



ANIMAL SAFETY

General Pet Safety

We love our pets, but left to their own devices, they can get into some trouble! Here's a few tips for keeping your pets (and your neighbors) safe:

- Keep your pets properly restrained/contained at all times. Whether this means a leash, a fence, or keeping them indoors, it's safer for everyone if you keep your pet under control. It's also part of city code!
- Be sure to take your pet into the veterinarian for regular check-ups. Remember, your pets can't talk to tell you what's wrong!
- Make sure your pets always have access to clean, fresh water—especially when it's hot outside.
- Never leave your pets unattended in a parked vehicle or by the pool.
- Remember, if it's too hot or too cold for you, then the same is true for your pet.

For some more in-depth tips, check out the ASPCA's recommendations for [Cold Weather Safety](#), [Hot Weather Safety](#), and [Travel Safety](#).

Stray Animals

If you see a stray animal in your neighborhood, please approach with caution. You can't guess how a strange animal will behave when approached by someone unfamiliar, so it's best to err on the side of caution. If the animal is friendly and lets you come close, check to see if it has tags first. If it does, alert the owner that you've found their pet—chances are they've been looking.

If the animal doesn't have any tags, we suggest taking it to a local veterinarian or animal shelter to check for a microchip. Information on a microchip can identify a cat or dog the same way tags might, only they're a lot harder to lose! We recommend microchipping your animals.



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If the animal has no microchip, the best move—if you're able—is to look after it for a few days while you search for the owner. Again, if this is someone's pet, they're probably looking, too. Post pictures on Facebook and ask your friends to share them. [Tri-Cities Lost & Found Pets](#) is a great resource for this, and probably better than posting flyers.

If you can't look after the animal or an owner never comes forward, please take the pet to a local animal shelter.

If the stray animal is unfriendly or seems dangerous, please call Petworks Animal Control at (423)247-1671. Do not under any circumstances approach an animal you suspect may have rabies.

Bothersome or Neglected Pets

If your neighbors have a noisy or destructive pet or you suspect animal abuse, we suggest talking to them about it face-to-face first. It's better to resolve issues yourselves if you can and you feel safe doing so! If the problem persists, again, call Petworks at the number above. Their animal control officers can issue citations for things like noise complaints or animal abuse.