

Montgomery Township Pet News

Montgomery Township Animal Control

Serving Montgomery, Hopewell Borough, Pennington Borough, and Rocky Hill Borough

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www.twp.montgomery.nj.us/departments/health/animal-control/

LOVE US? LICENSE US!

Why is it important to license your pet?



- 1. To safeguard public health.** Every licensed pet has been vaccinated against rabies. This protects your pets, children and neighbors against this deadly disease! When the license tag is visible, you know that animal has been vaccinated!
- 2. To help your pet get home.** If your pet gets lost, your pet can be returned more quickly and sometimes without a trip to the shelter! If it is impounded and taken to the shelter, it is safer there than it would be roaming the streets in harm's way. A license tag can be easily traced to the animal's owner with a phone call. A license tag is your pet's ticket home!
- 3. To help us to enforce laws on responsible pet ownership.** If we can track pet ownership, then we know where to focus our services and education efforts.
- 4. To support the shelter and adoption of unwanted pets.** Your yearly license fee helps support sheltering for strays and unwanted pets. It also pays for our leash-free dog park, animal control services and community education.
- 5. It's the law! Dogs and Cats** must be licensed and vaccinated against rabies.

As required by law the Montgomery Animal Control is collecting information for its annual dog census. We are also collecting information on cats to improve service for our feline companions.

NEW Dog Park!

Montgomery Girl Scout Troop 60625's Underdog Silver Award Team hosted a grant reopening celebration for the Dog Park (Behind municipal complex, 2261 Rt. 206, south of Belle Mead-Griggstown Rd) on October 10th. The event featured a ribbon cutting ceremony with officials, Deputy Mayor Ed Trzaska along with Township Committeewoman Pat Graham, dog-themed prizes from local businesses, and scout-led contests like best trick, doggy parade, and the dog fun jump competition.

The purpose of "Bark in the Park" was to showcase improvements to the dog park, including new fencing from the township. Bark in the Park was a girl scout silver award project by four Montgomery girl scouts, Devisi Ashar, Natasha Bottita, Lucy Law and Grace Rolan; assisted by their troop and families. Other work they did included constructing dog agility jumps and collecting 273 used tennis balls for a toy bin at the dog park. The girls also collected donations of 265 sheets and towels for the animal shelter.

POLICE REMINDER

DOGS MUST BE LEASHED IN MONTGOMERY'S PUBLIC PARKS

The Montgomery Police along with the Health and Parks Departments work together to make the parks enjoyable recreation places to visit for all residents. However, there is an ongoing problem with dog owners that allow their dogs to run at large in Township parks. Loose dogs can be a nuisance and a danger and find themselves in danger as well. Owners are reminded there is a Montgomery Township ordinance requiring dogs to be on a leash not exceeding 6 feet in length (except at the dog park located behind the Township Building on Rt. 206). Violators are subject to a fine and a possible court appearance in Montgomery Township Municipal Court in Hillsborough Township. All dog owners must abide by these rules in our public parks without exception. This protects you, your dog, and others.



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Keep your dog leashed, as a safety habit and as a matter of civil politeness.

- 1 A leash is the best way to keep your dog from getting injured:** Restraining your pet with a leash protects it from darting into traffic, getting injured and causing possible pain, suffering and expensive veterinary bills.
- 2 It is one of the best good neighbor habits:** a leash keeps your pet from trespassing, damaging property or doing their duty in a private yard or on community walkways.
- 3 It prevents injury:** a leash will stop your pet from jumping up on children and adults and possibly inflicting injury or frightening them.
- 4 It is a good way to develop an affectionate pet:** as the touch of it gives your dog definite assurance that it is protected, loved and wanted.
- 5 A leash is the best birth control device:** it can prevent random mating and unwanted puppies.
- 6 It is the best identification service:** a license tag attached to your dog's collar will get your pet back to you if it gets lost.
- 7 It is the best wildlife and environmental protection:** keeping your pet from harassing deer and other wild animals, either by itself or as part of a wild dog pack.
- 8 It protects your pet from wild or unleashed aggressive animals:** it will help prevent your pet from coming in contact with wild animals that have rabies or other communicable diseases.



Indoor Cats Live Longer

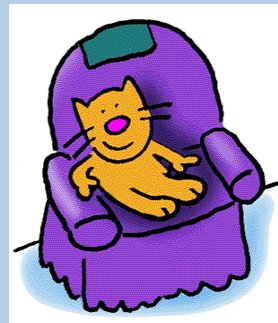
It's a fact that indoor cats live longer, healthier lives than the cats that are let outdoors to roam around.

An indoor cat never faces the many dangers waiting outside the front door, like cars, dogs, other cats ready to fight, wild life predators, exposure to diseases and parasites, and sickness or death from eating spoiled food or poison.



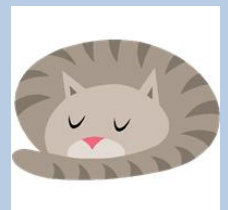
A cat let outdoors will need to see the veterinarian more often than an indoor cat, and that means higher vet bills. Fleas, ticks, worms, abscesses, cuts, diarrhea, a dull coat, or weight loss are signs of trouble and are most often seen in outdoor cats.

Outdoor cats are more likely to get lost. Searching for a lost cat, especially without an identification tag, is a time-consuming and often disappointing effort. There's nothing more heartbreaking than wondering if your missing cat is alive and well or suffering or dead.



Cats raised indoors are perfectly content with their world. Cats who have experienced the outdoors will need some time to get used to an upgraded indoor status, but eventually they will learn to relax and enjoy the comforts of home.

Cats love to relax by looking out the window. Set up a window ledge or shelf for your cat to nap on or to watch the outdoors.



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Spaying and Neutering Benefits Pets Health and Behavior



The medical benefits resulting from spaying and neutering pets can lead to longer and healthier lives. Veterinarians recommend spaying and neutering at six months of age. It is an outpatient procedure and your pet can go home with you that day.

Early spaying and neutering usually reduces many less desirable animal behaviors, including roaming, aggression toward other dogs or cats and territorial aggression. The most dangerous behavior in intact males is roaming, i.e., running away to look for a mate, because it leads to animals running away as well as car accidents.

If you wait too long these behaviors can become habits and continue after neutering or spaying. Many experts say that once a pet is older than 1 year of age and still intact, undesirable behaviors are more likely to become permanent even if they are spayed or neutered at that time.

Spaying female dogs and cats reduces the incidence of mammary cancer, eliminates uterine and ovarian cancer risk and prevents a potentially life-threatening bacterial infection of the uterus called pyometra. Less common conditions such as uterine and ovarian cancer are 100 percent prevented by spaying.

By spaying you will also avoid the bloody vaginal discharge and unpleasant odors when intact female cats and dogs come into heat.

Neutering male animals protects them from enlargement of the prostate (prostatic hypertrophy) and infections, as well as testicular cancer and certain types of hernias.

Neutering male dogs and cats can reduce urine marking in your house and yard.

Pet Waste Pollutes Our Waters

What You Can Do To Help Protect Our Water

Clean and plentiful water is important to our families, our environment, our economy and our quality of life.



Did you know that animal waste from pets pollute our waters? When left on the ground (on private & public land) pet waste is washed by rain and melting snow and ice into storm drains which flow directly into streams, lakes, rivers and the ocean.

Animal waste contains coliform bacteria, which is harmful to our health and, when washed into swimming waters, can result in beach closings.

What you can do:

Pet owners or anyone who takes a pet for a walk should properly dispose of the waste by picking it up, wrapping it and either placing it in the trash or flushing it (unwrapped) down the toilet.

Avoid walking your pet near streams and other waterways. Instead, walk them in grassy areas, parks or undeveloped areas.

Your municipality is required to adopt and enforce local pet-waste laws. At a minimum, your community must require that pet owners or their keepers immediately and properly dispose of their pet's solid waste deposited on any public or private property not owned or possessed by that person. People with assistance animals such as Seeing Eye dogs are exempt. Make sure you know what your municipality requires – and follow it.

Thank you for doing your part to keep New Jersey's waters clean. For more information please contact:

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Water Quality
Bureau of Nonpoint Pollution Control Municipal Storm-water Regulation Program (609) 633-7021
www.njstormwater.org

Additional information is also available at U. S. Environmental Protection Agency Web sites
www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater or www.epa.gov/nps

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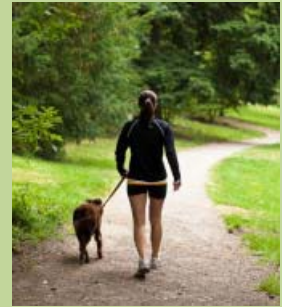
RABIES is found in the saliva of infected warm blooded animals. The most common wild carriers are the raccoon, skunk, fox and bat. Cats are the most common domestic animal to be infected with rabies.

- Never touch a wild animal, even if it is dead or injured.
- Leave wildlife alone. Do not make pets of wild animals or try to “save” baby animals even if they seem abandoned.
- Do not feed or pet stray animals.
- Pets can get rabies so have your dogs and cats vaccinated. Free Walk-in Rabies Clinics for cats and dogs are offered in January: call (908) 359-8211 for dates, times and locations.
- All dogs and cats seven months or older must be licensed. Licenses must be renewed in January. Proof of rabies vaccination is required for a license to be issued.
- Fees are lower for spayed or neutered animals. Licenses can be obtained at the Health Department during regular office hours.
- If you are bitten by an animal immediately wash the bite thoroughly with soap and water. Call your doctor or go to the nearest emergency room immediately.
- **PROTECT YOURSELF!** Because rabies is a fatal disease once symptoms appear, report all animal-to-animal and animal-to-human bites to the Health Department at (908) 359-8211.



How Pets Can Improve Your Health

Better Physical Fitness: People who own dogs tend to be more physically active and less obese than people who don't. To keep moving take your dog for a daily 30-minute walk or two 15-minute walks, one in the morning and one in the evening, will do the same thing. Playing fetch in the back yard with your dog will earn you healthful dividends.



Want Stronger Bones? Walk the Dog: Strong bones are your best defense against osteoporosis and painful fractures. Walking your dog helps. It's a weight-bearing exercise that strengthens your bones and the muscles around them. It also lets you spend time in the sun, which provides vitamin D.

Stretch With the Cat: If you have arthritis, you know it's important to stretch. Watch how many times your cat stretches every day, and when she does, you do it too. If you can't get on the floor, sit on a chair and follow along by stretching your upper body.

Pet an Animal and Fight Depression: Therapists have been known to prescribe a pet as a way of dealing with and recovering from depression. No one loves you more unconditionally than your pet. And a pet will listen to you talk for as long as you want to talk. Petting a cat or dog has a calming effect. And taking care of a pet — walking with it, grooming it, playing with it — takes you out of yourself and helps you feel better about the way you spend your time.

Healthy Doggie Biscuits (low-calorie)

- 2 cups flour
- 1 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 cup chopped carrots
- 1/4 cup frozen peas (thawed)
- 1/2 cup packed spinach
- 2 tablespoons tomato paste
- 1 teaspoon turmeric
- 1 teaspoon basil
- 1 teaspoon oregano
- 1/8 - 1/4 cup water



To make this recipe:

Preheat oven to 350°. Place the carrots, peas, turmeric, spinach, tomato paste and water in a food processor and purée. Add the flour, baking powder, basil and oregano, and pulse until blended. Coat an 8-by-10-inch pan with nonstick cooking spray, and then lightly dust it with flour. Place the dough in the pan, spread it out evenly and score into about 60 square pieces. Bake 30 minutes. Makes five dozen treats (11 calories per treat).