

Welcome to the 2021 Animal Control Update



PUBLIC SAFETY AND ANIMAL WELFARE

HUMANE OFFICER



**PORTAGE COUNTY
ANIMAL CONTROL
AND PROTECTION**

715-344-6012 ext 305

Protect - Prevent - Provide

Representing the Humane Society



SHERRI GALLE-TESKÉ
HSPC Executive Director



SHEILA KESSLER
Chair – HSPC Board of Directors
Managing partner of Animal Legal
Resources, LLC, and
Kessler and Greer Law Office



BRETT JARMAN
Vice Chair – HSPC Board of Directors
Animal Control Manager - Interim

Different Format and Content



- Review of the responsibilities and important tasks
- Observations about changes since the pandemic
- Activity Counts
- Areas that have caused concerns in 2021



Responsibilities

- The primary focus of Animal Control is **public safety**
- Following closely are animal welfare, responsible pet ownership, and nuisance mitigation
- Serve the community efficiently, effectively, and impartially
- Assist law enforcement



Public Safety Risks

Animal Bites

- Quarantine of animal per WIS 95.21
- Home quarantine if animal has a current rabies vaccination
- Shelter quarantine if not current

Quarantine dispatches by year

137 in 2019

158 in 2020

185 in 2021 (9 months)



Public Safety Risks



- Animals at large
 - Dogs, Cats, Livestock, Exotics
 - Any domestic animal has the potential to pose a public safety hazard
 - Animals are inherently unpredictable



Stray Dispatches by year
569 in 2019
488 in 2020
398 in 2021 (9 months)



Public Safety Risks



- Animals in traffic
 - Humane Officers are called to help catch or corral animals that are on roads



Animal Welfare Investigations



- **WIS 951**

- Guiding legislation for animal abuse and neglect laws in Wisconsin
- Animals are property in Wisconsin and most states
- Prosecution requires intentional or criminally negligent actions resulting in serious or permanent injury

- **Investigations**

- Collect factual evidence
- Interview witnesses and pet owners
- Review evidence
- Educate both parties
- Orders of abatement and/or citations
- Criminal cases are investigated in conjunction with the Sheriff's Office

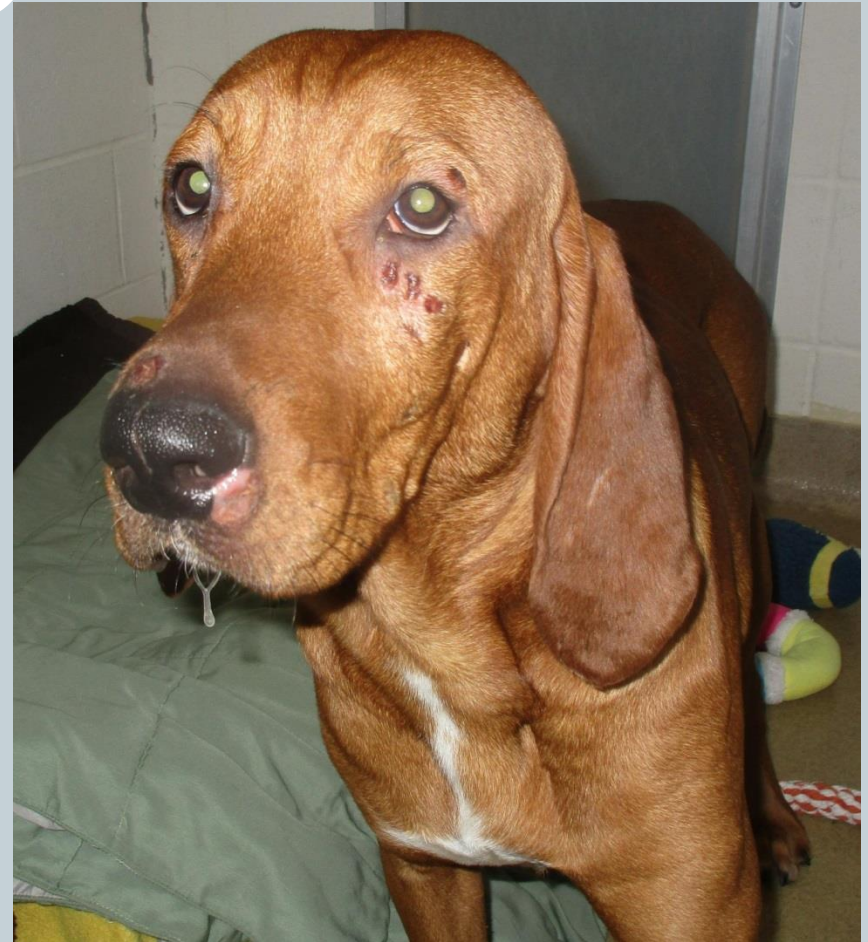
Animal Welfare Investigations

Animal mistreatment / neglect
dispatches by year

217 in 2019

272 in 2020

226 in 2021 (9 months)



Emergency Animal Services (protective custody)



- Owner dies
- Owner is taken to the hospital
- Owner is taken to jail
- Animal in car after an accident

Animals Impounded by year

24 in 2019

29 in 2020

25 in 2021 (9 months)



Animal Nuisances



- Running at large
- Feces
- Property damage
- Barking dogs



Nuisance Dispatches by year
361 in 2019
514 in 2020
521 in 2021 (9 months)



Animal Recovery

Injured or deceased animal
dispatches by year

48 in 2019

53 in 2020

57 in 2021(9 months)

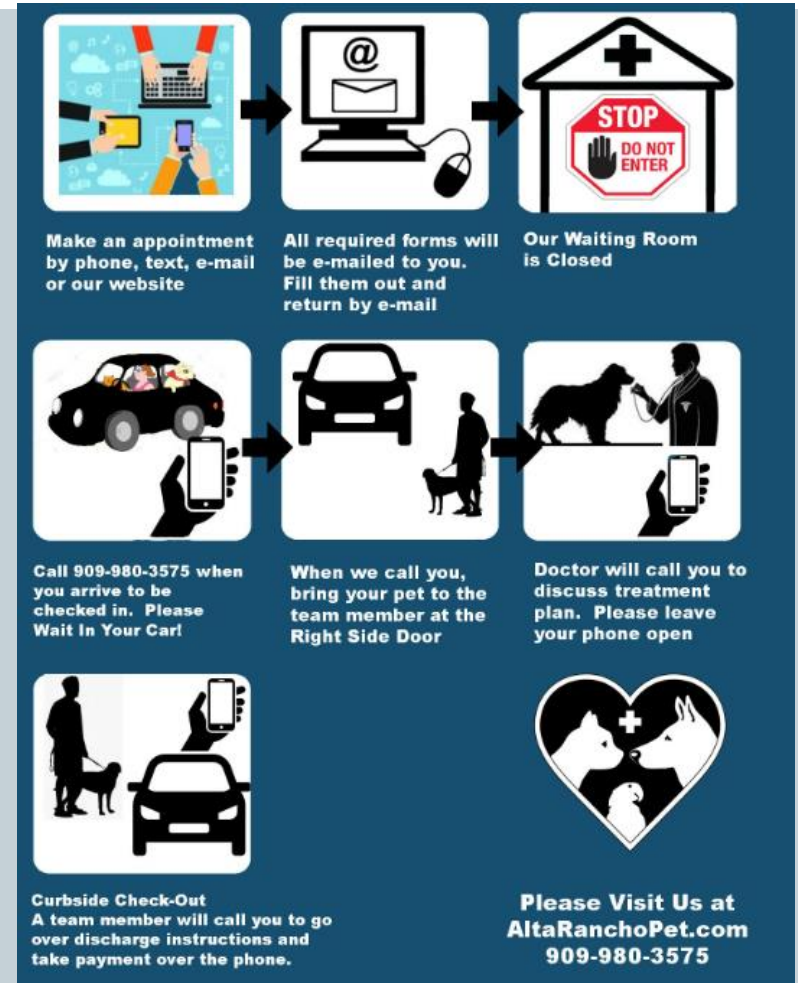


Dog Licenses

- Dog licenses require a rabies vaccination
- Veterinarians are harder to access and have longer waiting times due to the pandemic



Dog Licenses sold by year
640 in 2019
450 in 2020
314 in 2021 (9 months)



Commercial Animal Inspections

Places we have inspected:
Wild West Campground & Corral
Muckamoor Boarding Kennels
Heartland Equestrian Center
Puppy Paws Playhouse
River West Grooming
Eau Pleine Kennels
Lonerock Cattery
DaChZanity
Dog Star Resort
Wag Inn Kennels
Lil Pets
Petco



Animal Establishment Inspection Form

3200 Iber Lane, Plover, WI 54467 ~ (715) 344-6012 ~ (715) 344-5954 Fax ~ www.hspcwi.org



Name of Commercial Animal Establishment _____
Date of Inspection _____ Address _____
Phone/Fax _____ Contact Person _____

Cleaning and Disinfecting	Officer Notes
1. Available hot and cold water? Yes No N/A	_____
2. Disinfectant used? Yes No N/A	_____
3. How often?	_____



2021 Variety of Animals



- Chickens, a pig, an iguana and a goat



Stray Pets and Return to Owners



Stray Intakes by year

790 in 2019

676 in 2020

524 in 2021 (9 months)



Strays reunited by year

289 in 2019

251 in 2020

221 in 2021 (9 months)

Other Counts

Humane Vehicle Miles
14,573 in 2021 (9 months)

Night Officer takes vehicle
home for a faster response



Humane Phone Calls
7,035 in 2021 (9 months)

Calls automatically forward
to Humane Officer on duty

Humane Officers take calls
24 hours day



Other Counts

An unexpected occurrence in 2021

A Humane Officer was met by an armed person when approaching a house.

Fortunately she was accompanied by sworn officers who took command of the situation.



Our Team and Approach



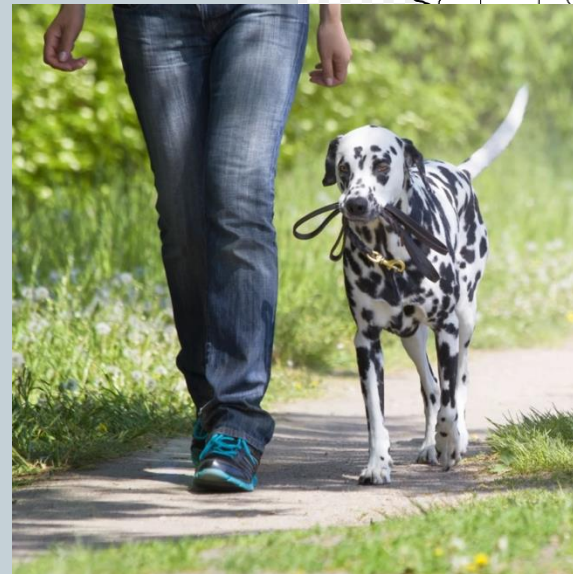
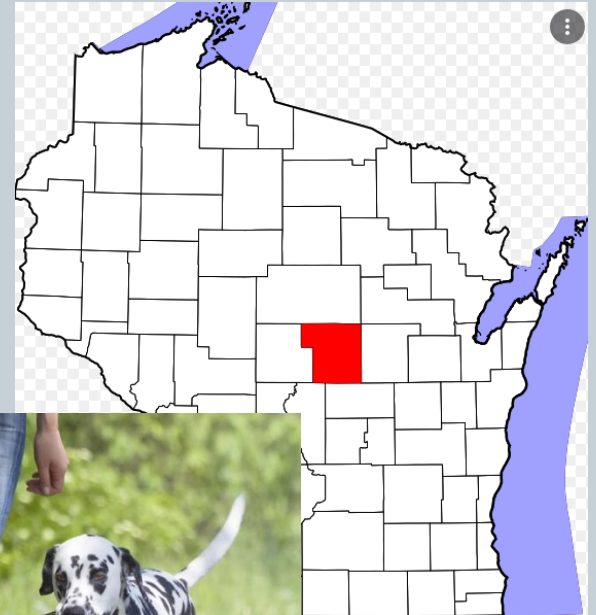
- Currently 4 officers (1 part time)
- Looking for 1 more
- The pandemic has made the job market tight
- We have increased the pay range and will be offering health and dental benefits in 2022
- We lost 3 officers in 2021
- We released 3 others
- Officers tend to be recent graduates of UWSP or Midstate under the age of 30
- Humane Officers are on call 7 days a week 24 hours a day (including holidays)
- Officers rotate between days and nights. Sometimes an officer is on call for a 24 hour period.
- We attempt to schedule so each officer has two consecutive days off each week.

Municipal Ordinances

Humane Officers are appointed and have authority to enforce Wisconsin Statutes and Portage County Ordinances

Some Portage County Municipalities have their own ordinances requiring dogs to be on a leash.

These ordinances are not enforced by Humane Officers



Trap Loan Program

We have a collection of traps in various sizes. Trap purchase prices range from \$50 to \$500.

We loan these traps to residents of Portage County at no cost.

Traps require a deposit to ensure they are returned.

Deposits are **NOT** banked unless the trap is not returned.

Traps placed by Humane Officers do not require a deposit.

Traps are to be used during the day at a specific location.

Humane Officers will come to the trap and pick up animals that are caught.

We do not deliver or pick up empty traps.



Green Circle Trail

Portage County has specific ordinances that apply to the Green Circle Trail. One of the ordinances requires dogs to be on leashes.

Trail use counts are:

2020: 318,512 users (64% increase in number of users due to COVID-19 pandemic)

2019: 194,545 users

2018: 199,624 users

2% are pet walkers

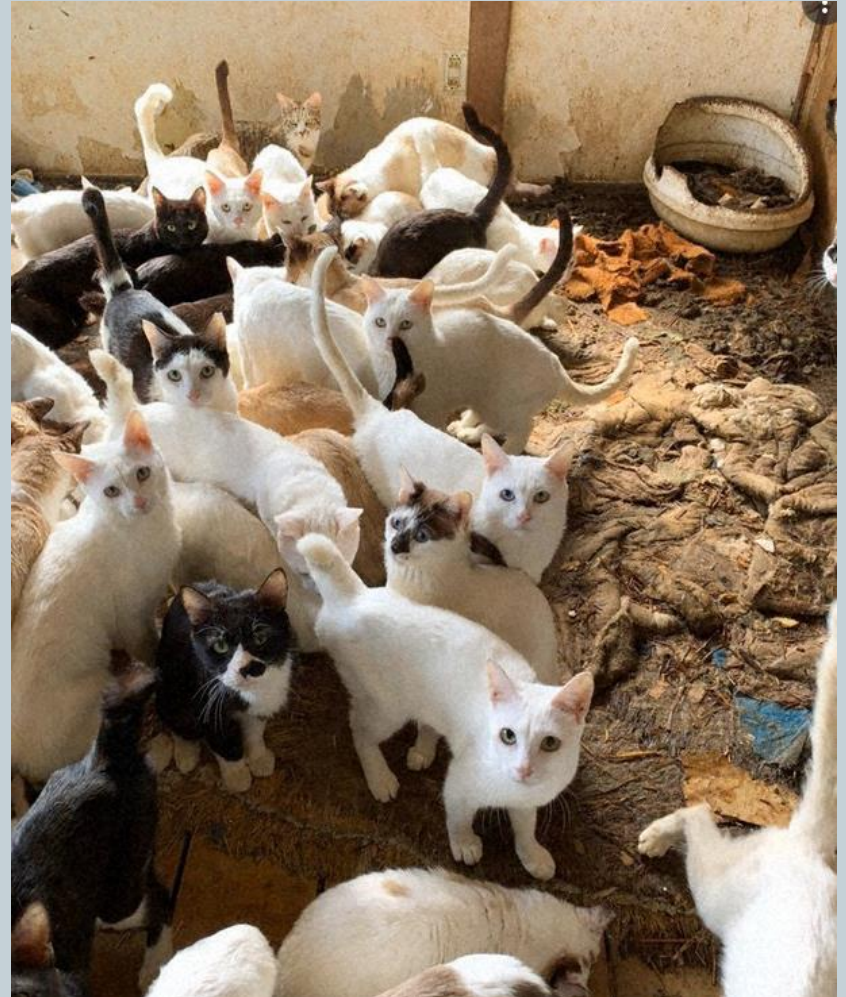
We have on several occasions watched for violations.



Our Observations

The following are increasing in frequency:

- Anonymous reports
- Dog barking reports
- Running at large reports
- False reports – neighbor on neighbor
- Animal welfare check requests
- Animal hoarding cases



Dog License Enforcement

Portage County dog owners are required to have their dogs vaccinated against rabies and purchase a license.

They are not required to report the death, sale or transfer of a pet.

Dog owners who purchased a license last year and did not purchase a license this year – may be guilty of not purchasing a license

Recently one municipality asked us to investigate five suspected cases. Our results were: 1 had a license but lived at a different address, 1 was owned by a different person, 3 we were unable to determine if they had a dog.

We cannot issue a citation based on suspicion. A citation requires a level of proof that would stand up in court.



If you have a known violation you can complete a complaint. We will send a letter to the suspect to encourage compliance.

Our next step would be to ask the Sheriff to obtain an inspection warrant based on the signed complaint.

A Sheriff's Deputy and Humane Officer would then visit the suspect.

Thank You!



HUMANE OFFICER



**PORTAGE COUNTY
ANIMAL CONTROL
AND PROTECTION**

715-344-6012 ext 305

Protect - Prevent - Provide