

Restrictions

It is unlawful to own, keep, or harbor any animal species known to transfer rabies. This includes bats, skunks, foxes, coyotes or raccoons. Exceptions can be found under WAC 246-100-191.

Safety Tips for You & Your Dog

Aggressive Dogs

If you are approached by an aggressive dog expect it to bark, growl or snarl. The dog is warning you if it's ears are back, legs are stiff, if its crouching down or if the hair on its back is standing up. The dog may be getting ready to bite if it charges forward or bears/snaps its teeth.

Do's & Don'ts

- DO stop what you're doing
- DO slowly walk away sideways
- DO act like you're the boss and firmly say "No!"
- DO curl up in a ball and protect your face if attacked
- DON'T stare into the dog's eyes
- DON'T turn your back and run away

If You Have Been Bitten

- Tell an adult right away
- Wash the wound with soap and water
- Seek medical attention
- Report the incident to the local Health Department and Police Department

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 & neuter your pets!

Don't Leave Pets Unattended on Warm Days

Temperatures in a parked car can reach 160 degrees even with windows partially opened. It is not safe to keep your animal in the car while you run errands even if water is available for them. Animals can get heat stress and die in a short amount of time.

Heat stress signs include heavy panting, glazed eyes, rapid pulse, dizziness, vomiting, and/or a deep red or purple tongue. If this is happening lower your pet's body temperature immediately! Move them into a shady area and apply cool (not cold) water all over your pet and then get them to a veterinarian.



Mount Vernon Police Department

1805 Continental Place
Mount Vernon, WA 98273
(360) 336-6271
Open Monday-Friday 8am-5pm

To report an animal problem or to speak with the animal control officer please call the non-emergency Dispatch line at (360) 428-3211. Complaints are handled 24 hours a day (animal control officer available for contact Monday-Friday, 8am-4pm)

MOUNT VERNON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Animal Control

Dog & Cat Owner Information



Telephone (360) 336-6271
After hours (360) 336-0630 ext 1499
Email mvaco@mountvernonwa.gov
Fax (360) 336-0634



Dog & Cat Licensing Required MVMC 6.04.040

All dogs over 20 weeks of age and all cats over 12 weeks of age are required to be licensed through the Mount Vernon Police Department. Ferrets can be licensed at the owner's request.



FREE for spayed or neutered animals
(valid for the life of the animal)

\$50 per year for intact animals
(must be renewed annually)

Proof of a current rabies vaccination and proof that the animal is altered (if applicable) are due at the time of licensing.

You will be issued a city license tag that must be kept on your pets collar. This will help us identify you as the owner if your pet is picked up.

Microchips may be implanted however they are not a replacement for license tags.

Number of Pets Per Household MVMC 6.04.120 & 6.04.130

Up to 3 dogs of licensing age
OR
Up to 6 cats of licensing age
OR

Any number of cats & dogs not to exceed 3 dogs and 6 total animals

More than 6 animals requires proper licensing as a commercial kennel, cattery or veterinary clinic.

In emergency situations, 2 additional cats or dogs may be sheltered for up to 6 months. These animals shall be licensed and disclosed to the Animal Control Officer.

Pet Owner Responsibilities

When Off the Owner's Property, Pets:

Cannot run loose.

Must be controlled by a leash or physical control device.
Must have a secure collar with the city license attached.

Dogs in Season

Female dogs in season shall be confined to an appropriate structure so they cannot come into contact with intact male dogs unless breeding is planned.

Animal Noise

Frequent howling, barking or other animal noises which disturb the peace and quiet of the surrounding area is not allowed.

Animal Waste

Owners are required to have an appropriate device for waste removal and to clean up after their pets immediately when off the owner's property.

Nuisance Behavior

Digging, chewing or other actions that damage or destroy private or public property (flower beds, lawns, sport fields etc.) is considered a nuisance and is unlawful.

Bites or Attacks

Any dog, cat or ferret that has bitten or attacked a person must be reported to the Animal Control Officer. Animals that have bitten must be quarantined for 10 days and the owner is required to surrender their pet for quarantine or arrange approved confinement with the Animal Control Officer. A person cannot refuse to surrender an animal for quarantine. It is unlawful to move a pet out of the city limits if they have bitten someone.



Obstructing Animal Control Officers MVMC 6.04.350

It is unlawful for any person, without lawful reason, to knowingly hinder, resist, delay or obstruct any animal control officer or police officer in the performance of their duties. Obstructing of an animal control officer or police officer is a misdemeanor offense.

Complete Animal Ordinance

Mount Vernon Municipal Code (MVMC) chapter 6 can be found on the City website or you may obtain a copy from the Mount Vernon Police Department.

www.ci.mount-vernion.wa.us

Fines & Penalties

Violations Within a 12 Month Period

1st offense	\$103
2nd offense	\$205
3rd offense	\$308
4th offense	\$1,025

Criminal Citations

Can be issued for many violations including but not limited to: animal abandonment, dogs severely injuring or killing a human, failure to quarantine, unlawfully creating cat colonies or animal sanctuaries, dangerous/potentially dangerous dog violations, dog fighting, inhumane trapping, possessing a prohibited exotic animal, illegal disposal of a carcass, and animal cruelty.

Habitual Violator

MVMC 6.04.390

Owners receiving more than 3 criminal citations, notices of civil infractions or any combination of the two within a 12 month period are considered habitual violators which can result in the animal being abated (removed) from the city.