Responsible Pet Ownership

This program will help ensure that our animal family members are given the best possible care to ensure a long and healthy life.
Topics Covered in this Course

City of Burleson Animal Ordinances
Spay and Neuter
Bite Prevention
Vaccinations
Rabies
Other Diseases
Daily Health Care
Animal Ordinances

Maximum Number of Cats and Dogs
Section 6-6

Within the Burleson city limits you are only allowed a total of 4 dogs or cats or a combination of the two on your property. It doesn’t matter if you own 1 acre or 100 acres, you can still only own a total of 4 dogs or cats or a combination of the two.

You may only have more than 4 animals if you have been approved for and possess a Multi-Pet Permit.
Animal Ordinances

Maximum Number of Cats and Dogs
Section 6-6

Section 6-6a
• No residence within the city shall harbor more than four adult dogs, four adult cats, or four adult dogs and cats in any combination. No residence within the city shall harbor more than one litter of puppies or one litter of kittens at any given time.

Section 6-6b
Multi-Pet Permit
• Any person desiring to keep more than four adult dogs and/or cats or more than one litter of puppies or kittens at a residence may apply with the animal control authority for a multi-pet permit.
Cleaning up after your animal is more than just being a responsible pet owner. There is a law, commonly referred to as the pooper scooper law, that needs to be followed. Even if nobody is watching, you need to pick up after your animal and properly dispose of the waste.
Section 6-12b

- An owner of an animal commits an offense if the person permits, either willfully or through failure to exercise proper care and control, any animal to defecate upon any public place or building or any private property except the owner's.
Animal Ordinances

Animals At Large
Section 6-10

Section 6-10a
At Large Definition in Section 6-1

• An owner of any animal commits an offense if the animal is at large.

• An at large dog shall mean a dog that is not properly restrained in an enclosed pen or structure on your property, or controlled by a tether or a leash.

• An at large cat shall mean any cat which is off the premises of its owner and not properly restrained in an enclosed pen or structure or controlled by a tether or a leash. Any cat intruding upon the property of any person other than the cat's owner shall be deemed at large.
Animals At Large cont.

Section 6-9

Tethering Regulations

Section 6-10a

Tether regulations:

• Tethering cannot exceed 3 hours within a 24 hour period
• Must be at least 10’ long
• Tether must be attached to a harness, leather or nylon collar – not directly on animal’s neck.
• Tethering cannot happen from 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.
• Cannot be tethered within 500 feet of the premises of a school
• Cannot be tethered during extreme weather
**Animals At Large cont.**

**Section 6-10**

*Section 6-10c*

- *Impoundment.* The animal control authority is authorized to impound any animal at large.
Animal Ordinances

What happens to impounded animals?

- Stray animals become property of the city after a 72-hour hold period, starting at the time the animal is impounded. After the holding period, animals may be adopted, placed with partner organizations, or humanely euthanized.

- Stray animals that are sick or injured may be humanely euthanized before the holding period is over if they are suffering badly.
Spay and Neuter

An unspayed female dog, her mate and all of their puppies, if none are ever neutered or spayed up to:

1 year = 16
2 years = 128
3 years = 512
4 years = 2,048
5 years = 12,288
6 years = 67,000
Preventing Pet Overpopulation

- Over 4,000,000 (4 million) animals are euthanized annually in the United States.
- Cats and dogs can get pregnant as early as 4 months of age.
- About 600 (6 hundred) animals are euthanized annually in the City of Burleson.
Spay/Neuter Protects Your Pet

- **Spaying** eliminates uterine and ovarian cancer and greatly reduces breast cancer, especially if done before the pet’s first heat cycle.

- **Neutering** eliminates testicular cancer and decreases prostate problems in male pets.
Spay and Neuter

Spay/Neuter Helps You

- Neutering pets makes them less likely to spray or mark territory
- Can reduce temperament and behavior problems
- Can make pets less likely to bite
- Can help make males less likely to roam, run away, or get into fights
Breeding at home

- Many home-bred pets can have physical or behavior defects.

- Health care, shots, food, stud fees, supplies, and unexpected costs can make a litter a big financial liability. Initial costs per pup or kitten can be as much as $100-$500. It can be difficult to sell or give away all of the litter.

- Litters of unwanted puppies and kittens usually end up in kill shelters.

- Almost 75% of dogs and cats in the US come from home breeding and accidental breeding.
Every day 10,000 humans are born compared to 70,000 puppies and kittens. This is the reason for the numerous animal problems we all face.

Diseases, destruction, injury, and suffering are all a result of too many animals and not enough homes.

**SOLUTION**

Spay or neuter your pets.

Over-population is *killing* us.
BITE PREVENTION
Bite Prevention

Most dogs seem friendly and harmless. Yet, every year in the US, dogs:

- Bite over 4.7 million people – most of them are children
- 800,000 of these people seek medical attention.
- 94% of fatal dog bites occur from unneutered males.
- Dog bite injuries cost insurance companies about $1 billion annually.
- Over 50% of bites occur on the dog owner’s property.
- The face is the most frequent target (77% of all injuries).
Bite Prevention

No exceptions

- Any dog, any breed, any age, any size can bite if provoked. Reduce the chances of a dog bite by taking precautions.
Why do dogs bite?

There are many possible reasons. Dogs may bite if they are:

- Protecting territory, offspring or the “pack”
- Threatened or surprised
- In pain, injured or ill
- Guarding possessions – toys, food, etc.
- Predatory aggression – triggered by people, animals, and things in motion – prey drive
- Excited, nervous, “playing”, or teased
Avoid Confrontations

- Never approach or touch an unfamiliar dog.
- Never tease or threaten any dog.
- Don’t throw objects at a dog
- Remember, even small pets can cause serious injury.
Avoid Situations

- Don’t put your dog in situations where it may feel threatened or teased.
Bite Prevention

Obey Leash Laws

- Obey the leash law.
- Don’t let your dog roam free.
Bite Prevention

Sterilize Your Pet

- Spayed or Neutered animals are less likely to bite.
Educate Children

- Do not approach dogs without owner permission.
- Do not approach strange dogs.
- Leave dogs alone when eating or sleeping.
- Teach how to gently pet dogs.
Bite Prevention

Socialize Your Dog

• Socialize your animal so it feels at ease around people and other animals.
• Teach your dog acceptable social “manners”
Bite Prevention

If You Are Threatened...

- Don’t scream and run, this may be your first instinct, but this is the worst possible thing you can do.
- Remain calm. Stand motionless, avoiding eye contact.
- Face the animal and **NEVER** turn your back.
- Stand sideways to the dog, this appears less threatening.
- Once the animal loses interest in you, back out of the area. Move slowly and continue to face the animal.
Bite Prevention

If You Are Attacked...

- **DONT RUN!** Hold your ground. Try to keep the animal in front of you. Try to back away slowly from the dog.

- **Always try to keep something between yourself and the animal.** Let the animal bite your shield.

- **If you are pushed to the ground, curl into a ball.** Cover your face and ears with your arms, remain as still as possible, and stay quiet.
Are You Ready to be a Responsible Pet Owner?

Carefully consider your pet’s needs:
- Food
- Water
- Shelter
- Training
- Time
- Medical care
- Illnesses
- Exercise

Carefully consider your family’s needs:
- Loud or quiet pet
- Calm or active pet
- Children
- Other pets in house
- Allergies
- Travel/vacation care
- Time to clean up after pet
- Longevity of pet life
Vaccinations

- **MAKE SURE** That your pets have all of their vaccinations AND that they are current.
- It is state law that your dog or cat has a current rabies vaccination.
- It is City of Burleson ordinance that your dog or cat has on a current rabies tag.
Rabies vaccinations are required for all pets 4 months of age and older.

- Bordatella (kennel cough)
- DHLPP (distemper, hepatitis, parvo)
- FIV (Feline Immunodeficiency Virus)
- FIP (Feline Infectious Peritonitis)
- FELV (Feline Leukemia)

Regular checkups and immunizations will ensure for a healthier and happier pet.
Understanding Vaccinations

Vaccines can protect against many disease-causing organisms:

- **Virus**
  - Rabies
  - Coronavirus
  - Distemper (dog)/Feline panleukopenia (cat)
  - Hepatitis/Feline infectious peritonitis (FIP-cat)
  - Parvo
  - Parainfluenza
  - Feline viral rhinotracheitis
  - Calicivirus
  - Feline leukemia (FeLV)
  - Feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV)

- **Bacteria**
  - Leptospirosis
  - Bordetella
  - Lyme disease

- **Parasites**
  - Giardia
Vaccinations for Dogs

- Rabies - **REQUIRED**
- DHLPP (distemper, hepatitis, leptospirosis, parvo, parainfluenza)
- Coronavirus
- Lyme Disease
- Giardia
- Bordatella (kennel cough)
Understanding Vaccinations

Vaccinations for Cats

- Rabies - REQUIRED
- FVRCP (Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis, Calicivirus, Panleukopenia)
- FeLV (Feline Leukemia)
- FIV (Feline Immunodeficiency Virus)
- FIP (Feline Infectious Peritonitis)
Understanding Vaccinations

How vaccinations work

1. Vaccine administered
2. Immune system builds up defenses against the virus and/or organisms
3. Virus and/or organism infects the body
4. Already-made defense system attacks and controls the invading virus and/or organism
5. Animal stays healthy
Other Diseases Vaccines Can Prevent

Virus

Coronavirus (dog)

- Contracted by contact/consuming feces of infected animal
- Causes diarrhea, vomiting, intestinal discomfort
- Adult animals may not have symptoms, but puppies can dehydrate so quickly and severely they will die

Distemper (dog)/Feline panleukopenia (cat)

- Passed by all body secretions – urine, feces, saliva, etc.
- Destroys white blood cells, which fight infections and disease
- Virus remains active for very long time, so disinfecting all areas animal came in contact with is vital
- Adult animals have lower death rate, but is extremely fatal in young animals and those with weak immune systems
- Can also be transmitted by foxes, wolves, coyotes, mink, skunks, weasels and raccoons
Hepatitis (dog)/Feline infectious peritonitis (FIP - cat)

- Contracted through contact with infected animal or contaminated objects
- Can be acute or chronic
- Weight loss, depression, abdominal fluid, jaundice, vomiting, diarrhea and fever

Parvo

- Contracted through any contact with contaminated fecal matter
- Affects puppies more because virus prefers quickly growing cells
- Can remain active in the environment for up to 9 months
Other Diseases Vaccines Can Prevent

Virus

Parainfluenza
- Transmitted through the air after dog coughs or sneezes
- Highly infectious
- Secondary bacterial infections may cause death

Feline viral rhinotracheitis Calicivirus
- Spread through contact of discharge from eyes and nose and feces
- Causes loss of appetite, depression, fever, ulcers, excess salivation
Other Diseases Vaccines Can Prevent
Virus

Feline leukemia (FeLV)
- Contracted through blood and saliva
- Suppresses immune system
- May cause anemia, leukemia, and some forms of cancer

Feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV)
- Passed through bite wounds
- Destroys immune system
- Can be dormant for years
- Many times with feline leukemia
Other Diseases Vaccines Can Prevent

Bacteria

Leptospirosis
- Contracted through infected urine, venereal contact, placental transfer, bite wounds, consumption of infected tissue
- Enters blood system and attacks kidney, liver, spleen, nervous system, and genital tracts
- Causes fever, muscle tenderness, vomiting, dehydration, depression
- Humans can contract

Bordatella
- “Kennel cough”
- Spreads quickly
- Lasts about 2 weeks
Bacteria and Parasite

**Lyme disease**
- Several bacteria belonging to *Borrelia* group
- Transferred through bite of ticks
- Humans can contract Lyme disease
- Cause sudden lameness, swollen joints/arthritis, depression

**Giardia**
- Contracted through water that is contaminated with feces
- Causes mild to severe diarrhea
- Concentrations of animals have higher concentration of parasite present
What is Rabies?

Rabies is an infectious disease of **mammals** caused by a virus. *REMEMBER: Viruses can’t be killed, but can be prevented through vaccinations.*

Once infection is established in the central nervous system, the outcome is **always fatal**.
Transmission of Rabies

Rabies is shed through the salivary glands. The saliva is the infectious substance.

Bite
- Any penetration of the skin by teeth
- All bites, regardless of location or severity, represent a risk.

Non-Bite
- Contamination of open wounds, abrasions, mucous membranes, or scratches with saliva or infectious material (neural tissue).

- The virus is **NOT** transmitted through:
  - Blood
  - Urine
  - Feces
  - Skunk Spray
Transmission of Rabies

- Infectious saliva
- Salivary glands
- Replicating Virus
- Motor Nerve
- Brain
- Spinal Cord

Brain inflammation

Virus transmitted by infected saliva through bite or wound
Rabies In Humans

- The incubation period is usually 20 to 60 days, but can range from less than 2 weeks to longer than 1 year.

- Bites by bats are the most likely mode of exposure.
  - People do not recognize that they were bitten by a bat, or are not reporting it.

- Rabies is not usually suspected by medical personnel when unusual symptoms develop.
You can not tell if an animal has rabies by looking at it!

**HOWEVER, SIGNS TO LOOK FOR ARE:**

- Animals that have a change in behavior.
- Wild animals that seem to be friendly or tame.
- Wild animals—coyotes, bats, foxes, skunks, and raccoons—out during the day
- Animals that have a hard time eating, walking, or drinking.
- Animals that bite or scratch at an old wound until it bleeds.
- Excitement or meanness in animals.
High Risk Animals in Texas
What Happens to Animals That Bite Humans?

- **Domestic dogs, cats, and ferrets** must be quarantined for 240 hours from the date of the bite, *regardless of vaccination status*.

- **High risk animals** (bats, skunks, foxes, coyotes, and raccoons) are humanely euthanized and tested.

- **Low risk animals** (opossums, squirrels, mice, rabbits, rats, armadillos) are not tested unless there is reason to believe that the animal has rabies.

- **Other animals** kept as pets or livestock must be quarantined for 30 days from the bite.
What Happens If The Animal Can’t Be Found, Or The Animal Comes Back Positive For Rabies?

- The bite victim must have PEP (post-exposure prophylaxis) administered. This consists of a series of rabies vaccinations and injections with human rabies immunoglobulin (rabies antibodies).

- The injections are no longer administered in the stomach, they are administered near the bite wound.

- Once symptoms of rabies have developed, no treatment or vaccine improves the outcome.
Daily Health Care

• Check your pet daily – look for early signs of illness or injury
• Learn about basic care – don’t try to replace veterinarian care with your own
• Pets can’t tell you when they’re sick – be familiar with your pet’s normal behavior. Any changes may be a signal there is something wrong.

Cruelty charges can be filed on pet owners if they do not provide medical care for their pet
NORMAL

• Your pet should be bright, alert, and responsive. The skin should be elastic; with a normal body temperature.

WARNING SIGNS

• Animal has swelling, lumps, or bumps
• Animal appears to have a hernia
• Skin does not spring back
• Animal is unbalanced or uncoordinated
• Animal has a too high or low temperature
Daily Health Care - Ears

NORMAL

- Your pet's ears should be clean, slightly pink-gray and have no odor.

WARNING SIGNS

- Red, irritated skin
- Dirt or wax build up
- Discharge
- Foul odor
- Frequent head shaking
- Scratching or pawing at ear(s)
Daily Health Care - Eyes

NORMAL

- Your pet's eyes should be clear, clean and bright, with normal pupils.

WARNING SIGNS

- Unusual pupils
- Watery
- Red
- Filmy
- Cloudy
- Swollen
- Discharge
- Itchy
Daily Health Care - Nose

NORMAL

- Your pet's nose should be clean and free of discharge.

WARNING SIGNS

- Scabbed
- Discharge
- Crusty
- Cracked
- Congested or blocked
Daily Health Care - Mouth

NORMAL

- Your pet's mouth should have clean teeth, pink gums, and be free of odor.

WARNING SIGNS

- Unusually red or pale gums
- Foul odor
- Swollen or inflamed
- Trouble swallowing
- Teeth are loose, broken, or have too much tartar
Daily Health Care - Breathing

NORMAL

- Your pet should be breathing normally, with clear lungs and at a normal rate.

WARNING SIGNS

- Breathing is irregular, shallow, or labored
- Animal is sneezing, coughing, wheezing
- Panting in cats or excessive panting in dogs
Daily Health Care – Skin/Coat

NORMAL

- Your pet’s coat should be bright and glossy. Skin should be clean, and free of swellings, lumps, and lesions.

WARNING SIGNS

- Coat is dull, oily, or dirty
- Hair loss or thinning
- Hair is matted
- Skin is dry, flaky, red, irritated, or scabbed
- Swelling, lumps, or lesions
- Excessive itching; fleas or ticks
Daily Health Care – Feet/Nails

NORMAL

- Your pets should be able to walk without trouble. Pads should be clean and smooth. Nails healthy and trimmed.

WARNING SIGNS

- Animal favors one leg
- Animal has difficulty walking; weak or uncoordinated
- Pads are cracked or bleeding
- Pads have matted hair between them
- Nails are too long or ingrown
Daily Health Care - Digestive

NORMAL

- Your pet should have a normal stool (well formed), and eat an appropriate amount of food daily.

WARNING SIGNS

- Stool is watery or bloody
- Animal is constipated
- Area around anus is swollen or has lumps
- Vomiting
- Worms in stool
Your pet should be free of any discharge or swelling from genital areas or mammary glands.

**NORMAL**

- One or both testicles are not descended.
- Swollen testicle(s)
- Oozing, swelling, or discharge from mammary glands
- Difficulty urinating

**WARNING SIGNS**
REMEMBER

• Follow local ordinances and laws.
• Laws are put in place to help protect yourself, your animal, and the public.
• Spay and Neuter your animals and promote sterilization to your friends and neighbors.
• Socialize your dog so it feels at ease around strangers and other animals. Don’t put your dog in a position where it feels threatened and teased.
• Be alert to signs your dog is uncomfortable or feeling aggressive.
• Keep your dog healthy. Have your dog vaccinated against rabies and other diseases.
BURLESON ANIMAL SERVICES

- **LOCATION:**
  775 SE John Jones Road

- **PHONE NUMBER:**
  817-426-9283

- **HOURS OF OPERATION:**
  Tuesday - Friday 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
  Saturday 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
  Sunday & Monday CLOSED
Remember: Your Pet is Your Responsibility
You must complete the quiz to get credit for this program.

Please click the link below to take the Responsible Pet Ownership Quiz