



## ANIMAL CONTROL & LICENSING

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Animal Control ensures a safe and healthy environment for both residents and animals in our municipality.

South Huron enforces the following animal control by-laws:

- Dog Control By-Law, click here [28-2014](#) , Short Word Offences-Part I Provincial Offences Act and set fines, click [here](#).
- Domestic Birds, Animals and Exotic Animals By-Law, click here [29-2014](#)

### Dogs

All dogs in South Huron **must** be licenced each year and **must** wear their dog tag at all times. All Dog Owners must keep their dogs on a leash and abide by "poop and scoop" regulations.

### Who do I report lost or found dogs to?

If your dog roams from home, call the local vets to see whether a dog has been dropped off

- South Huron Veterinary Clinic, Zurich: 519-236-4301
- Exeter Animal Hospital, Exeter: 519-235-2662
- Thames Road Vet Clinic, Exeter: 519-235-001
- Kirkton Vet Clinic, Kirkton: 519-229-8911

What else can I do?

- Check with your neighbours to see if they have seen your dog
- Call the municipal office to see if your dog has been reported and send photo and information to post on municipal facebook and twitter
- Post on your own facebook and other social media forums
- If your dog is micro-chipped, verify your contact information with the microchip company
- Post flyers in your neighbourhood

### Cats

Cat owners have a responsibility to keep their cat on their property, using a leash or harness if necessary. Owners are responsible to vaccinate and neuter or spay their cat to prevent attracting stray cats to the area. [Follow the link for some tips](#) for being a Responsible Cat Ownership and Information on Feral and Stray Cats.

### Who do I Call for:

- **Sick or injured wildlife:** Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry – Southern Region Phone: 519-826-4955
- **Animal Cruelty:** Ontario SPCA Huron County Animal Centre: 519-440-0250
- **Dead animal on municipal streets or municipal property:** South Huron Municipal Office: 519-235-0310 ex. 230
- **Dog Control** offences ex. barking dogs: South Huron Municipal Office: Phone: 519-235-0310 ex. 227

### Wildlife Concerns

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- [Pre-Auth Payment Form - Taxes](#)

Our Municipal Animal Control Officer does not provide a service to deal with, or remove, nuisance or injured wildlife on private property. Calling Police about non-emergency wildlife issues can take them away from dealing with other important emergencies.

[Information on Rabies in Ontario](#) - follow this link for information on when and how to report a potential rabies exposure.

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- [Marriage Licence Application](#)
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- [Accessible Customer Service Feedback](#)
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Great news @SouthHuron! Huron County Road 83 west of Exeter is set to reopen today![huroncounty.ca/news/ausable-b...](http://huroncounty.ca/news/ausable-b...)



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## RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERSHIP

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### RESPONSIBLE CAT OWNERSHIP

Responsible cat ownership is an important part of maintaining a happy, healthy cat and avoiding cat-related disputes with your neighbours.

**Vaccinate** - Vaccinations are important protection against possibly fatal diseases in your cat such as: distemper, viral rhinotracheitis, pneumonitis, feline leukemia and rabies. By protecting your cat you are also preventing the spread of disease to other pets and even humans.

**Spay/Neuter** - Every year, thousands of unwanted cats and kittens are brought to animal shelters. Cats that are not spayed or neutered can escape outdoors and contribute to over-population of unwanted animals. Spaying or neutering your cat is the best way to be sure your cat is not adding to the over-population problem. Females as young as five months old can have kittens.

**Prevent Roaming At Large** - The average life span of an indoor cat is 12 to 15 years compared to two to five years for an outdoor cat. This drastic difference is due to the dangers cats face outdoors such as traffic, unfriendly animals, poisons, diseases, frostbite, dehydration and abuse from humans. Despite popular belief, cats don't need to go outdoors to be happy. [Follow this link for outside risks to unsupervised cats.](#)

Keep your cat or kitten in a manner that does not negatively impact your neighbour's in any of the following ways:

- Offensive odours
- Noise that may disturb others
- Straying or roaming
- Accumulation of feces

#### Contain Garbage

It takes everyone's help to control animals at large. Keeping your garbage in a container with a tight lid on it helps to keep unwanted animals from spreading garbage.

### FERAL AND STRAY CATS

Feral and Stray cats are the wild offspring of domestic cats that are primarily the result of pet owners' abandonment, failure to confine or failure to spay or neuter their animals allowing them to breed uncontrolled. Feral and stray cats are cats that are not owned by anyone and live in the neighbourhood on their own.

- link for [more information on feral and stray cats.](#)
- link on how to [deter feral and stray cats from your property.](#)

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# General information on feral and stray cats

## Is there a difference between feral and stray cats?

Feral, stray, and pet cats are all members of the same species; they are all domestic cats; however stray cats and feral cats are also different from each other in a very important way—in their relationship to and interactions with people.

Pet and stray cats are socialized to people. Feral cats are not socialized to people. While they are socialized to their colony members and bonded to each other, they do not have that same relationship with people.

## What is a feral cat colony?

Feral cats tend to live in colonies, or groups. Often, as many as three or four generations of a family will live together. A colony is a population of feral cats. The term is used primarily when a noticeable population of feral cats live together in a specific location and use a common food source.

These feral cat colonies can be found in either rural or urban type areas and are prolific breeders, they are elusive and do not trust humans. One female cat can have up to three litters per year, with up to five kittens per litter which in turn can start breeding in six months.

## What to do with feral cats

People should not try to care for feral cats as they are conditioned to look after themselves.

- Avoid feeding stray and feral cats. Feeding healthy cats that haven't been spayed or neutered can result in larger litters that increase the feral and stray cat population.
- Do not bring stray and feral cats into the shelter unless they are sick, injured, or aggressive cats that could pose a danger to the public.

## Can feral cats be domesticated?

Feral kittens can make good house cats if removed from the colony early enough and socialized with humans. Older feral cats can sometimes adapt but they generally resist domestication and are reluctant to trust humans.

## Why should we be concerned about feral and stray cats?

Concerns about feral and stray cats include:

- A growing population.
- Feral and stray cats hunt and scavenge for food in areas shared by foxes and skunks, the two most prolific carriers of rabies.
- Often inhumane conditions for feral and stray cats.
- Homeowners that do not want feral or stray cats in their neighbourhood (noise from yowling, fighting and spraying).

# How to deter feral and stray cats from your property

There are several easy environmentally safe solutions that will help to keep cats out of your gardens, flower beds, and away from your house:

- **Wash outside doors or walls.** Get rid of the cat urine spray or the cats will return to refresh the scent. Vinegar, baking soda or cornstarch are good options. Avoid bleach.
- **Clean up.** Clutter provides homes to rodents which will attract stray cats to your property.
- **Make digging difficult.** Cats love soft soil to dig for a litter spot, so make it unattractive. Before you plant, line flower beds with chicken wire the vegetation will grow through the wire and will prevent cats from digging.
- **Use mulch that's uncomfortable.** Prickly cuttings from holly, rose clippings, pine cones, or other uncomfortable material helps to deter cats. It's also environmentally friendly.
- **Avoid attractive plants.** Cats love mint, and may be attracted to some types of honeysuckle. Instead, plant vegetation like rue, lavender, pennyroyal, Coleus canina, and lemon thyme throughout the garden.
- **Use scents that are repulsive to cats.** Cats have a strong sense of smell; you can make your own natural cat repellent. Rub a sliced onion around fence posts or deck chairs. Place used coffee grounds in your flower beds or garden that will keep most critters out.
- **Tip for keeping cats off of cars.** Office supply stores carry floor mats/chair mats designed for carpets that have a textured underside with little rubber nubs. Place these mats upside down on the hood, trunk, or roof of your car. Cats don't like the spiky feel of these mats and will avoid walking or resting on their surface.
- **Avoid feeding stray or feral cats.**
- **Keep garbage in a secured container** to ensure that it does not provide a food source for feral cats.