

City of Polson Animal Control and Cruelty Investigations
Sandy Drake
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Emergency~911
Hours Mon-Fri 0800-1600 hours

Animal control ordinances designed to preserve livability in the community.

Bringing harmony between dog and cat owners within the city is the goal of City Ordinance 8.04, the city's animal control ordinance. Under the ordinance, dogs and all other animals are not permitted to run at large. When not on the owner's premises, animals must be kept on leashes. Loose animals may be impounded by the city's animal control warden or by any police officer.

If your animal is impounded, it will be taken to Southshore Veterinarian office at the top of Polson Hill. The animal will be held for 72 hours. If the animal has a city license tag, personnel will make every attempt to notify the owner within one business day that the animal is impounded and how it can be redeemed. The office phone number for Southshore Vets office is 883-5229.

Polson's animal control officer has worked closely with Life Savers Animal Rescue for the past year and a half. When the owner does not claim an animal within the given 72 hours, the rescue group is given the opportunity to adopt that animal for us. We do not have the facilities to provide the service for ourselves, but now that we have Lifesavers, we no longer have to worry about what will happen to these unclaimed animals. We have not had to euthanize an animal in over 2 years thanks to the kindness and caring people at Lifesavers.

Loud or frequent barking is considered disturbing the peace, and the owner is subject to substantial penalties under the ordinance. Likewise, if your animal bites someone, the victim may ask for a complaint to be filed with the city prosecutor or animal warden. The city Judge will determine the severity of the case and you may lose your animal.

Everyone who owns or **keeps** an animal, cat or dog within the city limits of Polson is required to buy a license for the animal at city hall-106 1st St. E. Licenses are good for a calendar year and are not transferable from one animal to another. Getting your animal licensed early in the year, before February 15 will be granted a discount. Please call for prices. Animals must be vaccinated against rabies and you must show proof of that vaccination to have your city license validated.

Livestock is defined as-Horses, bovine animals, sheep, goats, swine, donkeys, mules, chickens and fowl, and all wild animals. **All livestock is prohibited.**

Kennel licenses are required by any person, person, or family that wishes to maintain more than three (3) dogs or cats over the age of six (6) months of age or for the purpose of breeding. The kennel license fee is \$50.00 per year and is valid one (1) year from the date of approval. Any person who wishes to obtain a kennel license and establish a commercial kennel must also have the consent of seventy-five (75) percent of the adjoining neighbors. Applications are available through the animal control officer at city hall.

Montana code annotated 45-8-211. Cruelty to animals. Polson has zero tolerance for animal cruelty. Our Animal Control Officer has been to the Montana Law Enforcement Academy for animal control officer training and is certified. She has also been to the National Cruelty Investigations School in Billings, and is nationally certified as a cruelty investigator. Any allegations of animal cruelty that have been called in will be investigated and the proper charges will be brought against individuals for this offense. Everything is taken very seriously and there is no "bad" call to animal control. If it concerns you, it concerns us.