

Animal Control Newsletter



Town of Sterling - APRIL 2016

WILDLIFE NEWS

The Animal Control Officer would like to remind residents that all wildlife is becoming more active after the winter. So remember to keep wildlife out of your yard and in the woods where they belong, take down **bird feeders**, put trash out for pickup in the morning instead of the night before, especially if you use trash bags and clean up thoroughly after backyard barbeques. Do not put your trash barrels near the house the night before trash pickup and do not leave garage doors open especially with the trash barrels full. Even trimming all the bushes back around your foundation of your house will make less places for wildlife to hide. Coyotes and Fisher Cats are especially dangerous for domesticated pets. Also the **BLACK BEARS** should be becoming more active soon, so remember what I said about the bird feeders, **TAKE THEM DOWN** this is the primary food source for bears. Please keep an eye on pets when letting them outside. Also, this is mating season for most wildlife so they are all more active.



ACO CORNER

The Animal Control Officer wants to remind residents that spring is coming and the rabies virus is out there. Although it's on the decline, here are some signs of the rabies virus in raccoons and skunks the most common wildlife to get rabies:

Disoriented and sick stage -The animal may stagger about or move very slowly, seemingly with little purpose. The animal may walk extremely uncoordinated way and wander into objects.

Aggressive rabies behavior - Behaviors can include unprovoked fighting with dogs, cats and porcupines as demonstrated by having quills found embedded in their faces. Attacking inanimate objects, screaming and walking on hot pavement.

Dumb stage - Meaning over friendly with humans and will not leave when yelled at. Having paralysis in their hind legs and have stiffness with trouble moving around. One of the last signs of rabies is the frothing at the mouth, which is called saliva pooling.

Although seeing skunks and raccoons out during the daylight hours do not mean they are sick. Yes they are nocturnal, But they cannot sleep all the time.



DEADLINE FOR DOG LICENSING IN STERLING:

IS FRIDAY APRIL 15, 2016,

PAYMENTS

LEFT IN THE DROP BOX AFTER

11.30AM

ON FRIDAY APRIL 15th WILL BE

CREDITED

ON THE NEXT BUINESS DAY AND A

LATE

FEE OF \$25.00 PER DOG WILL BE

ACCESSED.

REMEMBER THE TOWN HALL CLOSSES

AT

11.30 ON FRIDAYS

Penalties for violation(s) of by-laws § [18-3](#) are:

1. Fine for failure to vaccinate for rabies
\$25 per dog (may be in addition to other fines)
2. Fee for late licensing (after April 15)
\$25 per dog (may be in addition to other fines & fees)
3. Fine for unlicensed dog
\$25 per dog/per week (may be in addition to other fines & fees)

FAILURE TO LICENSE A DOG(S) IN THE TOWN OF STERLING MAY RESULT IN A CRIMINAL COMPLAINT BEING ISSUED AGAINST YOU AT CLINTON DISTRICT COURT.

REMEMBER GETTING A RABIES SHOT FOR YOUR DOG DOES NOT MEAN IT IS LICENSED!

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