

# ANIMAL CONTROL NEWSLETTER



TOWN OF STERLING • JULY 2016



## Common Sense & Safe Pet Restraint

Drivers who are also dog owners often like to take their dogs with them on short and long trips. Untethered, they can potentially be injured or cause injury to other passengers. Unexpected stops can make the dog fly forward into the dash, seat ahead or the floor. Common sense and statistics dictate that a loose dog can be easily jolted out of a vehicle and cause an accident. Learn safe ways to transport your dog. When traveling with a pet in the car, it is a good idea to choose a safe pet restraint system that will protect you and your pet. There are many product options now available on the market. Choose the one that works best for your situation. Does your dog love to travel in the car with you? You and your family wear seat belts when riding in the car. Does your pet? If you have not considered it, here are some important reasons why your dog should wear pet auto seat belt:

1. The dog won't be able to distract the person driving the car, possibly causing a car accident. Sudden unexpected stops won't cause the dog to fly forward into the dash, the back seat or onto the floor, possibly injuring the dog.
2. The dog won't be able to put their head out the window. Not only will they not be able to put their head out the window, they won't be able to get their body out either. Dogs are instinctive creatures and if something catches their attention, such as another dog, a squirrel or other animal, they may go after it without a thought. Many dogs will run or even bite if frightened. If you and your pet happen to be in a serious auto accident, your dog is going to be terrified. If there is a means of escape, your dog may get out of the car and run. Where are they most likely to run? It would be a terrible thing for a pet to survive an auto accident only to get hit by a car.
3. A pet auto seat belt can actually be quite comfortable once the dog gets used to it. Dogs can have a difficult time lying down in a seat because of the turning, speeding up, slowing down and stopping movements of the car. Many dogs can brace themselves better by standing or sitting. With a pet auto seat belt, a dog can stand, sit, or lie down comfortably and not have to worry about bracing themselves against car maneuvers.
4. Last but not least, a pet auto safety belt shows you to be a responsible and caring pet owner as well as a responsible driver.



**S**terling Animal Control Officer, Louis Massa, would like to remind residents that all wildlife is very active this time of year. To keep them 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 barbecues. Even trimming all the bushes back around the foundation of your house leaves fewer places for wildlife to hide. Do not put full trash barrels near your house the night before trash pickup wildlife can easily knock them over and please close your garage doors especially at night.

Coyotes and fisher cats are a danger for domesticated pets, especially small dogs and outside cats. Large dogs are at risk as well when several coyotes pack together. If you see coyotes or bears or any wildlife in your yard, scare them off by making a loud noise, such as banging pots/pans together or blowing a car horn. You don't want them to become comfortable in the area.

Coyotes and other wildlife are teaching their young how to hunt and fend for themselves this time of year so please keep an eye on your pets when they are outside.

PLEASE DO NOT handle any wildlife! Leave them alone! Especially the young they might look cute but they still can bite. Visit the Animal Control Officers town page for other helpful links.

## A NOTE FROM THE ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

### Heat Exhaustion/Hyperthermia in Dogs

Dog fur is great protection against the cold but can be a problem in hot weather. This is because, unlike humans, dogs eliminate heat by panting. Dogs have some sweat glands in the footpads which help with heat dissipation but only minimally. When panting isn't enough, their body temperature rises. This can be fatal if not corrected quickly. Excessive panting and signs of discomfort indicate overheating. However, it is important to be aware of the ambient temperature and take appropriate preventative measures. Any hot environment can cause heatstroke, but the most common cause is careless actions such as leaving a dog in a car on a hot day or forgetting to provide shade to an animal kept outdoors.

