

(Continue from side 1)

name and your phone number. Again, **do not** attempt to resolve the issue yourself; the best outcome for the animal will happen if the case is left in the hands of professionals.

I SPOT SOME WILDLIFE IN THE CITY.

It may surprise some people but even in Vermont's largest city encounters with wildlife is common. It is not uncommon to see coyotes, foxes, skunks, raccoons, weasels, birds of prey, deer, bears or even a moose within the city limits. General these animals have learned to coexist with us and should be left alone.

***Nuisance wildlife** that has taken up residency on your property, such as garages, sheds, attics, porches or basements can be legally removed by a licensed pest control agent. Many are listed in the Yellow Pages under "Pest".

***Orphaned or baby wildlife** can often be rehabilitated by a licensed rehabilitator. The key to their success is not to touch or move them from where you see them. Animal Control Division has a complete list of wildlife rehabilitator, which they can provide to you who will be happy to help.

***If wildlife** is attacking, harassing, chasing people or domestic animals or are sick, such as having a seizure or convulsing or hit by a car should be reported to the Burlington Police Department or alternatively the Department of Fish and Wildlife at 802-878-7111.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Animal Control Division, BPD
1-802-658-2704 ext 219

Burlington Police Department
1-802-658-2700

Vermont Department of Health West Nile Virus Hotline
1-800-913-1139 [State Office]

The Vermont Rabies Hotline
1-800-4-RABIES

Department of Fish and Wildlife
802-878-7111

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE TOPICS CONTAINED IN THIS BROCHURE CAN BE FOUND AT:

*** Full Versions of Burlington Code of Ordinances animal section:**
<http://www.municode.com>

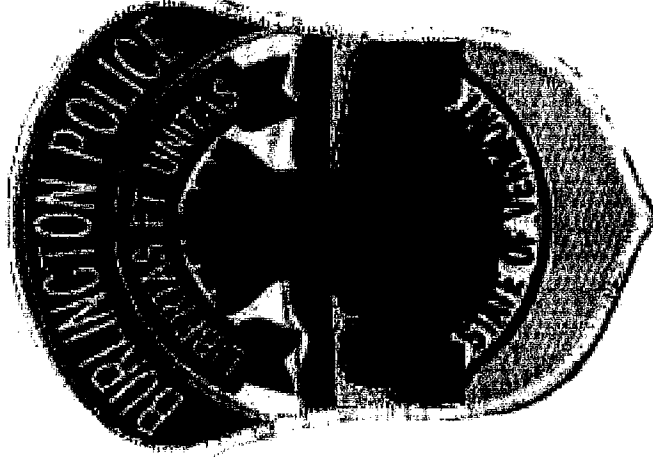
*** More information on summertime and pets:**
http://www.hsus.org/pets/pet_care/cool_it_summers_heat_can_be_deadly_for_your_pet.html

***More information on West Nile Virus:**
<http://www.cdc.gov/westnile> or
<http://www.healthvermonters.info/hs/epi/dep/westnile/wvhome.shtml>

Burlington Police Department
One North Avenue
Burlington, VT 05401
Phone (802) 658-2704

**BURLINGTON POLICE
DEPARTMENT**

*Citizen's Guide to the Animal
Control Division*



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Below you will find some of the most frequently asked questions we encounter regarding animal control within the City of Burlington. If you have additional questions not addressed here, please feel free to the Animal Control Division at (802) 658-2704 ext 219.

WHAT IS THE ANIMAL CONTROL DIVISION?

The Animal Control Division is a specialized unit within the Burlington Police Department. Animal Control strives to provide a safe environment whereby pets and people can coexist in peace. To accomplish this, the Animal Control Officer is tasked with providing the public with education, information and referrals pertaining to various animal related issues and enforcement of city and state laws.

WEST NILE VIRUS AND ME.

West Nile Encephalitis is a mosquito borne virus. Since West Nile was first introduced to the US in 1999 it has quickly spread to all parts of the US, including Vermont. As part of a statewide campaign to track this virus during the summer months the Vermont Department of Public Health has setup up a hotline for citizens to report dead birds. They can be reached at 1-800-913-1139. For more information about West Nile, how to

reduce your risk of getting infected and recommendations on mosquito repellents please refer to <http://www.cdc.gov/westnile>.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF MY CAT GETS STUCK IN A TREE?

According to the RSPCA the best thing to do if your cat is "stuck" in a tree is to leave it there. A healthy cat may take up to 48 hours to come down from a tree. If the cat is near or on a power pole line contact Burlington Police Department for assistance.

CAN I LEAVE MY DOG IN MY CAR ALONE WHILE I.....?

No. Vehicles are not insulated like homes, they are not able to retain heat or maintain cooler temperatures. Contrary to this they act as an absorber to temperatures. The Humane Society of the United States reports, "On an 85-degree day, for example, the temperature inside a car with the windows opened slightly can reach 102 degrees within 10 minutes. (HSUS Website, 2005)." Furthermore under Vermont State Statutes Vermont State Statute, Title 13 § 386, leaving a dog in a car is crime punishable by a fine or even prison. Should you see a dog in a parked car on days or nights with extremely hot or cold temperatures please call the Burlington Police Department immediately.

DOES BURLINGTON HAVE A LEASH LAW?

Yes. Section 5-14 of the Burlington Code of Ordinances prohibits any "at-large" dogs. This means that unless the dog is

(1) On the premises of the dog's owner;

(2) On the premises of the person under whose control the dog is under;

(3) On the premises of another person as long as that person has given permission for the dog to be at-large;

The only place that is allowed by law for your dog to be off-leash is in a designated off-leash area managed and regulated by the board of parks and recreation commissioners. Should you have question please call the Animal Control Division. If you would like to file a complaint please call the Burlington Police Department

WHAT DO I DO IF A NEIGHBORHOOD DOG IS BARKING?

Under Section 5-4 of the Burlington Code of Ordinances a barking dog is consider a nuisance if it "barks, whines, howls or cries in an **excessive** and **continuous** fashion." Should you have question please call the Animal Control Division. If you would like to file a complaint please call the Burlington Police Department

I SUSPECT A CASE OF ANIMAL CRUELTY, WHAT SHOULD I DO?

Animal cruelty is a very complex issue. Many times well-intentioned people will immediately intervene if they suspect cruelty. While the intentions are good this may place the individual in unnecessary danger. If you suspect a case of animal cruelty the best thing to do is to call the Burlington Police Department and provide the location of the cruelty/ animal, the nature of the cruelty, how long it has been going on, if possible the name of the person who owns the animal, their address and description, your