

**OAK HARBOR  
POLICE DEPARTMENT**

# Animal Control



## **Feral Cat Information**

To report an animal issue:  
Call I-COM: (360) 679-9567  
Fax (360) 279-4609

## Where do feral cats come from?

When you notice cats outdoors, they are either neighbors' pets, lost or abandoned pets, or feral cats. Feral cats are the "wild" offspring of domestic cats. Kittens that grow up outdoors without human contact are naturally fearful and inclined to stay away from people.

Feral cats are the result of owner abandonment and failure to spay and neuter pets. Colonies of cats can be found behind shopping malls or businesses; in alleys, parks, and abandoned buildings; in urban as well as rural areas; across the country and around the world.

## Why are there so many?

- Cats are generally able to reproduce at five to seven months of age.
- Pregnancy in nine weeks in duration.
- Each litter contains an average of 2-6 kittens.
- In one year, at least 12 cats can be produced by one unaltered female.

## Moving

Many cats have become feral due to being abandoned or escaping from their owners care. It is important to be thoughtful about your pets needs.

- Make a plan for moving with your pet ahead of time.
- Contain your cat and watch open doors to prevent escape.

## Common Problems

### **“Cats are sleeping under my house.”**

Cats sleeping under a house, in a shed, or other locations are seeking a warm, dry, safe, shelter from the elements.

- Physically block or seal the location the cats are entering with chicken wire or lattice when they are sure the cats are not there. Provide shelters for the cats.

### **“Cats are getting into my trash.”**

Cats and many wild animals are opportunistic scavengers.

- Scavenging can be reduced by providing regular food for the cats at a set time and in an out-of-the-way location.
- Keep trash properly covered and secured to avoid attracting raccoons, skunks, and possums, in addition to cats.

## Resolving Problems

### **Be part of the solution by:**

- Having your cat spayed or neutered
- Not letting your cat go outdoors without supervision.
- Keeping your cat current on all vaccinations.
- Ensuring your cat can be identified, with either a collar and tag or a microchip.



## **Feral Cats within City Limits**

Persons living within the city limits of Oak Harbor must follow the city's municipal code, which prohibits anyone from owning more than three cats OR three dogs. All animals must be licensed.

Feral cat populations may not be supported within the city limits of Oak Harbor.

## **Removal Options**

- Feral cats may be trapped, and taken to an appropriate location for euthanasia.
- Programs are available to have feral cats spayed and neutered. The cat will then be returned to the person who trapped the animal.
- Oak Harbor municipal code applies to all animals, including feral cats.

## **Prevention**

### **Animal Overpopulation**

This is a huge problem in our country. It is unfair to the animals and unhealthy for our community. Before you get a pet, do your research and consider adopting from a shelter or rescue organization. There are so many unwanted pets out there that need good homes. Don't add to the problem of overpopulation... Please spay or neuter your pets.

**Please spay & neuter your pets!**

## Oak Harbor Municipal Code

### **7.08.020 Restraint required.**

All animals shall be kept under restraint.

### **7.08.030 Public nuisance prevention.**

An owner shall at all times exercise proper care and control of his animals so that they do not become a public nuisance as defined in OHMC 7.04.070.

### **7.04.070 Public nuisance.**

“Public nuisance” means any animal or animals which:

- (1) Molests passersby or passing vehicles;
- (2) Attacks other animals;
- (3) Is repeatedly running at large;
- (4) Damages private or public property;
- (5) Barks, whines or howls in an excessive, continuous or untimely fashion.

### **7.20.100 Maximum dogs and cats per residence.**

No person shall permit more than three dogs or cats over the age of four months in or on any residence in the city of Oak Harbor.



## Low Cost Spay and Neuter Programs

WAIF Animal Shelter  
60 Rhododendron Park Road  
PO Box 1108  
Coupeville, WA 98239  
360.678.8901

Offers surgeries for feral cats only. Please call for appointment information.

N.O.A.H. Center  
31300 Brandstrom Rd.  
Stanwood, WA 98292  
360.629.7055

Low-cost spay/neuter for low-income households  
7 days per week by appointment only. Free feral  
cat spay/neuter 7 days per week by appointment  
only.



## Oak Harbor Police Department

860 SE Barrington Drive  
Oak Harbor WA 98277  
(360) 279-4600

Open Monday-Friday, 9 am-4 pm

To report an animal related complaint or to speak with  
the Animal Control Officer, please call the non-  
emergency I-COM Dispatch line at (360) 679-9567.

Complaints are handled 24 hours a day .