



Michael Swanson
Chief of Police

RICHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT

4450 WEST STREETSBORO ROAD
RICHFIELD, OHIO 44286
(330) 659-9500
(330) 659-0677 FAX



Michael Wheeler
Mayor

Animal Control 2021

Hi, my name is Patti Horn, after being a 911 dispatcher for over 19 years and covering the kennel duties in 2020, I accepted the Animal Control position as of January 1st.

What to do if your pet becomes lost:

- As soon as you discover your pet is missing, contact Animal Control at 330-659-2831 or Police Dispatch at 330-659-9500, and Summit County Animal control @330-643-2845. Give a detailed description of your pet including its name; the date, time and address the pet went missing; and a phone number where you can be reached. If possible, walk your neighborhood looking for your pet asking anyone if they have seen it. If your pet returns home, please contact Animal Control and let them know.
- If you find or see a loose pet, contact Animal Control at 330-659-2831 or dispatch 330-659-9500 as soon as possible. If the animal is non-aggressive you can keep it until Animal Control can pick it up. If the animal is running loose, give a detailed description, location last seen and direction of travel.
- If your animal is picked up running loose, it will be taken to the Animal Control for safe keeping.

All dogs and cats brought into the kennel are photographed, checked for owner identification by checking for collar, tags and microchip, and posted on the Richfield Village Facebook. If ownership can be determined, we will make every effort in notifying the owner as soon as possible to start the redemption process. ***Anyone coming to claim an animal will have to have to be at least 18 years of age and have a photo ID, and 2 forms of pet ownership ID (i.e., microchip information, proof of dog license, rabies tag/inoculation record, AKC papers, medical/vet records, adoption or purchase documents, photos of the animal). This is for your protection and to ensure the animal is claimed by the rightful owner.*** We have made several improvements in the kennel area for the comfort of the animal and to make my job easier and more enjoyable. Rest assured I will care for your pet as if it were my own.

This last year due to equipment and staffing issues, we did not trap wild/nuisance animals, these callers were referred to licensed critter control companies. **Raccoons, opossums, and skunks cannot be released off-site, they must be euthanized or released on the same property. It is illegal to live trap and relocate raccoons, skunks, and opossums in Ohio and relocate them to a new area. In order to prevent the possible spread of diseases.**

Richfield Township assistance is limited to stray/sick/injured domestic animals (dogs & cats) For sick or injured wildlife on your property contact Dispatch 330-659-9500 and an officer can dispatch the animal, you would be required to dispose of the carcass. Any wildlife trapping, contact the numbers below.

Email: Police_Department@RichfieldPD.us



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ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE Contact your district wildlife office for a listing of nuisance wildlife trappers **330-375-2320**. There are quite a few companies that offer nuisance wildlife removal services for a fee.

Richfield Animal Control does not endorse or recommend any of these companies, the list is purely for ease of user.

Summit Wildlife Control	330-333-6545
Wildlife Removal	330-615-1600
Varmint Gitter	330-321-6990

Sometimes the proximity of wildlife to people's homes can cause problems. The simplest and most effective solutions involve preventing wildlife problems before they happen, instead of coping with a wild animal who has become a trouble-causing resident. The following two-part discussion includes (1) how to reduce the likelihood of wildlife becoming a nuisance, and (2) how to control specific wildlife species after they become a nuisance.

General Prevention Tips:

- *Keep your garbage in a secure container that cannot be opened by animals.*
- *Store birdseed in a secure place and hang your feeders in locations where only birds can reach them as bird feeders can attract raccoons, possums, or even bears.*
- *Use a feeder with a gravity-operated treadle to discourage squirrels and don't let spilled food accumulate.*
- *If you have fruit trees in your yard, be sure to pick or dispose of ripe fruit.*
- *Do not leave brush, leaf piles or other debris to accumulate.*
- *Keep food in airtight containers and dispose of garbage regularly.*
- *Keep pet food and water dishes indoors. Do not encourage raccoons, deer and squirrels by feeding them.*
- *Remove Outdoor Pet Food -Leaving pet food outside creates a free buffet for your wild neighbors and can lead to conflicts among wildlife, people and pets. Feed your pets inside instead. If you must feed your pets outside, pick up any remaining food as soon as your pet stops eating.*
- *Don't leave garage or shed doors open even a few inches for indoor/outdoor animals, that is an open invitation for wild animals for look for food or nesting sites.*
- *Keep Cats Indoors -Cats and wildlife are not a good mix. Free-roaming outdoor cats risk predation by coyotes and other wildlife, just as birds and baby rabbits risk predation by cats. Keeping cats indoors protects both cats and wildlife. Learn more about transitioning your cat to the indoors at humane society.*

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- *Trim tree branches that extend over your roof or install a three-foot-wide band of sheet metal (six feet above the ground) around the trunks of trees that overhang your house. This will reduce the access raccoons have to your roof.*
- *Cover window wells with grates, bubbles or hardware cloth.*
- *Bury 1/4-inch mesh hardware cloth one to two feet deep in places where animals might gain access through digging.*
- *Store garbage in metal or plastic containers with tight-fitting lids. Keep the containers in the garage or shed and put trash out only when it is scheduled for pick up.*
- *Fence gardens and cover fruit trees and berry bushes with netting. Screen fireplace chimneys and furnaces (from February to September) as well as attic and dryer vents. Keep dampers closed when not in use (consult a knowledgeable source to prevent fire or safety hazards).*
- *Decks built less than two feet off the ground should have 1/4-inch mesh hardware cloth nailed from the top of the outside joists to the bottom of a 10-inch trench, leaving about six to eight inches of extra hardware cloth at the bottom to form an L-shape. Wooden lattice can be added for aesthetics.*
- *Seal all holes and cracks in your foundation, siding or stucco that is larger than 3/8 inch wide to keep rats, mice, bats and snakes out. Common entry points include chimneys; gaps around window air conditioners, water pipes or electric outlets; openings in interior walls that lead to the attic or ceiling; loose or shrunken siding boards; and loose vent covers.*
- *Mark large windows with strips of white tape or raptor (hawk) silhouettes to avert birds from flying into the window.*

Trapping/Removal

For those who choose to, trapping can be an effective method of dealing with a troublesome wildlife "guest." The most commonly used device is a cage-like, live-trap which captures the animal physically unharmed. Live traps can be built at home or purchased from a commercial source. Traps should be checked twice a day (morning and evening) to replenish bait or to humanely deal with the captured animal. Raccoons, opossums, and skunks cannot be released off-site, they must be euthanized or released on the same property. It is illegal to live trap and relocate raccoons, skunks, and opossums in Ohio. It will be the responsibility of the trapper to release or dispose of the animal.

Again, a licensed insured nuisance animal trapper has specialized equipment & experience for removal of an unwanted guest, they usually can repair damage and dispose of the animal for you.

*** You should avoid any raccoon which has lost its fear of humans or appears uncoordinated, confused or listless. If you encounter such an animal, call your district wildlife office or Richfield Police Dispatch, on duty officers can dispatch the sick or injured animal. Nuisance or sick raccoons may be trapped without a permit, but it is illegal to live trap and relocate them to a new area, all live trapped raccoons must be released again on the homeowner's property or humanely euthanized.*

I look forward to helping the community with Animal Control issues, please don't hesitate to call to discuss your concerns. 330-659-2831 x 429

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