



BERRIEN COUNTY ANIMAL CONTROL ***THE FACTS***



What is Berrien County Animal Control (BCAC)'s primary function?

To provide administration and law enforcement of animal affairs as required by state and county law.

What are the goals of Berrien County Animal Control?

MISSION STATEMENT:

To strive for excellence, maintaining the highest quality of life for humans and animals by: protecting and serving the residents of Berrien County, enforcing state and county laws, providing education to promote pet responsibility, spaying/neutering of companion animals.

Berrien County Animal Control is NOT an animal REFUGE.

*****BUT** the staff cares deeply for the welfare of all the animals***

Berrien County Animal Control is NOT a SHELTER.

*****BUT** they maintain one in order to support its operations***

Berrien County Animal Control is NOT an ADOPTION AGENCY

*****BUT** they are very successful at adopting out animals, and embrace and support adoptions as a humane alternative to euthanasia***

Berrien County Animal Control operations CANNOT be guided by what the PUBLIC THINKS is good for the animals alone.

BCAC answers first and foremost to the LAWS of the state in conjunction with the *policies of the Board of Commissioners*.

Berrien County Animal Control IS a PUBLIC SAFETY organization.

BCAC is focused on the health and protection of its citizens and their property from feral and wild animals, as well as companion animals.

STATS

BERRIEN COUNTY ANIMAL CONTROL:

- Employ 4 full time and 3 part-time officers; 2 full time office personnel, 2 kennel workers (1 full time and 1 part time) and the Director.
- Deploy 6 trucks
- Respond to over 6500 complaints a year
- Mail, maintain and sell over 21,000 licenses each year
- Answer 2,000 - 4,000 phone calls per month (depending on weather and time of year)
- Average 40-60 dogs and 20-300 cats per month (depending on time of year) within the shelter
- Officers are on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, including weekends and holidays
- Provide public safety by preventing wildlife, nuisance animals and livestock from endangering the community.

DOG LAW OF 1919 Act 339 of 1919

AN ACT relating to dogs and the protection of live stock and poultry from damage by dogs; providing for the licensing of dogs; regulating the keeping of dogs, and authorizing their destruction in certain cases; providing for the determination and payment of damages done by dogs to live stock and poultry; imposing powers and duties on certain state, county, city and township officers and employees, and to repeal Act No. 347 of the Public Acts of 1917, and providing penalties for the violation of this act. History: 1919, Act 339, Eff. Aug. 14, 1919