

Burleson Animal Services

The City of Burleson's animal services division provides animal control services for residents living within the City limits of Burleson and animal adoption services to the greater Burleson Community. Staff also assists residents by responding to stray animal and animal nuisance complaints; facilitating pet adoptions; and maintaining lists of lost and found animals.

The animal services division's top priority is protecting public health. The primary purpose of any municipal animal control department is rabies control and the staff takes this duty very seriously. The staff is also dedicated to ensuring that animals in the Burleson Community are treated humanely and are cared for in accordance with both state and local laws.

WHAT ANIMAL SERVICES DOES THE CITY PROVIDE? The City of Burleson is proud to provide a full range of animal services. The field staff responds to citizens' requests for service that involve: picking up stray animals; impounding dangerous animals; assisting with barking dog or nuisance animal complaints; investigating animal bites, animal cruelty claims, and animal neglect/abandonment claims; emergency after-hours services; and assistance in resolving conflicts between city residents and their wild animal neighbors.

In the shelter, the staff works hard to provide a clean, pleasant kennel, not only for the pets who are sheltered there, but for the hundreds of visitors who come by the shelter each month. Stray animals are held for 72 hours, and then are evaluated by certified shelter staff as potential adoption candidates. Animal adoptions are an important part of shelter service, and Burleson's adoption process is friendly, educational, and designed to help customers find the perfect companion animal.

The shelter staff also seeks to offer outreach services to the community. This includes educational presentations to civic and school groups, participation in community events, and conducting group tours of the shelter.

HOW DO I FIND THE SHELTER? The animal shelter is located at **1695 John Jones Drive**, and is part of the new City Service Center complex. When heading south on SH 174 (Wilshire Blvd), turn left onto FM 731 (John Jones Drive). The shelter is 1.1 miles down, on the left hand side.

HOW DO I CONTACT THE SHELTER BY PHONE? The shelter's phone number is part of the Service Center switchboard. The phone number to reach the shelter office is **817-426-9280**. There is also a shelter information line that can be reached by dialing 817-426-9830 and choosing menu option 5.

WHEN I CALL, THERE NEVER SEEMS TO BE ANYBODY TO ANSWER THE PHONE. Shelter phones are answered diligently from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday by shelter staff and trained shelter volunteers. However, at times of high call volume or when staff is assisting shelter visitors callers may reach the shelter's voice mail. All messages left are returned, if not the same day, usually within 12 hours. Additionally, shelter phone messages contain information to direct callers appropriately if there is an animal-related emergency.

WHEN IS THE SHELTER OPEN? The shelter is open to the public 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday. The shelter is closed on Sunday, Monday, and all City holidays. Should you have an animal-related emergency outside of these regular business hours, contact the Burleson Police Department at 817-426-9903. In the event of a true emergency, such as an animal attack on a person, the police will contact the animal services staff and have them respond to the call. If the issue does not constitute an emergency, callers will be asked to leave a voice mail message at the shelter for staff to return on the following business day.

WHAT ARE THE ANIMAL SERVICES FEES? Each budget year, the City Council establishes all fees for services provided by the City. In the animal services division, those fees are:

- o Adoptions \$55
- o Impoundment \$15-75
- o Boarding \$5-10/day
- o Quarantine \$8/day

The exact fee will depend upon the type of animal involved and offense fees will vary, depending upon whether it is a person's first, second, or third offense. These fees will apply October 1, 2005-September 30, 2006.

All animals adopted from a municipal shelter must be sterilized to comply with state law and the procedure is the financial responsibility of the adoptive owner.

ADOPTABLE ANIMALS ONLINE! Burleson animal services posts pictures and information regarding adoptable animals online at www.petfinder.com. This is done as a convenience, but the only way to be 100 percent certain about what animals are available is to visit them at the shelter. The Petfinder link is also accessible through the City's website at www.burlesontx.com.

I LIVE OUTSIDE OF THE BURLESON CITY LIMITS. WHERE CAN I TAKE STRAY/UNWANTED ANIMALS? Burleson Animal Services cannot take in animals from outside the city limits. People who live in unincorporated Johnson or Tarrant County can take stray or unwanted animals to the Humane Society of North Texas in Fort Worth or Fort Worth Animal Control. The Humane Society can be reached by calling 817-332-4768 and the Fort Worth Animal Shelter can be reached by calling 817-392-3737.

People living in unincorporated Johnson County and needing other animal control services, such as response to an animal bite case, should call the Johnson County Sheriff's office at 817-556-6000 or 817-556-6060.

ANIMAL SHELTER VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED! The shelter volunteer program is growing, and we require all volunteers to attend one of the quarterly orientation sessions. These sessions offer information about shelter programs, volunteer opportunities at the shelter, and the application and liability release forms required for volunteer service. Attendance at these sessions and the information on these forms help staff match volunteers' skills with the needs of the animals and the shelter. Youth participants under the age of 18 must have a parent accompany them to the orientation session, so parents and kids alike will understand all of responsibilities and requirements of volunteering.

Children under the age of 17 are allowed to volunteer so long as a parent or guardian accompanies them when they volunteer. They may also attend one of the twice-weekly youth volunteer sessions, "Teaching kids to teach dogs," which is mentored by an adult volunteer and local high school teacher.



What's New at the Shelter?

Burleson Animal Services is proud to announce that, beginning in October 2005, all animals adopted or reclaimed from the Burleson Animal Shelter will be microchipped to help make it easier to reunite these animals with their owners, should they become separated.

Microchips are devices the size of a grain of rice that are implanted between animals' shoulder blades. Each chip has a unique identification number attached to it and each recipient animal's owner information is registered with the chip manufacturer. That way, lost animals that find their way to shelters can be identified and reunited with their families.

Microchips are not intended to replace collars and tags, but to be used as an additional tool to help keep animals and owners together. In the State of Texas, all pets must be vaccinated for rabies and wear their rabies tags at all times.

Animal Shelter Wish List

The Burleson Animal Shelter takes pride in being able to offer "comfort items" to every animal that comes through the door. It helps make their time in the shelter more pleasant and helps the staff learn more about the animals' behavior, thus aiding in adoptions. The shelter staff welcomes donations of the following items year-round.

- Chew Toys
- Tennis Balls
- Kong toys
- Rawhide chews
- Blankets
- Small pillows
- Leashes
- Collars
- Peanut butter

These items are particularly helpful during times of extreme weather conditions when the animals are unable to spend as much time outside. Monetary donations to help fund animal vaccinations are always appreciated as well. Shelter staff will be happy to answer questions about the usefulness of other items that anyone may have to donate.

Animal Services Quick Reference

Burleson Animal Shelter

1695 John Jones Drive
817-426-9280

animalshelter@burlesontx.com

Burleson Police Department

(for after-hours animal emergencies)
817-426-9903

Humane Society of North Texas

817-332-4768
www.hsnt.net

Fort Worth Animal Control

817-392-3737
www.fortworthgov.org/Health/AC/index.asp

Lost and Found Animals

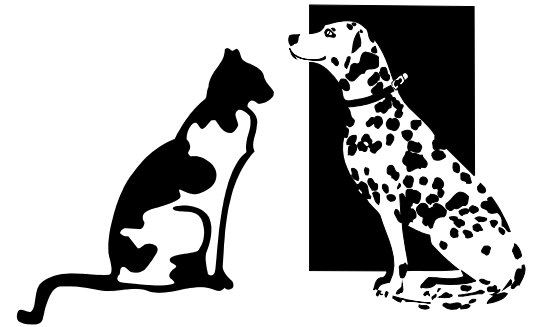
Anyone who loses or finds an animal in Burleson is encouraged to call Burleson Animal Services. The staff maintains a list of lost and found pets to help families locate their lost, four-legged friends.

Call the shelter as soon you realize your pet is missing. If the staff has not yet seen your pet, they can add it to the "lost" list and notify you if your pet comes in to the shelter. Owners of lost pets are also encouraged to come by the shelter and look for their animal at least every couple of days. Calling to ask if the animal is at the shelter is a start, but there is no replacement for an owner's eyes looking out for their own pet.

If a stray animal comes onto your property, call animal services so staff can make note of the animal's description and location. That way, staff can make plans to come get the animal, and help reunite it with its owner as quickly as possible.

**And remember to be responsible...
SPAY or NEUTER your pet!**

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Burleson

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