

BLOOMFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT

Animal Control Unit

The [Animal Control](#) Unit provides for the response, resolution, licensing, enforcement and administrative requirements of animal complaints received by the Department. The Animal Control Unit is staffed by a full-time Animal Control Officer, under the supervision of a [Unit Supervisor](#). The unit receives support from Patrol Division staff on weekends, holidays and the Animal Control Officer's days off.

Bloomfield investigates approximately 600 animal complaints a year.

ADOPT AN ANIMAL

WHAT IS ANIMAL CRUELTY?

Animal cruelty involves depriving an animal of food, water, shelter and/or veterinary care. Torturing, maiming or killing is also forms of animal cruelty.

WHY WOULD ANYONE BE CRUEL TO ANIMALS?

There are many reasons that people are cruel and abusive to animals. Some offenders have indicated that they felt powerless, un-noticed or were under the control of other people. Other offenders have felt a need to shock, threaten or intimidate a helpless victim in order to demonstrate a rejection of society's rules. Some have abused animals to retaliate against people who love animals or who have been cruel to that offender in the past.

Pets in homes where there has been domestic violence are also often hurt. Animals in these situations may be silent victims, who may be threatened, injured or killed by a violent family member to control or intimidate other members of the household. And just like other family members, animals need a place to be safe.

The recognition of the importance of the link between animal cruelty and criminal behavior is currently drawing increased attention among behaviorists, the psychiatric community and police. Some studies have indicated a connection between animal cruelty and serial killers.

WHAT ARE SOME SIGNS OF ANIMAL CRUELTY?

- Wounds on the body
- Patches of missing fur
- Extremely thin or starving animals
- Limping or trouble standing
- An owner striking or otherwise physically abusing an animal
- Dogs that are repeatedly left alone without food and water, often chained in a yard
- Dogs who have been hit by cars- or any of the signs listed above- and have not been taken to a veterinarian
- Animals that are kept outside without proper shelter in extreme weather conditions
- Animals who cower in fear or act aggressively when approached by their owners

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

If you are aware or have witnessed any form of neglect or abuse to any animal, please contact your local police or animal control department. Many people are concerned and aware of abuse yet choose not to contact authorities because they don't want to get involved or they fear any recourse from the person causing the abuse.

If you are unsure of an animals' condition please contact local authorities to report your concerns. The local police and animal control personnel are trained and have the experience to properly investigate and deal with the suspects and victims if any enforcement is needed to be taken. If you feel more comfortable remaining as an anonymous complainant your concerns will be investigated.

Loud or Barking Dogs

Barking dogs bring almost daily complaints to the Bloomfield Police Department, particularly in warm weather when windows are open. The Bloomfield Police Department will investigate barking dog complaints.

Owners of barking dogs may be in violation of town ordinance and subject to a fine. In addition to being against the law it is extremely inconsiderate to allow your dog or dogs to bark when unnecessary. If your dog is barking investigate the cause.

Before reporting a dog that barks loudly and frequently first try to contact the dog's owner.

For more information call 242-5501 ext. 450 or email the [Animal Control Officer](#).