

**SEVERAL EXAMPLES OF**  
**COMPANION ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN**  
**PUBLIC OUTREACH**

**The examples below are flyers and pamphlets issued by the Woodbridge Township Health Dept.**

1. Animal Control Services In Woodbridge Township
2. Am I a Responsible Pet Owner?
3. Pet Adoption Program
4. Free Roaming Cats
5. How to Care For Your Outside Cat
6. Cat Adoption Flyer

## **Animal Control Services In Woodbridge Township**

- Animal Control complaints and requests for service call: 732-855-0600, ext 5007
- Woodbridge Animal Shelter and Pet Adoption Center call: 732-726-7035

Woodbridge Township provides a staff of Animal Control Officers to manage the Woodbridge Animal Shelter & Pet adoption Center and to respond to animal related incidents. The Animal Control staff provides the following services to residents:

**Care for and arrange adoptions for animals within the Shelter.** The Woodbridge Animal Shelter and Pet Adoption Center is located at 195 Woodbridge Avenue, Sewaren, NJ 07077. The direct telephone number is 732-726-7035.

**Remove stray animals from the community.** Stray animals can harm residents or become injured by motor vehicles. Owners that provide their animals with license tags will be notified immediately that Animal Control has found their pet. Please remember to license your pet. Besides micro-chipping, it is the only way we can identify the pet's owner. If your pet should run away or get lost you should call the Woodbridge Animal Control and report the missing animal. Animal Control complaints or request for service call: 732-855-0600, ext 5007

**Respond to incidents of running-at-large.** Running-at-large refers to the situation where an animal is not restrained and off the owner's property. Residents or animals can be injured when animals are at-large.

**Provide live trap rental for nuisance animals.** The Woodbridge Animal Shelter provides a no-cost rental of live traps to remove unwanted animals on a resident's property.

**Assist residents regarding nuisance animals.** Animal Control will provide assistance in trapping and removal of nuisance animals. Nuisance animals can destroy personal property such as swimming pools, home structures, landscaping and gardens.

**Respond to animal bite reports.** Animal Control Officer response, notifications and quarantine of animals.

**Respond to vicious and aggressive animal reports.** If there is an aggressive animal report the Animal Control Staff will respond and take necessary action to protect the public from harm.

**Respond to animal abuse cases.** If there is a case of animal abuse in the community the Animal Control Staff will respond and take necessary action to protect the animal from harm.

**Provide free rabies vaccination.** Residents can take advantage of the twice yearly rabies clinics in May and September. Call for more information.

**Enforce the animal license regulation.** Animal Control Officers are required to enforce the animal license ordinance. The ordinance requires that all cats and dogs be licensed yearly by the Woodbridge Health Department. In addition, the ordinance restricts each resident to a maximum of five (5) cats and five (5) dogs per household. Please call the Woodbridge Health Department at 732-855-0600, ext 5003 for more information.

**Enforce Township ordinances and state regulations.** Animal Control has a dual responsibility to protect both the public health and the animals within the community through the enforcement of related ordinances and regulations.

## **Am I a Responsible Pet Owner?**

Pet owners derive a great deal of joy from their pets. However, with pet ownership we also have a responsibility as pet owners to not intentionally or inadvertently interfere with the health or rights of others. Responsible pet ownership means that you care for and control your pet in the appropriate ways so that it does not adversely affect your neighbors or the overall community. It includes the following areas:

**Licensing your pet:** All dogs and cats must be licensed with the Woodbridge Health Department yearly. Licensing requires a valid rabies vaccine. This ensures that your pet is adequately protected from rabies. This in turn protects your family and the community from this potentially fatal disease. Licensing also provides each pet a tag for identification. This helps to ensure that your lost pet will be returned quickly to you. To license your pet please call the Health Department at 732-855-0600, ext 5003. Dogs are licensed yearly beginning in January. Cats are licensed yearly beginning in September.

**Properly tagging/IDing your pet:** Many stray animals go unclaimed every year at Animal Shelters because they could not identify the pet's owner. Don't let this happen to your pet. Upon licensing your pet the Health Department will issue each owner a new tag yearly. This tag should be affixed to the collar of your pet. This tag has a unique number for your pet. If your pet should ever get lost or run away this tag number will alert the finder that the pet is from Woodbridge and will identify the owner. This will insure that your pet gets returned home in a quick manner.

**Vaccinating your pet:** All dogs and cats must have a current rabies vaccination. After the first series of vaccinations the vaccine is generally good for 3 years. The Health Department offers free rabies vaccine in May and September each year to residents of Woodbridge.

**Regular Veterinarian Care:** Just like people should have regular checkups all pets should be seen by a Veterinarian on a regular basis. Your Veterinarian will likely recommend other vaccinations.

**Spay/neuter:** Unless your pet is a show pet or you are a breeder your pet should be spay or neutered. Spay and neutering of cats and dogs prevents overpopulation of unwanted pets. A spayed or neutered dog or cat will live longer, stray less, be less aggressive toward other animals and of course not produce unwanted offspring. Sources for low cost spay/neuter are:

- Spay USA: 1-800-248-SPAY (7729)
- Friends of Animals: 1-800-321-PETS (7387)
- People for Animals: 973-282-0890

**Adequately controlling your pet:** Owners are responsible for having control of their pet at all times. Whenever your pet is off your property you must have it under direct control through a leash or similar method. Owners should never allow their pets to run freely off their property. This is considered "running at large" and is a violation of Township Ordinance.

**Preventing your pet from interfering with the comfort of others:** Owners are required to prevent their dogs from barking constantly. It is understood that dogs bark on occasion. However, they should not be barking for long periods without interruption. This is a violation of Township Ordinance.

**Cleaning up after your pet:** Due to public health concerns pet waste should always be cleaned up. If you are walking your pet off your property you should always be prepared to pick up your pet's waste with a plastic bag or other manner and dispose of it in your regular garbage. At your home you should be removing pet waste from your yard regularly so that it does not cause odors or run off into nearby drains or waterways.

## **Pet Adoption Program**

Woodbridge Animal Shelter and Pet Adoption Center offers dog and cat adoptions to the general public. We receive and offer for adoption a variety of dogs, cats and other animals on a regular basis. The types and numbers of pets offered depend on what animals may be brought into the Shelter at any given time and will change daily. Below is information on our adoption process:

**Application:** There is an application form that must be completed for each adoption. We want to ensure that animals are properly paired with their new owners. This gives the adoption process a higher rate of success.

**Fee:** There is a fee for adoption.

Small Dogs: \$65.00

Large Dogs: \$50.00

Puppies: \$65.00

Cats: \$65.00

Kittens: \$50.00

### **What is covered in the adoption fee?**

#### **For adult cats the adoption fee includes:**

- Vaccinations as age appropriate – see staff for vaccination information
- Tested for FIV and FeLV
- Physical exam by a Veterinarian prior to being offered for adoption
- Neutered
- Coupon for free Veterinarian visit

#### **For kittens the fee includes:**

- Vaccinations as age appropriate – see staff for vaccination information
- Tested for FIV and FeLV
- Physical exam by a Veterinarian prior to being offered for adoption
- Coupon for free Veterinarian visit

#### **For dogs:**

- Vaccinations as age appropriate – see staff for vaccination information
- Physical exam by a Veterinarian prior to being offered for adoption
- See Shelter staff for Neuter policy
- Coupon for free Veterinarian visit

#### **For puppies:**

- Vaccinations as age appropriate – see staff for vaccination information
- Physical exam by a Veterinarian prior to being offered for adoption
- Coupon for free Veterinarian visit

### **How can I find out more about the pets at the Shelter?**

Call the Woodbridge Animal Shelter at 732-855-0600, ext. 5007.

Visit the Woodbridge Animal Shelter at 195 Woodbridge Ave, Sewaren, NJ 07077

Visit the Petfinders website for a list and description of our pets available for adoption.

Visit our other location at Petsmart in Woodbridge where cats are offered for adoption.

## **Free Roaming Cats**

Free roaming cats can become a nuisance in residential and commercial areas. These cats can be either owned, strays or feral cats. It is impossible to know the difference unless they are licensed with attached tags.

**Free roaming cats and feral cats:** The difference between free roaming cats and feral cats are that free roaming cats are typically domesticated and friendly where feral cats were once domestic and have reverted to a wild undomesticated state and are not friendly. A spay/neutered feral cat may have a notched ear. A free roaming cat can be either domesticated or feral.

**Is there a public health concern with free roaming cats?** Yes. If free roaming cats are not cared for and vaccinated they can acquire potentially fatal diseases such as rabies which can be transferred to humans and other pets and wild animals. Never feed free roaming cats unless you intend to provide total care for them including spay/neuter.

**Why do cats roam freely?** Cats roam free for a variety of reasons. Sometimes an owner will let their cat out and roam freely to mate and interact with other cats and wild animals. Other times, an owner will keep their cat as an “outside cat.” This means that the cat will never be brought into their home. People do this for a variety of reasons such as allergies to the cat’s fur or because the cat does not get along with the owner’s other pets. Yet other times these cats are abandoned by their owners and they form colonies or groups. Often, a person will come along and feed these cats which develop into feral colonies.

**What can I do to prevent free roaming cats from coming onto my property?** The most important thing you can do to prevent free roaming animals from coming on your property is not feed a stray animal. When you start feeding a free roaming animal it will repeatedly return for more food. Also, avoid feeding birds and other wild animals since this food may also attract free roaming cats. Garbage and waste must be secured tightly so that animals can not use that as a food source. There are also chemical deterrents available to prevent free roaming cats from entering your property. The effectiveness of these deterrents varies.

**Can Woodbridge Animal Control or the Shelter help me with free roaming cats?** If you know who owns the free roaming cats we recommend that you speak with owner prior to requesting the assistance from animal control. Often the owner is not aware that his cats are causing a problem and will take action to correct once they are aware. If you do not know who owns the cats that are entering your property and you wish to remove them you can do so with a live trap. Before residents can trap for cats you should first speak with the Shelter to coordinate the removal and sheltering of the trapped animals. The Shelter will provide you a form on the proper trapping of cats. If there are many cats in your area you will be asked to space out the trapping and removal of cats over time so that we can make room for all the cats at the Shelter. Call Woodbridge Animal Control prior to trapping at 732-855-0600, ext 5007.

**What if I want to keep just one of the free roaming cats?** Please refer to the [How to Care For Your Outside Cat](#) flyer for information and licensing your new cat. Be a responsible pet owner and remember to vaccinate, neuter and license your pet.

**There is now a litter of kittens with the stray cat in my neighborhood what should I do?**

A new litter of kittens means that these cats are not being cared for in a responsible manner since they are not spay/neutered. Kittens should not be removed from the mother until they are weaned. The mother and kittens should be removed immediately thereafter to prevent further breeding and litters. Call the Shelter/Animal Control for information and assistance in their removal before trapping. A feral or outside cat that is neutered will often have a notched ear.

## **How to Care For Your Outside Cat**

If you are caring for an outside cat you should be aware that they have special needs and requirements.

**Basic needs:** Outside cats need shelter, food and water just like all living things. If you are caring for an outside cat you need to provide it with a sturdy structure where it can get out of the extreme elements of the weather. The structure must be water and weather resistant. You also need to provide fresh food and water daily to your cat. The cat must be fed in such a way that it does not attract other animals. This means that you should not feed at night and must use proper bowls that can hold the food and water and prevent spillage. You must not leave more food for the cat than the cat can eat within 30 minutes. Allowing food to spill or leaving excess food will attract other animals to your property whereby your cat may be exposed to wild animals causing it to fight and suffer harm.

**Vaccinations:** Outside cats need medical care just as much as inside cats. Regular checkups and vaccinations for rabies are essential since it will be exposed to the elements and wild animals more so than inside cats.

**Spay/neuter:** Outside cats can mate and produce many offspring quite quickly. All outside cats must be spay or neutered to prevent overpopulation of unwanted pets. A spayed or neutered cat will live longer, stray less, be less aggressive toward other animals and of course not produce unwanted offspring. Sources for low cost spay/neuter are:

- Spay USA: 1-800-248-SPAY (7729)
- Friends of Animals: 1-800-321-PETS (7387)
- People for Animals: 973-282-0890
- Whiskers Rescue: 732-921-0616 (assistance with outside cats only)

**Licensing:** All cats in Woodbridge must be licensed, including outside cats. The simple act of feeding and sheltering a cat makes you the owner and responsible for the cat. Woodbridge Township allows each household to have up to 5 cats.

When you license your cat you will be provided an ID tag for your pet with a unique number. This number can be used to identify your pet if it should get lost or trapped by another resident and brought to the Shelter. Without a tag there is no way the Shelter Staff can ID the animal and find its owner. In addition, yearly licensing will ensure that your pet is up to date on its rabies vaccine. This simple vaccine protects your pet, your family and the community from this potentially fatal disease. Visit the Woodbridge Health Center or call the Health Department at 732-855-0600 Ext. 5003 to license your pet.

**Running at Large:** Owners of outside cats should be aware that their cat has the potential to upset your neighbors. Outside cats should never go off your property unless they are properly restrained by leash or other method. Owners of outside cats may want to talk with their neighbors to make sure that their cat is not adversely affecting their neighbors and to let them know that if they see a cat in the area that it is indeed owned and cared for by them and not a stray. Non-cat owning residents are often upset when outside cats enter their property and do destructive things like dig in their flower beds or defecate in their yards. When this occurs, these residents will often trap and remove these animals unless the owner takes action to prevent the roaming and damage. These trapped animals will end up in the Woodbridge Animal Shelter until the owner claims it.

**Lost Pets:** If your outside cat is missing please call the Woodbridge Animal Shelter at 732-855-0600, ext. 5007 as soon as you realize it is missing. An outside pet with a tag will be quite easy to identify and return to its rightful owner. If your cat is not tagged you will likely have to come to the Shelter in person to look for your cat to try and identify it among the other cats.

**From Township web site:**

<http://www.twp.woodbridge.nj.us/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=plJRlbXXKFU%3d&tabid=2268&mid=2702>

**CERTIFIED PRE-OWNED**  
\*\*\*\*\*  
**CATS**  
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**\$30 DOWN! 0% FINANCING!**

**LIMITED TIME OFFER! FOR CATS 1 YEAR AND OLDER!**

**June is National Adopt-a-Shelter-Cat Month! The Woodbridge Animal Shelter is participating by reducing our adoption fee to \$30.**

All adult feline adoptions include:

- ✓ Spay/Neuter
- ✓ Vaccinations
- ✓ Fiv/Felv Testing
- ✓ Deworming & Flea treatment
- ✓ Starter Cat Basket

Check out some of our available cats on [Petfinder.com](http://Petfinder.com) or stop by our adoption location and meet your new best friend!

**195 Woodbridge Avenue, Sewaren, New Jersey**

**Mondays 1-3pm Tuesdays 5-8pm Wednesdays 1-3pm Thursdays 5-8pm Fridays 1-3pm Saturdays 12-4pm**

*\*All adoption policies and match-making procedures remain in effect!*