

**Animal Control Division Question and Answer Session
with Chief's Advisory Council**

1. **Does my license for North Las Vegas apply for Las Vegas also?** No, each City and the County have their own licensing program. If you move into North Las Vegas, you will be required to purchase a license through our program. The County actually picks up and files the rabies certificates for all of the agencies.
2. **What equipment is used for Animal Control (A/C)?** Dale brought in several types of equipment used to capture and/or control animals. He showed us a leash he most always uses depending upon the animal and how they react. Another good tool is the "come along pole" as it provides the officer safety much like handcuffs. It is extremely versatile in that it can be used for anything from dogs to snakes. The vehicles are also equipped with snake bags. The A/C officers also use protective gloves, throw ropes for livestock, as well as a large net for birds and smaller animals.

The officers qualify three times a year in the use of a tranquilizer rifle and pistol. If the tranquilizer rifle is used, the aim is for the shoulder or hind quarter muscle. A 1cc to 6cc dart is used depending on the size of the animal. Officers also are trained in and qualify annually in the use of pepper spray and tasers for use on animals only for their protection.

Dale demonstrated one of the humane traps that are used and explained the stray cat program. For a \$65.00 deposit, a person can use a cat trap for 10 days. The trap is set at night and if the cat is caught, A/C is called to pick it up. After the 10 days, if the trap is returned undamaged, the deposit is refunded.

Along with the above equipment, Dale also brought in brochures, leashes, and a few other gifts from Animal Control.

- A) **How many snakes do you catch a year?** About a couple a month but when I was in California it was about 18 to 25 a month.
 - B) **How long do you monitor a dog that you have been trying to capture?** We usually monitor it about two to three hours. Once we tranquilize it, we will wait about 30 to 40 minutes for it to go down before we approach.
 - C) **Who initiates your calls?** All of our calls go through Dispatch. Concerned citizens can call Dispatch to report any type of animal issue.
3. **How has the economy affected CNLV Animal Control? (i.e. Customer Service, Personnel, Release of pets into the wild, licensing permits, etc.)** The current economy has affected everyone. We have a few positions that are vacant and cannot be filled at this time. Unfortunately, this means longer response times, heavier work loads for remaining employees, and special permits etc...are taking longer to process. We are not able to patrol neighborhood streets as often. We are seeing an increase in the number of animals being left behind at foreclosed/abandoned properties. More animals are being turned into the shelter and being dumped out into the desert.
 4. **Can I license my pet(s) on line?** Yes, our office has been working hard on a new online licensing program. There is a link on the City's website at <http://www.cityofnorthlasvegas.com/Departments/Police/AnimalControl.shtm>. Once on the home page, scroll down to **license your pet on-line** and click on the link Licensepet.com/northlasvegas.

5. **How do I ensure my animal gets a "free ride home"?** It is very seldom that we pick up an animal that is wearing a license tag or any other type of identification. If we do find a pet with owner information, we attempt to contact the owner and will leave a notice at the residence if the owner is not home. We come across a lot of pets that are microchipped; however their owners have either never sent in to or updated the paperwork with the company that registers them, therefore the microchip is useless. Our officers are so happy when they are able to bring a lost animal home.
6. **How many Animal Control officers does the City of North Las Vegas Police Department have in the field?** We have 6 officers covering the City 7 days a week from 6:30 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. The officers are on standby after hours.
7. **Please explain the mandatory spay and neuter ordinance.** The City of North Las Vegas was the first municipality to establish an ordinance requiring all dogs and cats to be sterilized. The following are exceptions: a letter from a licensed veterinarian stating the animal cannot undergo the surgery, owners that have a valid fanciers permit, and shelters and humane groups.
8. **What vet shots are necessary for my animal?** It is important to keep your pet current on all vaccinations. Dogs should receive 5 in 1, which includes distemper, parvo, and rabies. Cats should receive 4 in 1, which includes feline leukemia, feline viral rhinotracheitis, and rabies. The rabies vaccination is the only one that is required by law.
9. **Approximately how many animals do you assist in a month?** Our office receives approximately 800-1000 calls for service each month and impounds approximately 450 animals every month, depending on the time of year.
10. **What happens to abandoned animals?** All animals impounded by Animal Control are kept for 72 hours for owner reclaim and then become property of the shelter. After that time, the shelter evaluates each animal to ensure it is adoptable. Animals that pass the evaluation are kept up to 30 days for possible adoption.
11. **What are the most difficult types of calls to handle?** It depends on the situation and sometimes depends on the animal. Strays on a highway can be a challenging situation. Noise annoyance (barking dog) complaints can be tricky if problems arise between neighbors. Helping injured animals always requires extra caution, as they are frightened and in pain. Responding to a vicious animal attack can be very difficult.
- A. **Do you get any dog fighting complaints?** That used to be a problem but it hasn't been for a few years.
- B. **Who picks up the dead animals on the streets?** The Department of Transportation pick up dead animals on the highway, NLV Animal Control pick up dead animals on City streets and private property.
12. **How many animals can I have at my house? (i.e. cats, dogs, ferrets, pigs, birds, etc.)** Our ordinance allows 3 dogs, 3 cats, and 3 ferrets per residence. There are special requirements if a person wants more than 3 pot bellied pigs. There are restrictions but no limits on the number of birds and fowl, however, roosters and male fowl over the age of 3 months are not allowed at all. Our ordinance does not allow any wild animals to be kept as pets.

13. **What are the tethering/chaining laws and how are you able to monitor them?** Most people are not aware of the new ordinance which restricts animals from being tethered for more than 14 hours. Like most of our ordinances, we strive to educate our citizens about the animal laws. If we continue to receive complaints, we can take further action such as issuing a citation and/or impounding the animal. We try to educate the citizens before we take enforcement action.
14. **Is there a difference in how you enforce City ordinances and State statutes? (i.e. same courts, same fines, which one prevails, etc.)** Animal Control officers only enforce City ordinances. We are not authorized to enforce State statutes.
15. **Do you use volunteers? If so, how can someone apply to help you?** We do have a volunteer that help out in our office. She works 1-2 days a week and mainly enters pet license information into the system. The volunteer program is handled by the Community Services Division. Anyone wishing to sign up should contact them at 633-2199.
16. **When animals are placed in the animal control vehicle why are they kept in the truck until the end of the shift rather than delivered to the shelter sooner?** We don't have enough staffing to make several trips to the shelter to drop off animals. Sick or injured animals are transported as soon as possible for treatment and if an officer has an opportunity to unload animals, they will. The Animal Control units are equipped with air conditioning so the animals are able to stay on the truck for long periods of time. The officers monitor the animals throughout the day.
 - A. **What if an animal had parvo?** The vehicles are disinfected after every shift, however, if an animal had parvo that vehicle might not be used for another 24 hours.
17. **What are my legal obligations if I find a stray animal? (i.e. how soon should I turn it in, can I help find the owner, can I keep the animal, etc.)** Our ordinance requires that persons finding a lost pet, report it to Animal Control within 24 hours.
18. **What do you recommend to the public when an aggressive dog is in the neighborhood?** Contact the Police Department immediately and keep an eye on the animal if possible. If an aggressive dog approaches you, stay calm! Stand still and most likely the dog will sniff around you and move on.
19. **Can you explain the Vicious Dog policy/statute?** The ordinance is not breed specific. The vicious dog ordinance states: an animal may be declared vicious by an animal control officer if it constitutes a physical threat to human beings or another animal or kills or inflicts substantial bodily harm. The owner must have a \$100,000 insurance bond for the dangerous dog. That dog must microchipped and registered in a national database.
20. **What are the fees for licenses?** Pet owners are required to license pets annually.
 - \$10.00 for sterilized pet
 - \$25.00 for unsterilized pet
 - \$5.00 for sterilized pet owned by a senior citizen
 - \$15.00 for unsterilized pet owned by a senior citizen

21/22. What are the fines for not having your animal spayed or neutered? What is the fine for an animal running at large with no registration? All fines for animal violations are determined by the court. The court sets a bail amount that officers are required to write on citations. The bail amount for animal control citations is \$1137.00. This allows the judge/court to determine the fine based on the case.

- A. Can you seize an animal that has been treated cruelly?** Because an animal is considered property, we would need a search warrant unless exigent circumstances exist. We can call a patrol officer to assist us if the situation warrants.
- B. How many calls do you get a day?** Each officer averages about 14 to 23 calls a shift.
- C. Do you go to all of the calls?** By the time we get to some of the calls, the animal may be gone or the dog is no longer barking, however, we still have to investigate them all.