



HEALTHY PEOPLE 2010

Mission Statement:

The mission of the Animal Control Division is to promote the quality of life by providing public health and safety through enforcement, education, and services and by assuring that the rights of animal owners and non-owners are protected and animals are properly cared for.

Animal Control

§ **EPIDEMIOLOGY**

§ **PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING**

§ **ANIMAL CONTROL**

§ **HEALTH PROMOTION & OUTREACH**

§ **DENTAL HEALTH**

§ **ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH**

1997-98
Annual
Report

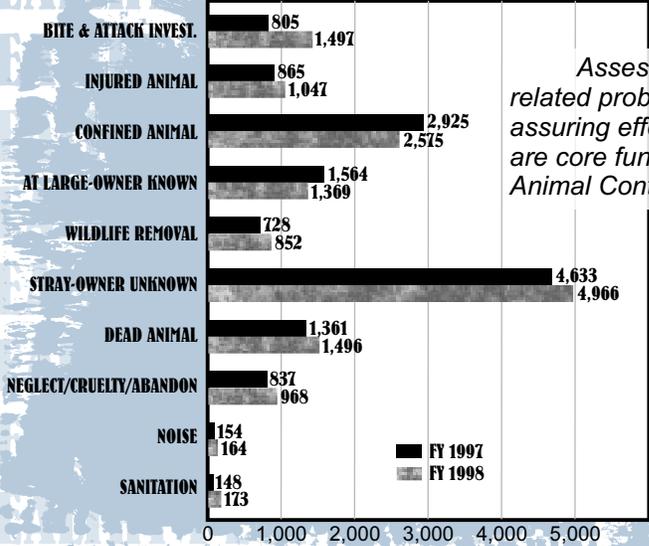
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Animal Control



"I love talking to kids. Teaching them the importance of animal safety and dog bite prevention is my number one priority. Simple steps can make a huge difference."

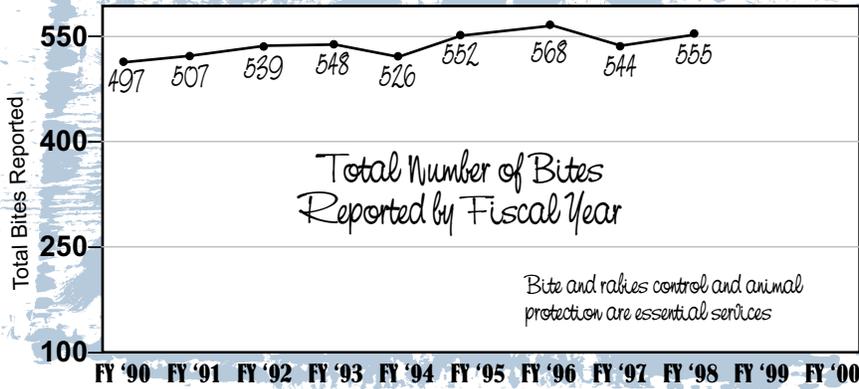
Kris Johnson
 Animal Control Officer



Assessing animal-related problems and assuring effective services are core functions of the Animal Control Program.

Animal Control officers responded to 17,596 service requests and office staff handled over 46,000 calls from citizens regarding services needed, information on animal behavior, wildlife control, ordinances, and licensing. In addition, 2,867 lost and found calls were taken. There were 681 citations and 2,626 warning/defect tickets issued to pet owners violating local ordinances. Animal Control Officers responded to 864 injured animal calls or rescues and investigated 833 complaints of animal neglect.

Animal bites reported to Animal Control increased from 544 to 555 (2%), with over 42% of bites being inflicted on children younger than age 16.

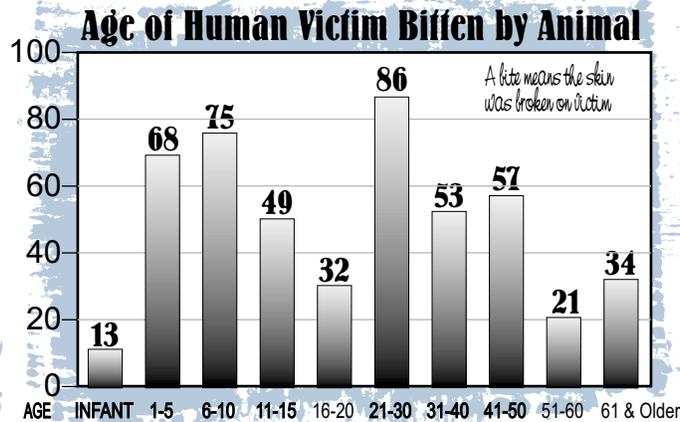


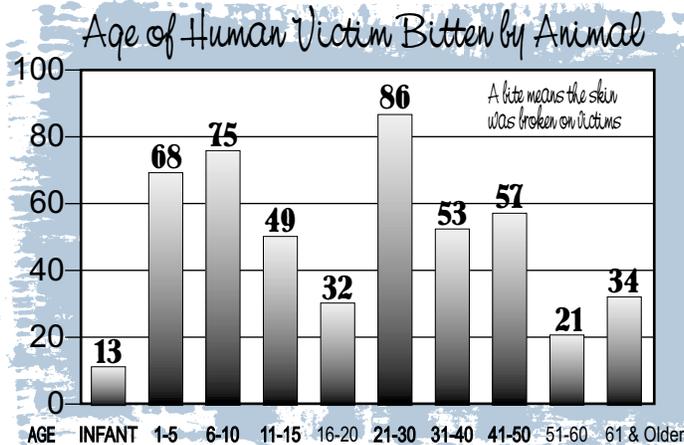
The Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association on May 1, 1998 stated, "Dog bites are the number one health problem of children, outnumbering measles and mumps combined. Medical treatment for dog attacks costs society \$104.4 million annually and liability claims paid by insurance companies in 1996 totaled a record \$1 billion."

Other regulatory activities include pet shop inspections, livestock permits, dangerous and potentially dangerous dog declarations, wildlife removal, animal licenses, and complaints about animals.

Two individuals were cited for cockfighting. The action was documented through a video. The individuals pled guilty and were fined \$200 each plus court costs.

The District Court gave Animal Control a partial victory in a horse cruelty case upholding 4 of the 11 cruelty counts of which the Lancaster County Court had previously found the owner guilty.





Nationwide, over 60% of the severe injuries from animal bites and 85% of the fatal injuries are inflicted on children 12 years of age and younger. (John C. Wright, PhD, Mercer University)

Follow-up work on reported bites and attacks resulted in 7 dogs being declared dangerous and 5 potentially dangerous. In addition, 43 animals were signed over for destruction prior to a declaration. A hybrid wolf (90% wolf), escaped from his owner's property, attacked a 17-year-old girl (baring teeth and growling) and killed a Pekingese chained on a porch. This animal was declared vicious.



"A solid relationship between Capital Humane Society and Lincoln Animal Control is important to the community. Working together prevents unnecessary expenditures of tax dollars and gives both organizations an opportunity to know the issues at hand and not only be reactive to those issues, but to develop programs that are preventive in nature."

Bob Downey,
Executive Director
Capital Humane
Society

Animal Control gave 75 presentations emphasizing bite safety and knowledge of animal behaviors to 3,087 preschool and elementary school children, plus several adult organizations and local animal clubs. An educational campaign was continued at the request of the Board of Health regarding the importance of cleaning up after your pet. Animal Control vehicles were fitted with signs encouraging citizens to clean up after their dog when walking and giving information on barking control, bite prevention, safety around animals, and to spaying or neutering their pets.

The Animal Control Program serves to protect the health and safety of the citizens of Lincoln. In addition, the program serves to protect the welfare of animals and to prevent cruelty and neglect.

Citizen donations of nearly \$16,000 financed the purchase of several new videos, films, and educational materials, as well as the employment of a student intern, who develops new pamphlets, posters, and display panels for use in schools.

The Animal Control Advisory Committee reviewed the recommendations of the Cruelty Task Force which had suggested revisions to the Lincoln Municipal Code regarding cruelty and neglect in 1997. The Committee made additional recommendations during their regular and special meetings for a 10-month period and then held a public hearing in June 1998. These proposed revisions were approved by the Board of Health in August 1998.



"Animal Control has established a progressive program and other cities have adopted ordinances modeled after Lincoln's. The staff is committed to achieving a high level of quality service for the people and animals in our community."

*Terri Walkenhorst Treinen,
President, Animal Control
Advisory Committee*

Animal Control's Educational/Government Access television show is in its seventh year. A talk show format is used to integrate guests and video clips to educate the public about responsible pet ownership, safety, and the role Animal Control plays in the community. The show, which airs three times per week, is produced by staff and public volunteers.

During the summer months, a booth was set up on four occasions at the Lincoln Farmer's Market and also at the Lancaster County Fair, (Health Awareness Day and Celebrating Families Day), Nebraska State Fair (Kid's Day), Bryan Hospital Health and Safety Fair, Animal Awareness Day at Sam's Club, Children Museum, and Kid's Day at East Park Mall. Displays were also set up at the 4-H Pets/People Professional Camp, Environmental Fair, Girl and Boy Scout Animal/Pet Fair, Safety Health Fair at Pershing Auditorium, Earth Wellness Festival and Cat Show, as well as several fairs of local schools, veterinary offices, and community centers (Malone Center, Salvation Army, etc).



Jim Weverka, Manager of the Animal Control Division was elected President of the National Animal Control Association.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Animal licenses sold	42,694
Animals impounded	3,918
Dogs and cats claimed	1,752
Dogs and cats unclaimed and transferred to the shelter	2,166
Licensed, stray animals delivered home	283
Court citations issued	681
Warnings/defect tickets issued	2,626
Bite cases reported	555
Pet shop, large animal, and other permits issued	66
Animal neglect investigations	833
Lost and found queries	2,867
Wildlife removal	570
Dogs declared dangerous	7
Dogs declared potentially dangerous	5
Biter dogs signed over	43
Revenue generated	\$582,246

