



It has been proven that owning a dog has numerous health and psychological benefits. However, owning a dog is also a BIG responsibility. You need to be sure your dog is healthy, licensed, vaccinated, properly exercised and socialized.

It is important to understand that as an animal owner, you have responsibilities toward other members of the community as well as toward your pet. Missoula's animal ordinances are designed to protect your pet and the public.

### **Be Responsible. Follow the Rules!**

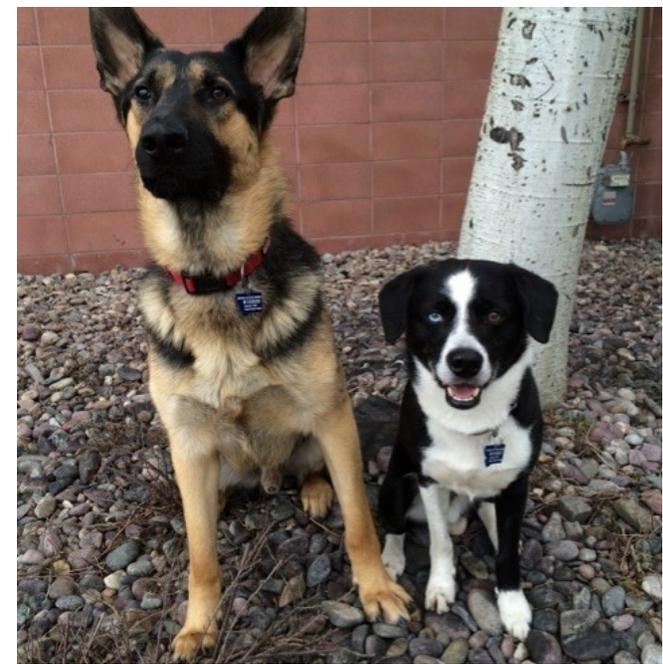
At Animal Control we work hard to find a balance for dogs, their owners and the general public. We maintain a beautiful facility where 97% of the dogs that come to our shelter are either reunited with their owner or adopted. Our community should be proud that we have such a positive outcome for our homeless and lost pets.

Visit our homepage at

[www.missoulacounty.us/directory/animalcontrol](http://www.missoulacounty.us/directory/animalcontrol)

## **Animal Control Programs**

- **Low Income Spay and Neuter** program for Missoulians in need, to help control the pet over population problem.
- **Great Adoption** program that helps match needy homeless pets with new owners. When looking for your next pet be sure to look at our shelter. Our adoption rate is very high.
- **Lost & Found** service that helps reunite lost pets with their people.
- **Dedicated Animal Control Officers** that help find solutions for those errant pets and animals in need, by responding to over 3,500 calls per year.
- **Volunteer at the Shelter.** Come walk the dogs and visit the cats. The socialization for these animals is always appreciated by our staff and of course the animals enjoy it!



(Chance adopted 2016 & Jackson 2014)

## **Responsible dog ownership**

2016....97% of all dogs brought into the shelter were either returned to the owners or adopted !



6700 Butler Creek Rd.  
Missoula, MT 59808  
406-541-7387

Shelter hours- M-F 11am-5:30pm  
SAT noon-4pm SUN closed

## Animal Control Ordinances

*Animal ordinances are designed to keep the public and animals safe. The Missoula Community has an estimated 45,000 dogs.*

### DOGS NEED A LICENSE

- A dog license is your lost dog's way of telling us how to get them home!
- [City and County residents are required to license their dogs, it must be worn while in public.](#)
- A dog license ensures that your dog is current with their rabies vaccinations.
- All licensing funds support the Animal Control Programs.
- [missoulaanimalcontrol.com](http://missoulaanimalcontrol.com) you can license on-line!!!!
- Animal Control uses pet census to determine license compliance. Currently, less than 50% of the dogs are licensed.



## Don't allow your pet to become a threat or nuisance.

### LEASHES

- [Missoula has a leash law: any public place, your dog always has to be on a leash.](#)
- Walking your dog on a leash keeps your pet safe from traffic and from other dogs.
- People don't like dogs running up to them.
- [You cannot tie your dog to an object like a parking meter or a bike rack. Tying your dog can be unsafe and many people are afraid to walk past them on the sidewalk.](#)

### POOP

- [You are required to remove your dogs poop from any public location or private property other than your own.](#)
- Be a good neighbor and pick up the poop on your property periodically.
- At most trailheads in Missoula there are poop bags provided, please use them and return with them do not leave them on the trail.
- Dogs cannot be within 15 feet of any outdoor food service establishment.

### BARKING

- [There is a barking ordinance. Prolonged barking can be a real nuisance to your neighbors.](#)
- Dogs bark out of boredom. Proper training, supervision and adequate exercise and stimulation will help to prevent problem barking.

### DOG BITES

- Citizens are reported bitten by dogs in Missoula on the average of 130 times per year.
- All dogs can bite put in the wrong circumstance. Please protect your dog and the public.
- [If your dog bites it will be quarantined for 10 days.](#)

### Off Leash Areas:

Dogs can be off leash under voice control any where outside of city limits and in the city at Jacobs Island Dog Park, the North Hills, Mt. Sentinel and Mt. Jumbo Conservation Lands. **Dogs on the "M" Trail and the "L" Trail must be leashed.**

### Voice Control Areas:

- When on the trails dogs **MUST** be leashed the first 200 yards of the trail.
- You can walk only two dogs off leash at a time.
- Your dog must return to you immediately when called no matter what the circumstances.
- You dog **CANNOT CHASE WILD-LIFE** or harass other animals.
- Your dog must be within 75 feet of you and must be in your sight.
- You cannot allow your dog to come within five feet of another person.