



BERRIEN COUNTY

PAWS in the LAW

ANIMAL CONTROL

DOG LICENSE RENEWALS DUE MARCH 1ST, 2012



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CONGRATS AND THANK YOU!

TO ALL OF THE LICENSED DOG OWNERS IN BERRIEN COUNTY!

92.45 % OF THE 21,000 LICENSES WE SELL ARE FOR SPAYED OR NEUTERED DOGS!

Berrien County Animal Control continues its efforts to locate and license every K-9 in the County. You can do your part by making sure that your pet is licensed, and by encouraging your friends and relatives to do the same.

Licenses help the Berrien County Animal Control Department to exist and to be effective. Licenses also help save many pets' lives, as well as decrease the chance of a rabies outbreak.

Animal Control kennels average 45-60 dogs a week and admit 100-400 cats each month. The numbers are just astounding and totally preventable. The number of unwanted pets in the county needs to decrease and this begins with the owners.

PETS NEED TO BE SPAYED AND NEUTERED. THIS IS A PET OWNERS RESPONSIBILITY.



LICENSES

Thank you in advance to everyone who will renew their dog license before March 1, 2012.

RATES - BEFORE MARCH 1, 2012

\$10 ALTERED / \$25 UN-ALTERED

RATES - AFTER MARCH 1, 2012

(LATE FEES APPLY)

\$30 ALTERED / \$45 UN-ALTERED

You may renew your license by mail or in person at:

BERRIEN COUNTY ANIMAL CONTROL

9204 Huckleberry Rd., Berrien Center, MI 49102

BERRIEN COUNTY TREASURER'S OFFICE

701 Main St., St. Joseph, MI 49085

SOUTH COUNTY COURTHOUSE

County Clerk's Office
1205 N. Front St., Niles, MI 49120

or at participating veterinarians offices throughout the County.

If you find that a pet no longer fits into your life, don't just dump them off someplace. If you are unable or unwilling to care for an animal that you have taken in, Berrien County Animal Control can help.

On the same note, if you happen upon a lost pet, the animal is not yours to give away or keep. Please contact BCAC. Finally, we would like to thank you, the responsible pet owners of our county who license their pets, keep their pets healthy, and spay and neuter to help reduce our pet population.

**Never approach
a bull from the front
a horse from the rear
or a fool from any direction.**

BCAC RABIES SHOT CLINICS



Berrien County Animal Control will be hosting several **RABIES SHOT CLINICS**

in the next few months. The cost is **\$20 for a 1 year rabies shot, and \$25 for a 3 year rabies shot.** You will also be able to purchase your county license at the same time. Please bring your license renewal form with you.

Our next clinic will be on

Sunday, January 15th 2012

from 1pm-3pm at:

ORONOKO PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING

4411 East Snow Road., Berrien Springs, MI 49103

Saturday, January 21, 2012

from 10am - 2pm at:

FAMILY HOME & GARDEN

11391 Cinema Way, Benton Harbor, MI 49022

Sunday, February 12th 2012

from 1pm-3pm at:

WATERVLIE FIRE DEPARTMENT

217 North Pleasant St., Watervliet, MI 49098

Sunday, February 26th 2012

from 1pm-3pm at:

LINCOLN/CHARTER TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT

2130 West John Beers Rd., Stevensville, MI 49127

Clinic date postings also on:

www.berriencounty.org

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED - CASH ONLY!

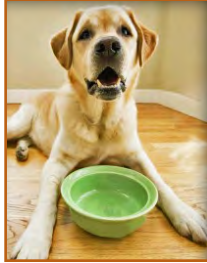


SimplyCatBreeds.org presented BCAC with a Cat Rescue Award for excellence in helping needy cats, in November 2011

PET SUPPLIES, DONATIONS & VOLUNTEERS ALWAYS WELCOME!

PET SUPPLIES If you would like to donate to Berrien County Animal Control, the following is a list of the most needed items:

- 🐾 **PUPPY AND KITTEN FOOD**
- 🐾 **KITTY LITTER**
- 🐾 **PET CARRIERS**
- 🐾 **LAUNDRY SOAP**
- 🐾 **DISH SOAP**
- 🐾 **LITTER PANS**
- 🐾 **PET BOWLS**
- 🐾 **BROOMS AND MOPS**



DONATIONS Those that would like to donate money may do so in many ways and forms. Contributions to the Berrien County Animal Control may be specified for the purchase of certain items such as pet supplies. Donations may also be made in memory / honor of those animal-loving loved ones in your life.

BUILDING FUND: Please help us build a new shelter that we can be proud of, and show the world how much we care about our animals in Berrien County. *See the donation form on the back page.*

VOLUNTEERS are always welcome. With Animal Control sponsored events to help raise money, additional hands are always needed. Also, if someone loves animals and would like to spend some quality time walking the pets, playing with them or donating time in the shelter, that is always appreciated. With so many schools requiring community service hours now, volunteering at Animal Control offers a great way for someone to collect those hours. (Some requirements for parental supervision do exist, contact Animal Control for details).

"People who want milk should not seat themselves on a stool in the middle of a field in hope that the cow will back up to them.
-Many a good prospect has been lost this way."

Jimmy W. Carroll



DID YOU KNOW THAT BERRIEN COUNTY ANIMAL CONTROL:

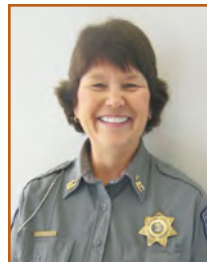
- 🐾 **REDUCES OVERPOPULATION**
of homeless animals by spaying and neutering?
- 🐾 **RESCUES**
Abused and neglected animals?
- 🐾 **TEACHES**
Responsible pet care?
- 🐾 **TEACHES CHILDREN**
The value of all life and how to be kind to animals?
- 🐾 **PLACES HOMELESS ANIMALS**
In new loving homes?
- 🐾 **HELPS INJURED, SICK**
And orphaned wildlife?



DID YOU ALSO KNOW..

...THAT when livestock is hit by a car, the owner of the animal is responsible for the damage to the vehicle. BUT the car owner is responsible for the cost of the animal and its care?

...TO BE aware of your city/township ordinances? Are there regulations for the number of animals and type of animals allowed? Is there an ordinance against barking dogs? Does the city/township restrict what breed of dog is allowed?



...THAT 4 FULL TIME OFFICERS & 1 PART TIME OFFICER

handled over 6,000 complaints in 2010 and over 5,000 so far in 2011?

Valerie Grimes
Chief Animal Control Officer

“PIT BULL” - FRIEND OR FOE?



We are bombarded daily by news stories about “pit bull” attacks on humans and other animals. We see the horrific images, and we wonder why this “breed” is still so popular.

But Pit bulls, like all dogs, can be wonderful, loving animals that deserve the chance to have a good life. It’s a shame what has happened to this loyal and affectionate breed.

The important thing to remember is that the responsibility for a dog’s behavior, **ANY** dog, falls on people. **Not** the animal.

WHAT EXACTLY IS A PIT BULL?

A “Pit bull” is not an actual breed. It’s a generic term often used to describe all dogs with similar traits and characteristics known to the public as “pit bulls.” The breed encompasses American Pit Bull Terriers, American Staffordshire Terriers and Staffordshire Bull Terriers. It is more officially called an American Pit Bull Terrier (APBT), or AmStaff.



BREED HISTORY:

Most people know that Pit Bull breeds were developed for blood sports such as bull baiting, bear baiting, and later, dogfighting.

What is **not** common knowledge is that in the days of organized dogfighting, the handlers of the combatants were habitually **IN THE PIT** with the dogs for the duration of the fight and were required to pick up and separate the dogs several times while the dogs were in full fight frenzy. Any dog that attacked or bit a handler (even if it was the other dog’s handler) or anyone else at any time were put down, often on the spot, and would never have been bred. The old rule in the pit-bull world was “man-eaters die.”

A central fact of pit bulls’ history is that their lineage actually makes them less inclined to be aggressive toward humans. For over 180 years, “human-aggressive” pit bulls were actively removed from bloodlines, and traits such as gentleness, temperamental stability and the desire to be handled by humans were emphasized. These qualities are actually the foundation of the “pit bull” breeds.

WHY DO PIT BULLS HAVE SUCH A BAD REPUTATION?

Despite being wonderful companion animals, Pit Bulls often attract the worst kind of dog owners—those who are only interested in them for dog fighting, protection, status or profit. Dog fighting is a felony violation of the Michigan State Law yet the popularity of this cruel and vicious sport continues to grow.



➤ FIGHTING/GAME DOGS

A large population of pit bulls are bred by dog fighters for the sole purpose of dog fighting for sport, profit and status. This has created a growing population of aggressive pit bulls also known as “**game dogs**”. Fighting/game dogs are **not** suitable for re-homing as they have been trained and bred for specific traits that compel them to attack and kill other animals...and sometimes people.

➤ BACKYARD BREEDING

Often “game dogs” are bred with other pit bulls (many of which are stolen, fraudulently adopted or purchased from people on popular websites,) and fall into the hands of dog fighters who continue to breed them with other game dogs. Most of these backyard “breeders” know nothing about breeding for favorable health and temperament qualities, and they don’t know how to raise a properly socialized litter. Many wean litters from their mothers way too soon. Sometimes, a backyard breeder turns into small-time puppy mill to increase their supply, so you can find Pit Bull puppies for sale at any time.



The off-spring of these “game dogs”, without proper training and socialization, can become extremely aggressive with other animals **without prior** signs of aggression. Sometimes the aggressive tendencies and strong prey drive don’t appear **until the dog is between the ages of 12-18 months**, often with deadly results. This makes life difficult for responsible owners, and spells doom for many of these beautiful dogs.

WHAT IF I ALREADY OWN A PIT BULL?

Pits are by nature loving animals who want nothing more than to please their owner. They are intelligent and very responsive to training.

➤ SPAY/NEUTER AND LICENSE:

Spay/Neuter immediately! (4-6 months if it's a puppy). This prevents any accidental pregnancies or backyard breeding if your dog is stolen or gets loose. Make sure they are licensed and microchipped.

➤ TRAINING:

A pit bull should be enrolled in obedience classes and trained (specifically, pit bull training) as soon as they've received all of their vaccinations. They should be socialized properly following guidelines specific to its breed.



➤ LOVE!

Loving and training your pit bull as a breed ambassador are the most important things anyone can do to combat a pit bull's reputation.

WHAT IF I WANT TO ADOPT/BUY A PIT BULL?

Pit bulls have superior physical and mental characteristics that make them excellent partners for responsible, active and caring owners.

An insecure person who wants only an aggressive dog to bolster some personal human inadequacy should never become an owner of a pit, or any other dog.

➤ UNDERSTAND THE BREED:

Being a powerful dog, a pit bull requires sufficient and adequate control. Some prospective owners including the elderly and young children cannot supply that control. They may be difficult to handle for people who don't have a lot of experience with dog ownership, or for those who don't understand the breed well.

➤ DO RESEARCH!

Avoid unregistered puppy mills/backyard breeders, newspaper and online puppy postings. Puppies of "game dog" stock or backyard breeding are often acquired by people who are unsuspecting of the dogs' background.



This previously abused "backyard bred" pit bull was found at large in July 2011 and apprehended by BCAC after it had invaded a property, and attacked several residents.

➤ LOOK TO A RESCUE SHELTER:

If you're thinking about getting a pit bull think about a **rescue shelter**. These shelters evaluate the pit and make sure it passes temperament assessment to include compatibility with dogs, cats and people. They train and work to place adult "adoptable" pits with loving, caring owners.



WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP?

Here are some things you can do to protect your dog, yourself, and help stop "game-dog" fighting and backyard breeding:

➤ KEEP YOUR EYES AND EARS OPEN.

If you suspect dog fighting in your own neighborhood, contact the police or your BC Animal Control officer. Provide as much information as you can, such as the date and time you noticed something wrong, the address or location, and what led you to believe there was dog fighting taking place. Also, if you suspect inhumane backyard breeding contact BCAC so they can begin an investigation.

➤ INSURANCE:

Check to make sure your policy covers dog bites and any medical care if your dog does bite another person/animal. If you own or plan on acquiring a pit bull, make sure you take out an insurance policy to cover injuries that may occur to others.

➤ PROTECT YOUR PETS

Dog fighters sometimes steal companion animals to use as bait dogs and for breeding. Don't let your animals outside without supervision, and make sure they are licensed in Berrien County, and are microchipped.

➤ EDUCATE:

Others in your community about the horrors of dog fighting and start a neighborhood watch program.

➤ TEACH YOUR CHILDREN:

Involve them with any dog training of a new dog or puppy. Educate them about how to avoid stray animals and how to approach dogs. Practice plans and scenarios so they can protect themselves if they come in contact with a stray dog.



Information taken from: aspc.a.org, www.ingham.org/ac, pbrc.net

WILD BABY ANIMALS....HELP THEM SURVIVE

If you come upon a wild baby animal, it's often difficult to determine if the animal needs help or not. It may be lost or just waiting for its parents to return. Below are some recommendations for determining the best way to assist them before rushing them to Animal Control. In unraveling the mystery of what, if anything, happened to parents of reportedly orphaned animals, one needs to be part detective and part biologist...



1. Discover baby rabbits.

2. Devise string test.

3. Breathe sigh of relief to see string disturbed.



RABBITS - Mother rabbits nurse their young for about five minutes just two to three times a day. You can place string in the shape of a tic-tac-toe grid or star over the nest, and recheck your handiwork in 12 hours. If the string has been disturbed, yet the nest is still covered with nesting material, all is well.

BIRDS



Fledglings, or fully feathered young birds with short tail feathers are often perceived as orphans when in reality, they're just learning to use their wings - literally, from the ground up. Because songbird babies are fed by both parents, they're less likely to be orphaned; both parents would have to die. Unless a baby appears injured, chirps nonstop, or in imminent danger - or hasn't been visited by one of his parents in more than 60 minutes - leave him alone.

On the other hand, a featherless or partially featherless bird on the ground may need help: she may have fallen from the nest or been pushed out by siblings. If you can locate the nest or cavity (look in bushes, trees, gutters, vents - anywhere within 20 feet of where the baby was found), simply put the baby back. If the original nest has been destroyed or is too high to access, hang a small woven basket nearby, making sure the baskets isn't too deep and allows rain to pass through. From a distance, watch diligently for an hour or so to make sure the parent returns. Usually you'll see them come back within 15 to 30 minutes.

RACOONS

Mother raccoons closely supervise their young, rarely letting them out of their sight. Babies seen alone and out of their nest for more than a few hours may be orphaned, especially if they've been crying or chattering consistently. Place an upside-down laundry basket over the babies or put them in a carrier with the door unlatched but held closed by a stick propped up at a 45-degree angle, which nimble mothers should be able to knock over. Monitor overnight, and if the mother does not return, call Animal Control.



Perhaps the most important clue is the species of the animal in question. Different animals have different approaches to raising young. Improper species identification can lead to unintentional orphaning. In almost all cases, unless the animal is injured and in immediate need - the process for determining whether he's orphaned starts with giving one or both parents a chance to reclaim the youngster. After that, the steps vary by species...Keep reading to figure out how to proceed for other members of the animal kingdom...

DEER

To avoid predators, mother deer hide their newborns, often in tall grasses or brush, feeding and grooming them only a few items a day. Fawns should be left alone unless you know the mother is dead, or see the fawn lying on her side or wandering around an crying incessantly. Poor condition and flies may also indicate orphaning.



SQUIRRELS

If a baby squirrel has fallen out of his nest but isn't injured, give the mother until sundown to retrieve him; simply leave the area and keep pets at bay. If it's chilly out or if the baby isn't fully furred, place him in an open shoebox at the base of the tree, with a chemical hand warmer under the baby or a heating pad under the box, set on low if powered by an extension cord.



SKUNKS

Skunks have poor eyesight, so babies typically follow their mother in a nose-to-tail line formation. If something spooks mom, like a car or curious dog, they may get separated. Moving slowly to avoid being sprayed, place a lightweight laundry basket over the babies and monitor from a distance. The mother will look for her babies by focalizing. "She will just wander around and around and will keep circling until she finds them. When she does, mom will flip the laundry basket with her nose and collect her babies.



OPPOSSUMS

North America's only marsupial, baby opossums are born as embryos, barely larger than a bee and completely naked. They spend about two months suckling in their mother's warm pouch. When they grow to about 3 to 4 inches long, they ride around on her back. An opossum less than 7 inches long (minus the tail) is too young to be on her own: she may have fallen off without mom noticing. Take her to a rehab facility. If a mother opossum is injured or killed by a car, her babies may survive the crash only to die when her milk stops flowing. Put on gloves and check the pouch, then call a wildlife rehabilitator for guidance on what to do next.

HORSES - BASIC CARE



Horse ownership is a big responsibility and horses require both time and money for proper up-keep, but the rewards can be very fulfilling. Before purchasing or

taking ownership of a horse, information should be gathered on such things as breeds of horses, temperament, styles of riding and age of the horse.

Also:

- Have a horse expert evaluate the horse for suitability.
- Ask the seller about any injury or sickness the horse may have had.
- Pay a veterinarian to conduct a pre-purchase examination of the horse to assess health and soundness related issues.
- See if leasing the horse is an option to make sure this is the correct decision.
- If you have decided to take on the responsibility of caring for a horse, there are basic things that require basic horse care:

➤ HOUSING/REQUIRED SPACE

Horses need some protection from the elements. Horses without proper shelter will require more feed in cold weather, and more water in hot weather to remain healthy. Horses need some area to exercise and move about, such as a corral, dry lot or pasture. Shelter can be a box stall no less than 10 ft square, at least 8 ft high. Ideal flooring is clay dirt.

The facility should be kept clean and in good repair. Always be alert for loose boards, nails and any projections that could cause injury. Keep all wire and hay-bale twine picked up so horses don't ingest them.

➤ FENCING

Fencing for horses can vary from traditional board or rail fence to electric wire. The important thing is that the fence be visible to the horse so they don't run through it or get tangled in it. If using an electric fence, use a "wide" ribbon wire, which is visible to the horse. One single "hot" wire is not enough to keep horses in the pasture and off the highway. Avoid barbed wire.

➤ DISPOSAL OR COMPOSTING OF MANURE

You must have a plan for manure disposal or use, as well as fly and insect control. Composting is a way to convert manure into a product that will return nutrients to the soil, and can be used in the garden, landscape or crop fields. Contact your county cooperative Extension Service (MSUE/Community Development) for composting information.

➤ FEEDING AND NUTRITION

An average saddle horse (1000 lbs. body weight) will consume approximately 15 to 20 pounds of a combination of hay, pasture and grain (total ration) each day. The major component of a horse's diet is good forage such as alfalfa, grass hay or pasture. Many horses can get their daily nutritional requirements from grazing in a pasture. A mature horse that is not being ridden or worked can be fed a diet consisting of forage (hay or pasture) and given access to a salt or mineral block. Grain mix (generally oats and corn) should be added to the diet as the horse's training, work and activity is increased. Young and old horses will need some grain in their diet to increase needed calories.

➤ PASTURE

Before turning a horse out to pasture for the first time, you must condition it to a change in diet. Turning the horse out on green lush pasture is dangerous. It can result in founder, colic and/or death. Start out slowly, grazing a few minutes to a few hours a day and increasing over time.

➤ HEALTH CARE

Locate a veterinarian to consult with on health care maintenance. It is critical that you develop a client relationship with a veterinarian with routine health visits, prior to an emergency situation.

DENTAL CARE Teeth should be checked and floated at least once a year by a Equine dentist.

VACCINATIONS All horses should be vaccinated at least once a year (spring). Age, intended use, individual health and time of year influence the risk for infectious disease and the vaccination program that is needed.

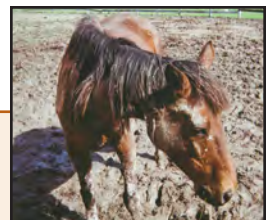
INTERNAL PARASITE CONTROL A horse should be paste de-wormed 4 to 6 times a year. The frequency of treatment varies with use, concentration of horses and where they are housed. A daily fed product can also be used to control parasites.

FOOT CARE Hooves should be trimmed every six to eight weeks. Contact a qualified farrier (horseshoer). Clean out the hooves every time before and after you ride. Examine them regularly for problems.

FIRST AID Contact a veterinarian any time the horse appears sick, disoriented or has been injured, for any questions about health care, vaccinations and general health care.

Information taken from:
American Youth Horse Council

BCAC investigated an increasing number of horse related alleged neglect and starvation cases in 2011.



HOARDING

THE PERCEPTION: The “cat lady” stereotype feeds public perceptions of hoarding, leading many people to view hoarders as merely animal lovers who become overwhelmed by their animals, rather than recognizing hoarding as a form of severe animal abuse and mental illness.



The public tends to see the police, animal rescue groups, and the judicial system as attacking these poor animal lovers instead of seeing the grave cruelty inflicted on the animals.

Friends, family, and neighbors of hoarders often defend hoarders as eccentric but well-meaning animal lovers. Even prosecutors and judges may be swayed by these perceptions, causing hoarders to receive only minimal charges and sentences.

THE REALITY:

Animal hoarding is harmful to the welfare of both humans and animals. Authorities often describe the conditions hoarded animals are kept in as deplorable: “containing animal carcasses, standing water, refuse, and animal and human waste, and conditions inside the dwellings are ‘knee-deep in garbage and feces.’ The animals clearly suffer from the severe neglect hoarders impose on them. The denial of basic needs (food, water, sanitation, and veterinary care) causes many of the animals to slowly deteriorate to the point of death. Even after being rescued, many of the animals are beyond repair and must be euthanized to avoid needless suffering.

Humans who live with hoarded animals (including the hoarders and anyone in their care, such as minors, disabled persons, and elders) also face serious health risks. Animal waste accumulates causing high ammonia levels that pose immediate threats to both animal and human life and health.



In many cases, “dangerous levels of toxicity rated in a hoarder’s home as a ‘biohazard’ [and] require the use of gas and oxygen masks for the rescue of a large number of cats. “Humans also risk contracting animal-related diseases and infections, such as

external parasites, rabies, ringworm, and cat-scratch disease. Additionally, “hoarders’ home conditions can subject neighbors to fire hazards, insect and rodent infestation, along with strong odor and noise.

➤ WHAT CAUSES HOARDING?

Hoarders vary in age and socio-economic backgrounds. They can be male or female, young or old. Some say hoarding can begin after the loss of a loved one, divorce, and they use the animals as comfort. Others say it’s a form of OCD, or attachment disorder. Psychiatrists differ in opinion as to what actually causes hoarding, but they all agree that it is a mental illness. It is difficult to prosecute hoarders as they believe they are not hurting but helping the animals they hoard. Their motivations do not seem to be cruel or sinister. Some researchers admit that many hoarders begin with good intentions and really wish to save animals, but their focus so how changes from helping to collecting and hoarding.



➤ HOW CAN YOU TELL IF SOMEONE MAY BE A HOARDER?

- They have numerous animals, and may not know how many are in their care.
- Their home is deteriorated (dirty windows, broken furniture, holes in walls, floor, extreme clutter.
- There is a strong smell of ammonia and floors may be covered with dried feces, urine, vomit,, etc.
- Animals are emaciated, lethargic, sickly and unsocialized.
- Fleas and vermin are present.
- Individual is isolated from community and appears to be in neglect himself.
- Individual insists all animals are happy and healthy, even when there are clear signs of distress and illness.

➤ HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- Call or write BCAC if you know of a hoarder. You are not getting the person “in trouble”, but taking the first step to getting the animals the help they need and preventing further cruelty.
- Reassure the animal hoarder that it’s ok to accept help. That way their animals will be getting the care and help they need.

Information taken from: aspc.org, www.animallaw.info

**"Take care of old folk and old dogs;
they took care of us."**

**"Support our Troops
- Remember our Veterans"**

Jimmy W. Carroll

BATS! DID YOU KNOW...

...that bats are extremely important and useful to us? Here are some things you may not have known about these not-so-scary little guys:



Big Brown Bat

➤ **BATS EAT A TON OF MOSQUITOES AND OTHER PESKY, NIGHT-FLYING INSECTS.**

Bats are the insects' primary predator. As consumers of vast numbers of pests, they rank among humanity's most valuable allies. A single little brown bat (most common in MI), can catch hundreds of mosquito-sized insects an hour. A typical colony of big brown bats can protect local farmers from the costly attacks of 18 million root-worms each summer. Vampire bats do not live in the US, but in southern Mexico, South and Central America, so there aren't any blood-suckers here in Michigan.

➤ **BATS DO NOT TRY TO GET INTO PEOPLE'S HAIR.**

They're more afraid of people than people are of them. Nor do they chew through the attic of your house. They also don't interfere with feeding backyard birds, and they will not be disrupted by pets or children.

➤ **BATS ARE NOT BLIND, AND ARE ACTUALLY VERY CLEAN MAMMALS!**

Though bats are night dwellers, they can actually see. Their ears are very specialized and they actually use ultrasonic sound vibrations along with their eyes to "see" their way around. They hang upside-down because they don't have enough bone mass in their hips to hold up their large upper body. They also do not weigh enough for gravity to affect their circulation. They have tongues and clean themselves, much like a cat.

➤ **ONLY 1% OF WILD BATS TESTS POSITIVE FOR RABIES.**

Over the last 50 years, less than 40 people have gotten rabies from a wild bat. Scientific studies have shown that nation-wide, about 5% of bats sent to state labs test positive for rabies (and that's only because more are sent in for testing).

That being said, you must still be diligent if you are bitten (or think a child/incapacitated adult may have been bitten) by a bat or any other wild animal. As soon as you realize a bite has occurred, contact the Health Department and Animal Control immediately. The LIVE bat needs to be brought in and tested for

rabies and a bitten person needs to seek medical attention right away, as rabies is fatal. Make sure all household pets are vaccinated against rabies.

➤ **IT IS ILLEGAL TO KILL BATS.**

All 9 species of bats are protected in Michigan including the Brown Bat and the Little Brown Bat, which are the most prevalent in this area. The Indiana bat is endangered. Bat populations have declined in recent years due to unwarranted human fear and persecution, as well as habitat destruction and pollution. This is also a large part of why bats end up in people's homes and attics.

➤ **MAKE OR BUY A BAT HOUSE!**

By putting up a bat house, you are not only helping give bats a home, but you may help prevent an unwanted invasion into your home. You will also provide yourself a natural mosquito and bug repellent and maybe some entertaining viewings for family and friends as they fly across the sky at dusk. If you would like to buy or put up a bat house it is critical that they are built, placed and put up properly. For a free set of plans to build your own bat house or purchase a constructed bat house, go to www.batconservation.org/drupal/free_plans



➤ **WHAT IF I HAVE BATS IN THE ATTIC OR ONE IS FLYING AROUND IN MY HOUSE?**

Bats that are flying around in your house do NOT want to be there. They just want out! If a bat has gotten in, turn on a light outside. Open the door going out and if possible, close all other windows/doors. More than likely, it will just fly out within minutes. If this doesn't work, get a pair of thick work gloves and use a small mesh net or pillow case to gently catch the bat in flight and take it outside. If the bat lands, (with gloves on) find a small cardboard box or coffee can and put the container over the bat. Slowly walk up to the bat and put the container over the bat, slip a piece of cardboard or book under it and take it outside and let it go.

If there is a colony in your house, removing them is called exclusion. Avoid any exclusions if possible in June, July or August as there may be young bats that can't fly yet. Contact Animal Control, Critter Catchers:

(www.crittercatchersinc.com) or

(www.batconservation.org/drupal/bat-exclusions) for instructions on how to humanely remove the bats.

Information taken from: www.batconservation.org

BERRIEN COUNTY ANIMAL CONTROL QUESTION & ANSWER

Can you guess what this is?

- A) Sleeping squirrel
- B) A dog
- C) Pile of matted hair
- D) An officer's lunch



ANSWER: C) Pile of matted hair

A large, matted clump of hair that was filthy, full of fleas and made mobility nearly impossible was shaved off of this little rescued dog.



If you are moving and can't take your pets with you, you should:

- A) Leave them on your neighbor's doorstep
- B) Call Animal Control
- C) Hide them in the closet
- D) Set them free in the wild



ANSWER: B) Call Animal Control

BCAC has found several animals, from small pets to large farm animals abandoned after the tenant moved away.



What kind of shelter does a dog who is frequently outdoors need?

- A) Covered shelter
- B) Cardboard box
- C) Pile of leaves
- D) None



ANSWER: A) Covered shelter

BCAC rescued this dog found laying in a pile of leaves within the snow as his only shelter.



If you suspect your animal has contracted mange you should:

- A) Ignore it. It will go away on its own.
- B) Give it a bath
- C) Call your veterinarian
- D) Put them outside



ANSWER: C) Call your veterinarian

BCAC recovered a dog in the advanced stages of (Sarcoptic) mange (which is very contagious), and it had to be euthanized.



If you can no longer take care of your pet(s), you should:

- A) Get more pets
- B) Ignore them
- C) Let them loose
- D) Call Animal Control



ANSWER: D) Call Animal Control

If you cannot take care of your pets, please call Animal Control so they may assist in finding them new homes.



BERRIEN COUNTY ANIMAL CONTROL

SAVING LIVES!

MISSION STATEMENT

TO STRIVE FOR EXCELLENCE, MAINTAINING THE HIGHEST QUALITY OF LIFE FOR HUMANS AND ANIMALS BY:

**PROTECTING AND SERVING THE
RESIDENTS OF BERRIEN COUNTY,
ENFORCING STATE AND COUNTY LAWS,
PROVIDING EDUCATION TO
PROMOTE PET RESPONSIBILITY
SPAYING/NEUTERING OF
COMPANION ANIMALS.**



Bye Baby

No more lonely cold nights or hearing that I'm bad;
No more growling belly from the meals I never had.
No more scorching sunshine with a water bowl that's dry;
No more complaining neighbors about the noise when I cry.
No more hearing "shut up, get down, or get out of here!";
No more feeling disliked, only peace in the air.
Euthanasia is a blessing, though some still can't see;
Why I was ever born if I weren't meant to be.
My last day of living was the best I ever had;
Someone held me very close, I could see that she was sad.
I kissed the lady's face and she hugged me as she cried;
I wagged my tail to thank you, then I closed my eyes and died.

—Animal Shelter Volunteers in Massena, NY



Berrien County
Animal Control

9204 Huckleberry Road
Berrien Center, MI 49102
Phone: 269-471-7531
Fax: 269-473-2809
www.berriencounty.org

 Berrien County Printing



If you would like to make a lasting gift to help the animals, consider including Animal Control in your will. Our county staff would be more than happy to discuss with you the confidential options without obligation. Call us today at (269) 471-7531. From the hearts of all the animals in Berrien County, THANK YOU!

Berrien County Animal Control - DONATION FORM

I would like to donate in the amount of \$ _____ to be use toward animal care.

I would like to be placed on the newsletter and seminar mailing list.

I would like to make a donation in the honor / memory of _____

in the amount of \$ _____, given by _____

Other: _____

Name: _____ Phone#: _____

Address: _____

THANK YOU!!!

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