

ANIMAL CONTROL NEWSLETTER

Town of Sterling - June 2015

ANIMAL CONTROL CORNER!

The animal control officer wants to remind residents that you do need to have control of your dog at all times on or off leash. So if you are walking your dog off leash in areas of town you still need to have **direct control** of your dog at all times. Remember NO dogs are allowed at Sholan Park/town beach. Also if your dog does defecate please pick it up be a responsible pet owner, Carry baggies with you. There can be allot of parasites in fecal matter.

ACO Corner

July Fourth is coming up soon!

Celebrating the fourth of July with fireworks and good food is a tradition with families nationwide. But those celebrations can be dangerous to the four-legged members of your family. The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) warns to **protect your pets this Independence Day.**

The ASPCA recommends: Never use fireworks around pets!! Lit fireworks can cause severe burns or trauma to the face and paws of curious pets. Unused fireworks also pose a danger because many contain potentially toxic substances including potassium nitrate, arsenic and other heavy metals. Avoid taking pets to loud, crowded firework displays. Keep pets in a quiet, protected and escape-proof place during firework displays. Don't leave alcoholic drinks where pets can reach them. Pets that ingest alcohol can become intoxicated and weak, severely depressed or lapse into a coma. Death from respiratory failure is also possible in severe cases warns the ASPCA. If you suspect your pet may have come in contact with or ingested a potentially poisonous substance,

Contact - your local veterinarian or Tufts veterinary hospital North Grafton-508-839-5395 and Wachusett animal Hospital 978-874-1122 both open 24/7 for on call emergency's.

Veterinary help is just a phone call away!

A QUICK NOTE ON LYME DISEASE



Feared for their ability to transmit lyme disease, adult deer ticks grow only to about the size of a sesame seed. Here are some of the signs of lyme disease in dogs and cats. Make sure you check your dog and cats on a regular basis especially if they go outside alot. For preventive measures see your local veterinarian.

DOGS - The most common sign is lameness in the joints, other signs are, they run a fever, weakness, loss of appetite and weight loss.

CATS - Even though lyme disease is uncommon in cats, they can still get it. Some of the signs are lack of appetite, lameness due to inflammation of the joints, lethargy and in some cats, kidney conditions.

A note from the Animal Control Officer
FAILURE TO LICENSE DOG/DOGS IN THE TOWN OF STERLING MAY RESULT IN A CRIMINAL COMPLAINT BEING ISSUED AGAINST YOU AT CLINTON DISTRICT COURT.

Poisonous Plants

When designing and planting your green space, it's a good idea to keep in mind that many popular outdoor plants including sago palm, rhododendron and azalea are toxic to cats and dogs.

Fertilizer

Just like you, plants need food. But pet parents, take care, the fertilizer that keeps our plants healthy and green can wreak havoc on the digestive tracts of our furry friends. Ingesting large amounts of fertilizer can give your pet a good case of stomach upset and may result in life-threatening gastrointestinal obstruction. Always store these poisonous products in out-of-the-way places and follow label instructions carefully.

Fleas and Ticks

Since fleas and ticks lurk in tall brush and grasses, it's important to keep those lawns mowed and trim.

In Massachusetts call:

**Angell Animal Poison Control Hotline/24 hours a day
1-877-226-4355**







