

ANIMAL CONTROL NEWSLETTER



TOWN OF STERLING • JULY 2015



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 the dog 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. And 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.



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.

ANIMAL CONTROL BY-LAWS

Penalties for violation(s) of section 18-3 shall be:

- Failure to vaccinate for rabies: \$25.00 per dog (may be in addition to other fines)
- Late licensing (after April 15th): \$25.00 per dog (may be in addition to other fines & fees)
- Unlicensed dog: \$25.00 per dog, per week (may be in addition to other fines & fees)
- Bring a copy of your rabies certificate when you go license your dog/dogs.

FAILURE TO LICENSE A DOG/DOGS IN THE TOWN OF STERLING MAY RESULT IN A CRIMINAL COMPLAINT BEING ISSUED AGAINST YOU AT CLINTON DISTRICT COURT. DEADLINE IS APRIL 15, 2015!

EMERGENCY PLANNING!

The animal control officer of Sterling wants residents to think about having a plan in place in case of a man made or natural disaster in your home. Residents need to think about what is the best way to get your animals to a safe place away from the danger. Can you get your cat or dog or any other domesticated pet safely out of the house if there a fire, gas leak, hurricane etc.? Practice putting your cat in a pillow case, box or crate; remember where your cat or dog sleeps. Try to have your updated rabies certificate in a safe place if needed. You might need to leave your house for a while and go to a shelter, and you might need your rabies certificate. Practice getting your dog out of the house on leash small dogs in a pillow case or box. Try not to let your domesticated animal loose especially outside they can run off, due to stress. Do not forget about your guinea pig, gerbil, hamster, farm animal's etc. Think about a safe place outside where everybody should meet.