



Animal Control Division



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◀ Educate Enforce Protect Assist ▶

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Happy Holidays: The Officers and Staff of Animal Control wish all a wonderful holiday season.

Mac and Me

a note from the Director



In February of 2007 Chief Yates assigned me to the Supervisor position of Animal Control and placed Animal Control under the Jonesboro Police Department. I was a 20 year veteran and leaving my brothers and sisters for a job that I thought there would be no challenge in at all; was I wrong on all counts. I was under the perception like many other people that all they



do is drive around and pick up a dog or two and that's it; wrong!

The Animal Control Officers (ACOs) went through quite a bit of training to bring them into compliance with all the Police Department's paperwork, policies and procedures. Having the best Police Training Officers around and ACOs that were eager to learn made this part very easy. During their learning process I learned their job and what they do. Yes we do pick up dogs.....a lot of dogs! My first year we picked up 1305 dogs, averaging over 100 dogs a month. I was afraid that all the dogs in town were going to be picked up and we would be out of a job, but that's another story.

Of course we started to work with rescue group for the first time and have since forged a strong bond with many of them, shipping dogs from California to New York (and they pay for it.) We started a volunteer organization within Animal Control which is priceless to us.

We have investigated puppy mills and prosecuted to the fullest extent. I am proud to say that we have not had a complaint of a puppy mill inside the City limits in over a year. We have investigated horrendous acts of animal cruelty and with our City Attorney's help have seen justice prevail. We have taught programs in schools to children and educated them on animals we have also presented Dog Bite awareness programs.

The Media has been very kind to us, KAIT8 and the Jonesboro Sun have helped tremendously in getting information out to the community.

The unfortunate aspect of the job however is that we must euthanize the unwanted and non-adopted animals which rips my heart apart.

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ASK me if I like my job.... I love my job. I am very thankful that the Chier placed me out here, it is a daily challenge. People make change on the world in different ways, I pray that my change is with the animals.

“You can judge a man’s heart by the way he deals with his animals.”

- William Kant

Holiday Safety

for you and your pets

You can help keep pets safe during the holiday season by following the tips below.

- * Many holiday plants can lead to health problems in dogs and cats. Among the plants to keep out of reach are holly, mistletoe, poinsettias and lilies.
- * Snow globes often contain antifreeze, which is poisonous to pets.
- * Pine needles, when ingested, can puncture holes in a pet's intestine. So keep pet areas clear of pine needles.
- * The extra cords and plugs of holiday lights and other fixtures can look like chew toys to pets. Tape down or cover cords to help avoid shocks, burns or other serious injuries. Unplug lights when you are



not home.

- * Anchor Christmas trees to the ceiling with a string to keep it from falling on pets.
- * Do not let pets drink the holiday tree water. Some may contain fertilizers, and stagnant tree water can harbor bacteria. Some folks use screens around trees to block access to electrical cords and gifts. Very important: do not put aspirin in the water (some folks do this thinking it will keep the tree or plant more vigorous). If a pet ingests the aspirin-laced water, his health or even life can be at risk.
- * Pets, particularly cats, can be tempted to eat tinsel, which can block the intestines. Hang tinsel high and securely to keep it out of reach of pets.
- * Keep other ornaments out of reach of pets. Ingestion of any ornament, which might look like toys to pets, can result in life-threatening emergencies. Even ornaments made from dried food can lead to ailments. And remember, shards from broken glass ornaments can injure paws, mouths and other parts of the body.
- * Put away toys after children open their gifts. Small plastic pieces and rubber balls are common causes of choking and intestinal blockage in dogs. Ingested plastic or cloth toys must often be removed surgically.
- * Keep candles on high shelves. Use fireplace screens to avoid burns.
- * Holiday guests and other activity can be very stressful and even frightening to pets. It can also trigger illness and intestinal upset. Make sure pets have a safe place to retreat in your house. And make sure they are wearing current I.D. in case they escape out a door

when guests come and go.

* Reduce stress by keeping feeding and exercise on a regular schedule.

* If you suspect that your pet has eaten something toxic, call your veterinarian and/or the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center's 24-hour emergency hotline at 1-888-4-ANI-HELP.

Breed all about it

the Labrador Retriever



As we enter duck hunting season, we thought it was fitting to feature the premier retrieving dog; the Labrador Retriever.

The gentle, intelligent and family-friendly Labrador Retriever from Canada continues to be the most popular breed in the United States, according to [AKC® registration statistics](#). This versatile hunting breed comes in three colors – yellow, black and chocolate – and because of his aptitude to please his master they excel as guide dogs

for the blind, as part of search-and-rescue teams or in narcotics detection with law enforcement.

A Look Back

Labrador Retrievers originally came from Newfoundland, where they were used to retrieve

Labrador Retrievers, originally from Newfoundland, were initially used in work alongside fisherman, helping to pull in nets and catch fish that escaped from fishing lines. After being crossed with Setters, Spaniels and other Retrievers, the Labrador Retriever honed its skills as a true retriever. From this point in the breed's history, "Labs," as they are affectionately called, were bred primarily to perform as an efficient retriever of game, with a stable temperament suitable for a variety of activities beyond hunting.

Right Breed for You?

An ideal sporting and family dog, the Labrador Retriever thrives as part of an active family or as a trusted hunting companion. A double-coated breed which sheds seasonally, regular grooming keeps his coat at its water-resistant best. Because of his even temperament and trainability millions of Americans own a Labrador Retriever as a pet.

Labrador Retriever Did You Know?

- The Labrador Retriever did not come from Labrador, but from Newfoundland.
- In England, no Labrador can become a bench show champion unless it has a working certificate also.
- The Labrador Retriever is one of the prime breeds selected as guide and rescue dogs.
- The original Labrador gradually died out in Newfoundland on account of a heavy dog tax which, with the English quarantine law, practically stopped importation of the dogs into England. Therefore, many Labs were interbred with other types of retrievers, although fortunately the Labrador characteristics predominated until fanciers wrote up an anti-interbreeding law.

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The pedigrees of the two most influential Labs, "Peter of Faskally" and "Flapper," go back as far as 1878.

Featured Pet: Meet Tawny the Shih Tzu / Dachshund mix



Hello, my name is Tawny. Like many of the dogs here at Animal Control, I was found wondering the streets of Jonesboro.

I would love to be a part of your pack. If you are wanting a laptop for Christmas, then I am perfect. What else could be better on you lap than me???

Come out and visit me and my friends.

To remove your name from our mailing list, please reply to this message and tell us to remove you.

Questions or comments? E-mail us at animalcontrol@jonesboro.org or call (870) 935-3920