – safe.

VACCINATIONS & LICENSES

In Maricopa County, all dogs older than three months are required to have a current vaccination for rabies and a license. Vaccinations can be administered by your veterinarian or at an Animal Care Center operated by Maricopa County Animal Care and Control. Licenses must be worn on a dog collar and may be obtained online or by mail from MCACC. Visit pets.maricopa.gov or call

602-506-PETS (7387) for more information.

LEASH LAW

You are not permitted to allow your dog to run freely outside your property at any time unless he or she is in a designated off-leash area in a dog park. The leash law is designed to protect your dog from running away or getting hit by a car.

ANIMAL BITES

If your pet bites someone, or if you are bitten, you must report the incident to Maricopa County Animal Care and Control at (602) 506-7387. Most domestic animals (dogs, cats, ferrets) will be quarantined in an approved facility or the owner's home. Animal owners may be legally responsible for any related expenses.

LOSE A PET?

If you lose your pet, check the Animal Care Centers operated by Maricopa County Animal Care and Control 602-506-PETS (7387):

2500 South 27th Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85009

2630 West 8th Street
Mesa, AZ 85201

You can also find online resources for finding a lost pet at:

NoLostPetsMaricopa.org
azhumane.org (Arizona Humane Society)
PetHarbor.com
PetFinder.com
[Facebook.com/LostDogsArizona](https://www.facebook.com/LostDogsArizona)
The "Lost & Found" section on craigslist

FIND A PET?

You can attempt to reunite a lost dog or cat with its owner by using one of the online resources listed above or by taking the animal to a Maricopa County Animal Care and Control Center. If no one claims a dog or cat within 72 hours of being taken to the Center (or 120 hours for animals with a license), although it is not guaranteed, you may be able to adopt the animal. By law, anyone who cares for a dog or cat for six consecutive days becomes the legal owner.

WILD ANIMALS

Wild animals, including bats, foxes, coyotes, raccoons, skunks, squirrels, chipmunks and wildcats can be surrendered to the Arizona Game & Fish Department at:

Main Office
5000 West Carefree Highway
Phoenix, AZ 85086

Region VI
7200 East University Drive
Mesa, AZ 85207

For more information and resources, visit
SafeAnimalsAZ.org

Protecting Animals



Maricopa County
Attorney's Office



Laws and resources for
keeping animals and people
safe in Maricopa County



Dear fellow citizen,

Animals are special members of our community. They are part of the wonder and beauty of our natural environment. They also provide joy and comfort to our families. In short, animals give us the chance to practice the care and compassion we are called to share with one another as fellow human beings.

That's why Arizona law provides important protections for animals, whether living in the wild or as domestic pets in your home. As Maricopa County Attorney, I'm committed to upholding these laws and prosecuting those who harm or abuse animals in our community.

This brochure contains important information about our animal protection laws and helpful resources available for animal owners. It also contains instructions on how to report animal cruelty and what to do if you encounter an animal in need of help or a home.

We can only call ourselves a civilized society to the extent we care and protect those who are the most innocent and vulnerable – and that includes the animals that live among us. Please join me in committing to make Maricopa County an animal-friendly place to live.

Sincerely,

Bill Montgomery

Bill Montgomery
Maricopa County Attorney

ANIMAL CRUELTY

Under Arizona law (A.R.S § 13-2910), cruelty to animals can take many forms, from neglecting or abandoning an animal, to inflicting physical injury or failing to provide medical attention. These types of offenses are felony crimes punishable by up to two years in prison. The statute defines an “animal” as a mammal, bird, reptile or amphibian. There are also special provisions against harming or injuring animals that are specially trained to assist someone with daily living needs or provide service to law enforcement agencies.

SIGNS OF ANIMAL CRUELTY

- Sores, cuts, bruises or bleeding
- Patches of missing fur
- Thin, emaciated body
- Limping or inability to walk
- An owner beating or threatening an animal
- Animals left in parked cars during hot weather
- Animals repeatedly left outside without food, water or shelter from extreme weather

ANIMAL FIGHTING

Owning, training or causing an animal to fight another animal is a crime except if it falls within specific exemptions for lawful pursuits such as hunting, ranching or security services. It is also illegal to be present at a cockfight, dogfight or other exhibitions of animal fighting.



INHUMANE TREATMENT OF FARM ANIMALS

In 2006, Arizona voters approved a ballot measure that prohibits the confinement of pigs and calves on farms in a manner that prevents them from lying down or turning around freely.

REPORT ANIMAL CRUELTY

If you see signs of animal cruelty, report it immediately by calling your local police agency. For Phoenix and Scottsdale, you can also contact the Arizona Humane Society from 8am to 6pm at 602-997-7585 Ext. 2073

Avondale	623.333.7012
Buckeye	623.349.6400
Chandler	480.782.4130
Fountain Hills	602.252.7840
Gilbert	480.503.6500 email police@ci.gilbert.az.us
Goodyear	623.932.1220
Glendale	623.930.3000
Mesa	480.644.2211
Paradise Valley	480.948.7410
Peoria	623.773.8311
Phoenix	602.262.6151
Queen Creek	602.876.1681
Scottsdale	480.312.5000
Sun City	602.256.1011
Surprise	623.222.4000
Tempe	480.966.6211

If you have information on an unsolved animal cruelty case, you can report it anonymously by calling Silent Witness at 480-WITNESS (948-6377).

HOARDING

Animal hoarding, or keeping an excessive number of dogs or cats in a home or in cramped, unsanitary conditions, may be punishable under animal cruelty laws and should be reported to law enforcement.

