

**Animal Control**  
(Pets can be hazardous to your health)  
  
C.M.G. Buttery

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Why should Public Health Agencies be interested in Animal Control?

- **Wild Animals Spread diseases**
  - directly, or via ticks, mosquitoes & other biting insects
    - Bats spread rabies
    - Rats can spread rabies, although rarely
    - Rats can spread salmonella, and typhus via fleas
    - Raccoons can spread rabies
    - Deer can host Lyme Disease
    - Corbies can host West Nile Virus
    - Snakes and Pigeons can host Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever

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**Domestic Animals**

- Can spread diseases directly or by intermediate hosts
  - Dogs can kill by biting, or cause permanent injury
  - Dogs can pass parasites
  - Dogs can transmit rabies
  - Dogs can transmit
    - Leptospirosis      Measles (canine distemper)
    - Histoplasmosis    Brucellosis
    - Salmonellosis    Tuberculosis
    - Whipworm        Diphtheria

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### Other domestic animals

- Besides dogs
  - Cows, Horses, Cats have all transmitted Rabies
  - Cats can transmit toxoplasmosis
  - Cows used to spread Tuberculosis through milk until herds were immunized and tested
  - Reptiles (turtles, lizards, snakes) can transmit salmonella

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### Animal Control Activities

- Most health departments have responsibilities for
  - Rat Control
  - Mosquito Control
  - Bite Prevention

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### Rat Control

- In most urban settings housing authorities and city information officers refer rat control issues to health departments who
  - Investigate to locate source
  - Recommend control measures
  - May bait public areas for rat
  - Recommend Pest control companies

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**Mosquito Control**

- In urban areas health departments are usually responsible for mosquito control
  - Malaria
  - Yellow Fever
  - Dengue
  - SL & EE Encephalitis
  - West Nile Virus

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**Mosquito Control (cont.)**

- Responsibilities include
  - Mosquito Collection
    - How many, what type, where located
  - Mosquito breeding
    - to determine susceptibility to pesticides.
    - to determine blood meal contents
  - Larviciding
  - Adulticiding

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**Wild Animals**

- As the urban areas penetrate the countryside and provide breeding and feeding areas attractive to wild animals local health departments with advice of state game wardens determine
  - Hazard to people & pets from
    - deer, raccoon, skunk, bear, puma and
    - Wildlife kept as pets, with or without permits.

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## Dogs

- In most communities are controlled by a mix of police, SPCA and local health departments to prevent
  - Bites
  - Disease to people, particularly children
  - Abandonment
  - Cruelty
  - Diseases transmitted to other animal
  - Poor Housing of domestic animals

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## Bite Prevention

- In most communities, occurs after the fact
  - Consider recent deaths from animal bites in Virginia
- In some communities advisory boards take pro-active positions to prevent bites
- Use of leash laws
  - Rarely enforced
- Requirement for Rabies immunization
- Use courts or administrative panels?

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## Bite Control (cont.)

- Training of animal control officers by
  - National Animal Control Association Training Academy
- Training as a police officer, to take evidence
- Training in Public Relations
- Training in animal care

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### Training (cont)

- Enforcement of leash laws
- Evidence of Cruelty
- Animal capture
  - Nets
  - Poles
  - Darts
- Adoption
- Euthanasia

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### Cats and Dogs

- In some cities cats and dogs are controlled by high fences
- Requirement for licensing Cats and Dogs
- Display of licenses
- Rabies Vaccination for cats
- Population control (cats and dogs)
  - SPCA Neutering Programs

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### Administrative Panels

- Advisory Board of citizens, veterinarians, humane agencies, postal delivery and meter readers
- Administrative hearing board to manage vicious animals
  - Remove from community
  - Euthanize
  - Educate

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