



Animal Control Newsletter



Town of Sterling - APRIL 2015

WILDLIFE NEWS

The Animal Control Officer would like to remind residents that all wildlife is becoming more active after the tough winter for them. Most wildlife can adapt to these kind of tough winters very well, But there food supply can be scarce with the deep snow cover. So remember 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 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.



Easter Dangers for Your cat and dog!

1)Eggs - Dyed and Plastic-Shiny plastic eggs may look like toys to your pets. If they chew and swallow the plastic, it can cause intestinal problems that may require surgery.

2)Chocolate-Chocolate is one of the most deadly foods for pets (both cats and dogs; dark chocolate is worst, white chocolate has the lowest risk). It's not only high in fat; it contains two nervous system stimulants, caffeine and theobromine. The fat can make your pet vomit or cause diarrhea unpleasant, but usually not fatal. It's the stimulants that can cause death.

3) Easter Lilies These flowers are beautiful and festive, but should be avoided at all costs if you share your home with pets. Easter lilies are one of the most poisonous plants for pets, especially to cats. Vomiting, lethargy and loss of appetite are symptoms of lily poisoning. Cats who take a bite of the flower can die from kidney failure in less than two days if left untreated. Tip: Try faux lilies for the same look without the risk.



DEADLINE FOR DOG LICENSING IN STERLING: WEDNESDAY APRIL 15, 2015

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. Fine 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.

ADDITIONAL PAYMENT INFORMATION:

The Town of Sterling provides a drop-off box for resident bill payments just outside the Town Office building. This box is operational during the published business hours of the Town offices. The box is emptied once a day; in the mornings only. If Sterling residents put something in the drop-off box after 3:30 pm Monday-Thursday and after 10:30 am on Fridays, the payment will be applied to the next business day.

Attach your 2015 license tag on your dog(s) collar. If your dog gets loose or in case of an emergency, contacting you will be more efficient. **KEEP YOUR DOG(S) SAFE!**

ACO CORNER

The Animal Control Officer wants to remind residents that spring is coming and the rabies virus is still 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.