



## **Animal Control Policy Municipality of Monroeville**

**Issued by the Municipal Manager with the advice and consent of the elected and appointed officials  
REVISED 2026-01-1**

### **Policy Purpose**

This Animal Control Policy supports the Municipality of Monroeville's Mission to protect, support, and enrich the lives and interests of the Community by providing humane, lawful, and effective animal control services that promote public safety, public health, and overall quality of life.

### **Guiding Principles**

Animal control services shall be delivered in a manner consistent with the Municipality's Vision, Values, and Desired Outcomes, including:

1. Maintaining and promoting community safety;
2. Acting with integrity, compassion, professionalism, and fairness;
3. Exercising stewardship of municipal resources;
4. Ensuring transparent, consistent, and equitable application of this Policy;  
and
5. Supporting a safe, vibrant, and high-quality community environment.

### **Legal Authority**

This Policy is adopted pursuant to the Municipality of Monroeville Home Rule Charter; Chapter 95 (Animals) of the Code of the Municipality of Monroeville; the Pennsylvania Dog Law, 3 P.S. §§ 459-101 et seq.; applicable Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture regulations; Title 18 (Crimes Code) and Title 34 (Game and Wildlife Code) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes; and other applicable state and local laws. This Policy is intended to guide operations in a manner consistent with the Municipality's Mission, Vision, Values, and Desired Outcomes. It does not expand municipal liability beyond that imposed by law.

### **Citation**

**[Title 34 \(Game and Wildlife Code\) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes \(34 Pa. Cons. Stat. § 2361\) - "Unlawful acts concerning taking of furbearers."](#)**



### **Policy Overview and Scope**

Outlined below is the Animal Control Policy for the Municipality of Monroeville. The policy has been developed to control domestic and wild animals in a reasonable fashion with the resources available to the Municipality. The Municipality cannot control all animals within its boundaries, but will attempt to keep residents safe and undisturbed with respect to animals. The most effective policy to control domestic animals (dogs and cats) is for owners to license them with Allegheny County, keep them under control, and humanely care for them. If residents encounter wild animals, the best policy is to maintain a safe distance and call the municipality. The Animal Control Officer (ACO) will address wild animals in accordance with the policy below. If nocturnal animals (raccoons, skunks, possums, etc.) are encountered, especially during the day, it is critical to stay clear of them and call the Municipality. Nocturnal animals that appear during the day could indicate they have rabies and should not be approached.

Monroeville is committed to caring for its animals humanely and prudently through the following policy: Business Hours: 6:30 am to 2:30 pm

#### **1. DOMESTIC ANIMALS, ONLY DOGS OR CATS (ALSO, FERAL CATS); INCLUDES IN TRAPS.**

- a. The ACO shall respond to any domestic animal (dog or cat) on public/private property that is in distress and is in immediate danger. If on private property, the ACO will attempt to contact the property owner or resident before trying to remove the domestic animal from the property; however, the domestic animal's well-being is paramount.
- b. The ACO shall NOT attempt to continually capture stray domestic animals that are not in immediate danger during non-business hours. Barking or roaming domestic animals during non-business hours shall initially be referred to the police department. The ACO may be called to respond to roaming domestic animals during business hours.
- c. The ACO shall remove a domestic animal (dog or cat (feral or domestic)) that has been inadvertently caught in a trap or confined in any way, whether during business hours or non-business hours.
- d. When appropriate, the ACO will attempt to obtain possession and reunite the domestic animal with the household for the domestic animal's safety, health, and well-being

#### **2. ANY WILD LIVE OR DEAD ANIMALS ON PRIVATE PROPERTY**

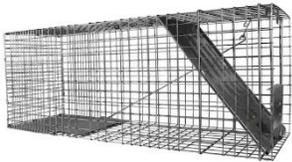
- a. ACO shall respond to wild animals during operating hours unless there is an emergency\* to person or property.
- b. ACO shall only respond to reduce traumatic exposure to the public, especially the long-term negative impact on the public and especially to children.
- c. ACO shall only respond to reduce the spread of animal-related diseases from a decomposing carcass.
- d. If Municipal personnel are unable to arrive on scene within [36] hours of notification, it is the resident's sole responsibility to contact a private animal control contractor to ensure the timely and humane release or removal of the animal.



### 3. WILD ANIMALS IN PRIVATE TRAPS – FEE-BASED REMOVAL SERVICE

The Municipality of Monroeville shall provide a limited wild animal pickup service for residents who have legally trapped a wild animal on their private property, subject to the following conditions:

- a) A service fee (See current Fee Schedule) shall be assessed for each pickup.
- b) The Animal Control Officer (ACO) shall only remove the trapped animal during regular operating hours (6:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Monday through Friday).
- c) The ACO shall not set traps, relocate traps, or provide trapping devices to residents.
- d) The ACO shall not respond to requests for pickup on weekends, holidays, or after regular operating hours.
- e) The Municipality shall not lend traps for wild animals to residents or commercial establishments to set on private property.
- f) The ACO shall respond to wild animals in traps during regular business hours at the Gateway School District buildings.
- g) The Animal Control Officer (ACO) shall only remove the trapped animal during regular operating hours (6:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., Monday through Friday).
- h) The ACO shall not set, relocate, or provide trapping devices to residents.
- i) The ACO shall not respond to requests for pickup on weekends, holidays, or after regular operating hours.
- j) Liability Disclaimer: The Municipality assumes no responsibility for injuries, damages, or losses arising from privately owned animals, traps, or wildlife control activities. Traps returned to owners shall be returned as-is.



### 4. ANY DEAD DOMESTIC ANIMAL, DOG, OR CAT, ON A PUBLIC ROADWAY.

- a) ACO shall respond during business hours or off-business hours to remove domestic animals (dog or cat) from public roadway to prevent traffic-related incidents such as vehicle accidents, property damage to vehicles, traffic backup, etc.
- b) ACO shall only respond to reduce traumatic exposure to the public, especially the long-term negative impact on the public, and especially on children.
- c) ACO shall only respond to reduce the spread of animal-related diseases from a decomposing carcass of a domestic animal

### 5. ANY DEAD WILD ANIMAL ON A PUBLIC ROADWAY

The ACO shall only respond during operating hours unless traffic is impeded or there is a danger of injury to a person. Off-Hours: Police Officer shall remove the animal to the shoulder of the road so as not to impede traffic. ACO will address the dead animal the next business day. If an adjacent resident complains that he/she wants the animal removed immediately, the police officer or supervisor shall call the ACO to remove the dead animal.

**6. ANY DEAD ANIMALS, DEER, OR SKUNKS ON THE PROPERTY OF THE BUSINESS.**

- a) ACO shall respond to reduce traumatic exposure to the public, especially the long-term negative impact on the public, and especially to children.
- b) ACO shall respond to prevent the spread of animal-related diseases from a decomposing carcass.
- c) ACO shall respond only during operating hours unless traffic is impeded or there is a danger of injury to a person. The ACO will provide contact information for private firms that provide wild animal removal services.

**7. ANY DOG OR CAT BITE. POLICE RESPOND FIRST THEN WAIT FOR ACO.**

Police shall respond first to all dog or cat bites. The Animal Control Officer shall respond as required by the Pennsylvania Dog Law and Department of Agriculture regulations for reporting, quarantine, testing, confinement, or destruction of the animal. Compliance with state law is mandatory and not discretionary.



**8. ANY NEGLECTED DOG OR CAT**

- a) ACO shall investigate and obtain possession for animal safety, health, and well-being.
- b) Only during operating hours unless the animal is in imminent danger of injury or death.

**9. ANY NON-MONROEVILLE REQUESTS (EXCEPT by Intermunicipal Agreement)**

Any request by the Monroeville police department or another municipality for the ACO to respond to another municipality will be determined by the Engineering and PW Dept. Director (24/7), or his designee.

**10. EMERGENCY**

- a) A strong indication that there is a threat to life and/or property
- b) A situation presenting an immediate threat to human life, serious bodily injury, or significant property damage; a traffic hazard creating imminent risk; or animal behavior reasonably consistent with rabies, severe aggression, or imminent danger requiring immediate police or Animal Control Officer response, consistent with the Municipality's commitment to community safety and quality of life.

## 11. LIABILITY AND ANIMAL WELFARE

The resident acknowledges that the Municipality of Monroeville is not responsible for any animal until Municipal staff arrive on-scene. In the event that Municipal staff cannot retrieve the animal within [36] hours, the resident agrees to secure a private contractor to prevent animal cruelty. The resident acknowledges that confining an animal for more than 36 hours may result in citations from the Pennsylvania Game Commission, for which the resident is solely liable.

## 12. PAYMENT & SERVICES SUSPENSION

Payment of all trap fees is required for continued service. The Municipality reserves the right to suspend all services for residents with unpaid invoices. Services will only resume once all past-due amounts are paid in full.

## 13. SAFETY RESTRICTIONS

Municipal personnel are prohibited from retrieving traps located on roofs, in attics, or in hazardous locations. All traps must be placed on the ground outdoors. Service will be refused for any trap placed in an unsafe location.

## 14. MONROEVILLE ANIMAL SHELTER

The Monroeville Animal Shelter is a municipal facility dedicated to compassionate care, rescue, and adoption of stray and surrendered animals within Monroeville and Pitcairn, Pennsylvania. Committed to animal welfare, it operates as a no-kill shelter that provides a safe haven for homeless pets until they can be placed in permanent, loving homes. You can view their available animals and learn more about their adoption application process by visiting their official website at <https://www.monroeville.pa.us/157/Animal-Control>. For the most current updates, photos of adoptable pets, and community news, you can follow their official Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/MonroevilleAnimalShelter>.

The shelter is staffed for operations on weekdays, with typical hours from 6:30 am to 2:30 pm, Monday through Friday. In line with their visitation policy, you can stop by during these designated hours or, to ensure staff availability for a meet-and-greet, you may visit by appointment. To schedule your visit or speak with an animal control officer, you can reach the shelter directly by phone at 412-856-3355. This appointment-based system helps the staff dedicate ample time to each potential adopter and maintains a stress-free environment for the animals.

