

ANIMAL CONTROL AND DEER REMOVAL FAQ

Q. What are the responsibilities of Marlboro's Animal Control Officer?

A. In Marlboro, Animal Control is responsible for picking up stray dogs and cats, responding to animal complaints and seeing that all dogs and cats are licensed in the Township. In addition, Animal Control assists with the enforcement of leash and curbing laws. If you find you are in need of Animal Control services, please contact Animal Control at (732) 536-0100 (ext. 1415).

Q. Do I have to license my dog or cat?

A. Yes. Pet licensing is required in January of each year. Notices are sent via regular mail for pets licensed in the prior year as well as reminders sent via email and social media. Licensing your pet helps to return your lost pet home more quickly, protects public safety by ensuring rabies vaccination are up to date and it is the law. Visit the town website for the licensing form and for the date of the free rabies clinic held each spring.

Q. My pet escaped the house! How do I find out if animal control has found him?

A. Call 732-536-0100 extension 1415. If your pet has been licensed, we will attempt to contact you at the number on file. Found, unclaimed domestic pets are brought to the Monmouth County SPCA, the Township's boarding facility. The facility is located at 260 Wall Street, Eatontown, NJ 07724 and can be reached by calling 732-542-0040 and is open 7 days a week from noon to 5pm. The [REDEMPTION FORM](#) must be completed prior to release.

Q. An animal is acting strangely. Who do I call?

A. If any animal is acting strangely, appears ill or is threatening you in some way, do not approach the animal. Call the Marlboro Police at 732-536-0100 and report it immediately.

Q. I have a dead deer on my property.

A. Dead wildlife on private property is the responsibility of the owner and the property owner should contact a private removal service. The removal company will only collect carcasses in the right of way.

Q. How do I report a dead deer in the road or right of way?

A. To report a dead deer in the roadway or on the right-of-way on the side of the road, call Marlboro Police at 732-536-0100. Local animal control does not remove dead deer, but Dispatch will report it to the proper authority (state or county). Once contacted, the removal company has up to 72 hours to remove the carcass.

Q. A wild animal/deer is injured. Who do I call?

A. Please call the Police at 732-536-0100. In certain situations, the Police Officers will put down deer. They ensure the area is safe before discharging their weapons and follow all State and County protocols. The removal company is then contacted and has 72 hours to collect the carcass.

Q. I think I have orphaned wildlife on my property.

A. Many people encounter what appear to be sick, injured or orphaned wildlife. The New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife urges New Jerseyans to leave young wildlife undisturbed. Every year, especially during the spring and early summer, the lives of many young animals are disrupted. Well-intentioned people may attempt to 'save' these animals, and more often than not, the mother is nearby.

Young rabbits found at a nest site do not need to be rescued. The mother rabbit will not return as long as a person is standing near the nest site. If you've kicked open a nest, just replace the top of the nest, and leave. The mother will return and care for the young. Cottontail rabbits leave their young for hours while eating, but they do return to nurse the young, until the young are old enough to survive on their own. Young rabbits are ready to leave the nest at three to four weeks of age when their eyes are open and their bodies are furry.

Young birds are sometimes found on the ground near a nest. When this happens, the best thing to do is to put the bird carefully back into the nest. Don't worry about getting your scent on the bird; it will not affect the mother's care. If you can't reach the nest, leave the bird on the ground. Every bird alive today has spent a few precarious days on the ground while learning to fly. The best thing you can do during this time of year to protect young wildlife is to keep cats indoors.

When young raccoons are found out alone, it is likely they are merely exploring and their mother is nearby. They are probably old enough to be fully capable of climbing back up a tree to their den. If they were too young to climb, the mother would carry them back.

If you find a young fawn lying alone, leave it there. The mother comes back several times each day to nurse the fawn. If you've already picked the fawn up and brought it home - put it back. Even one or two days after removal from the wild, fawns have been successfully reunited with their mothers, by returning them to the place where they were found. Adult deer spend much of the day feeding and loafing. Fawns that are not strong enough on their legs to keep up with the adults are left behind. Usually young fawns are quite safe because their color pattern and lack of scent help them to remain undetected until their mother's return.

Intended acts of kindness often have the opposite effect. Instead of being left to learn how to find food, young animals taken from the wild will be denied their natural learning experiences. They often become attached to their caregivers and no longer survive in the wild. In addition, nearly all wild birds and mammals are protected under the law and may not be legally kept as pets. Only when they are found injured or with their dead mother is there reason to do something and only under these circumstances can an animal be transferred to a licensed wildlife rehabilitator.

Those who encounter such a situation should consult the List of NJ Wildlife Rehabilitators for the nearest wildlife rehabilitation center. <https://www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/bornwild.htm>