Ogle County Animal Control

End of Year Report for 2009

Submitted to **HEW** Committee

Henry C. Coy

Ogle County Animal Control Warden

Ogle County

Animal Control

Animal Control Warden
End of Year Report

Activity Report

January 1, 2009 thru December 31, 2009

Summary of 2009 Activity

Animal Bites reported for year 2009, **101**, a decrease of 27 from 2008

Straying Dogs found for year 2009, **95**, an increase of 10 from 2008

Dangerous dogs for year 2009, **3** Deemed Dangerous, a decrease of 1 from 2008

Animal Attacks for year of 2009, **4**, a decrease of 1 from 2008

Animal Abuse complaints for year of 2009, **20**, a decrease of 23 from 2008

Unvaccinated/Unregistered Dogs found 2009, **38**, a decrease of 25 from 2008

Rabies Cases Verified for 2009, **None**, same a year 2008

Intergovernmental Agreements request, **None**, same as year 2008

Citations Issued for year 2009, **54**, an increase of 25 from 2008

Warnings Issued for year 2009, **37**, a decrease of 8 from 2008

Total Tags Issued for year 2009 **12,317**, an increase of 67 from year 2008

Assists to other agencies for year 2009, **22**, a decrease of 6 from 2008

Call outs after hours/week-ends for year 2009, **24**, an increase of 5 from 2008

Other related calls for year 2009, **10**, a decrease of 15 from 2008

Miles Driven for year 2009, **19,085**, an increase of 1,765 miles from 2008

Fuel used for year 2009 **1,390** gallons

Animal Bites

During the year 2009, this office received a total of 101 animal bite reports.

A. 86 Dog bites reported, **down** 19 from 2008
B. 13 Cat bites reported, **down** 8 from 2008
C. 02 Bat bites reported, **same** as 2008

Rabies is a health issue, and Rabies is **FATAL** to humans. Not just dogs can pass rabies on to a person, but all warm blooded animals, such as cats, skunks, fox, bats, and raccoons.

The reported bites are directed to this office from Hospital Emergency Rooms, City Police Departments, Ogle County Sheriffs Department, or Medical facilities that have treated any person that has been bitten by an Animal, by bite victims, or other persons involved.

Under Illinois State Law, **(ILCS, Ch. 510 Par. 5/13 (a))** It is unlawful for any person having knowledge that any person has been bitten by a dog or other animal to refuse to notify the Administrator promptly. It is unlawful for the owner of such dog or other animal to euthanize, sell, give away, or otherwise dispose of any such dog or other animal known to have bitten a person, until it is released by the Administrator, or his authorized representative. It is unlawful for the owner of such dog or other animal to refuse or fail to comply with the written or printed instructions made by the Administrator, or his authorized representative. If such instructions cannot be delivered in person, they shall be mailed to the owner of such dog or other animal by regular mail, postage prepaid. The affidavit or testimony of the Administrator, or his authorized representative, delivering or mailing such instructions is prima facie evidence that the owner of such dog or other animal was notified of his responsibilities. Any expense incurred in the handling of any dog or other animal under this Section and Section 12 shall be borne by the owner.

Straying Dogs

A total of 95 stray dogs were picked up by the Animal Control Warden and taken to impound in 2009, **up 10** from 2008.

Stray dogs are sometimes taken to a clinic by private citizens if they are found to be straying in the roadways, or in rural areas. Clinics do accept dogs from private individuals who have picked up a stray with the authorization of the Animal Control Warden when notified by the clinic of impound. If said dog is not claimed, the Animal Control Department is billed for the cost of the boarding, euthanasia, and disposal of said animal

A total of *24* straying dogs were saved from impoundment and reunited with their owners by the Animal Control Warden due to either having a tag, collar I.D., or micro-chip that aided in identifying the owner, **up 3** from 2008.

The Animal Control Department charges a fee in the amount of **$25.00** per dog for all dogs impounded in order to aid in deferring the expense of the Animal Warden driving throughout the county picking up stray dogs. If the dog is claimed by the owner, that fee is collected by the impound facility and paid direct to the Animal Control Department monthly. All other fees or charges due are paid by the owner of the dog(s) when claimed.

Effective January 1, 2006, the State of Illinois has passed new legislation which requires any owner of a stray dog to pay an additional **$25.00** when claiming their dog as a ***Public Safety Fine***, which is placed in the Pet Population Control Fund.

The cost to the Ogle County Animal Control Department for all stray dogs that are Euthanized is the total amount of 7 days boarding charges, impound facility fees for Euthanasia which is determined by size and weight of the dog, and a disposal fee which is set by each individual clinic and is determined by the size and the weight of the dog.

Vicious & Dangerous Dogs

Investigations by the Animal Control Warden during the year 2009 resulted in 3 dogs being deemed **Dangerous Dogs, down one** from 2008. Two of the dogs deemed dangerous were subsequently euthanized by their owners.

Investigations by the Animal Control Warden during the year 2009 resulted in ***NO*** dogs being deemed a **Vicious Dog, the same as** 2008.

Effective 08/2003, The State of Illinois Animal Control Act was re-written and definitions regarding **Vicious** or **Dangerous dogs**, along with guidelines mandated by the State of Illinois were changed under the law in which all Animal Control Officers use when making such determinations.

The laws regarding the deeming of such animals as **Vicious, or Dangerous** were made less stringent by lobbyist and animal rights activists in Springfield.

THEREFORE: The deeming of an animal as being **Dangerous** can be done by the Animal Control Warden.

Deeming of a dog as being **Vicious** can only be done by order of the court after the Animal Warden has completed an investigation and reviewed the results with the Administrator, at which time the Administrator must recommend in writing to the Ogle County States Attorneys Office that sufficient evidence has been obtained as a result of the investigation and at that time requests the courts proceed under the Animal Control Act and have the courts deem the dog a **Vicious Dog**.

Animal Attacks

During the year of 2009, the Animal Control Warden responded to 4 separate complaints in regards to dogs attacking livestock, or other animals, **down** 1 from 2008.

Results of these investigations found no injuries to livestock, hence no cost to the county under the Animal Control Act for reimbursement for injury or death to livestock owners.

Circumstances regarding complaints of dogs attacking persons or injuring other animals were found conclusive enough to merit pursuing to have 3 dogs deemed as Dangerous as set forth under the current guidelines of the State of Illinois Animal Control Act, **down one** from 2008.

As usual, during 2009 several complaints regarding dogs attacking neighbors cats, or dogs were also investigated.

The County Animal Control Warden acts as a liaison between neighbors during the investigations of these types of complaints at which time the complaints ultimately are unfounded. It is normal to find that it is usually a problem between the neighbors dogs chasing neighbors cats.

Animal Abuse

Complaints of animal abuse received or reported to the Animal Control Department totaled **20** for the year 2009, **down 23** from 2008.

Upon investigation of these complaints, if necessary, the Animal Control Warden sends the information to the proper governing agency Licensed by the State for investigation of Animal Abuse.

Abuse calls range from starving cattle, neglected horses, animals without food, water, shelter, crippled animals, or simple complaints from neighbors reporting some type of neglect of a dog or cat.

As is the case regarding the complaints of animal attacks, animal abuse is again handled in the manner of the Animal Warden acting as a liaison between neighbors.

NOTE: *(The Animal Warden is not licensed by the State as an Animal Abuse Investigator, therefore can only respond to a complaint, assess the situation, and turn over to the proper agency whatever information is obtained).*

Un-vaccinated & Un-registered Dogs

During the year while performing random door to door checks throughout the county, the County Animal Control Warden located a total of 38 un-vaccinated dogs within Ogle County, **down 25** from 2008.

All dogs were subsequently vaccinated and registered with Ogle County Animal Control.

During the year while going door to door throughout the county, 40 dogs were found not to be registered with the Ogle County Animal Control Department, **down** 32 from 2008.

All dogs were subsequently registered with Ogle County Animal Control.

Due to some dog owners receiving 3 year vaccinations for their dogs, they do not take the time to purchase an annual rabies registration tag each year.

The possibility of issuing a 3 year rabies tag has been discussed between the Administrator and the Warden, but the decision was made not to make 3 year tags available at this time.

Rabies Cases Verified

During 2009, No positive cases of Rabies were reported to the Animal Control Department as being present in any dog, cat, skunk, raccoon, bat or other animal within Ogle County

Intergovernmental Agreements

No requests were made for Intergovernmental Agreements by any Townships, or Unincorporated Villages, or any other entities that have a leash law within Ogle County during 2009.

Citations and Warnings

54 Citations were issued during the year 2009 to dog owners for being overdue for vaccination, registration, or for failure to have their dog(s) vaccinated, or registered.

Once a citation is issued, it is not sent to the States Attorneys Office for action, but kept on file for at least 10 days after the date of issuance in the Animal Control Office.

If the person to whom the citation was issued takes the dog to the vet and has it vaccinated and registered, or if the citation is just for registration, has the dog registered, then subsequently the citations are squashed by the Animal Warden.

The States Attorneys Office has made point of **Requesting** that all matters regarding dogs are handled in this manner to eliminate unnecessary paper work.

37 warnings were issued during the same period to dog owners who failed to respond to this office regarding late vaccinations, or registration of dogs owned by them.

The issuance of a warning is effective in making the dog owner aware that if they fail to comply, they will be issued a citation to appear in court.

The response by the dog owner in taking care of the matter once a warning is issued seems to be most effective, and no further action is necessary by this department.

Rabies Tags

The Animal Control Department issued a total of 12,317 tags for the current year of 2009.

This number may fluctuate up and down from year to year due to dogs being deceased, owners moving out of the county, or new families moving into the county whom own dogs and register them with the Animal Control Department.

The door to door activity by the Animal Warden may represent some increase in the issuance of tags due to finding un-vaccinated, un-registered dogs while performing this activity.

General Related Information

Assists

The Animal Control Warden assisted other agencies in relation to animal problems during the year when requested by said agency a total of 22 times.

These assists ranged from family problems related to dogs, to assisting police departments with transportation of dogs from accidents, arrests, drug raids, and crime scenes.

After Hour Call Outs

The Animal Control Warden was called out after hours, on week-ends, and on holidays a total of 24 times during the year 2009 to handle dog complaints and assist other departments.

Other Animal Calls

The Animal Warden handled 10 miscellaneous calls during the year related to some type of animal report. Most calls were informational calls from citizens having squirrel, coon, birds or other types of animals in attics, chimneys, or basements, and needed assistance on how to get rid of the nuisance.

Mileage and Fuel

A total of 19, 085 miles were driven by the Animal Warden in the performance of duties for the year 2009.

A total of 1,390 gallons of fuel was used for the calender year of 2009

End of Report 01/31/10

Signature: Henry C. Coy

Henry C. Coy

Warden, Ogle County Animal Control