

Do I need a permit?

There are several types of permits that are both issued and monitored by Bernalillo County Animal Care Services. Permitted activities are covered in Article 4 of Chapter 6 of the Bernalillo County Code of Ordinances and include:

Multiple Animal Permits:

If you have, or wish to have, more animals than allowed in the ordinance (in most cases 4) you are required to possess a Multiple Animal Permit.

Breeder Permit:

If you possess a dog or cat for purposes of breeding each animal is required to be associated with a Breeder Permit.

Litter Permit:

In the absence of a Breeder Permit, a Litter Permit is required prior to selling, giving away or in any other way disposing of the litter. After the issuance of a Litter Permit, the permitted animal is required to be sterilized within 120 days of the issuance of the Litter Permit. Any advertisements for the sale of a litter must contain the Litter Permit number on it.

Other types of permits issued and monitored by Bernalillo County Animal Care Services include:

Shelter Site Permit

Professional Animal Site Permit

Intact Animal Permit

Guard Dog Permit



BERNALILLO COUNTY ANIMAL CARE SERVICES

1136 Gatewood SW
Albuquerque, NM 87105

Phone: 505-468-PETS
FAX: 505-873-6709
E-Mail: animal@bernco.gov

BERNALILLO COUNTY



Changes to the Bernalillo
County Code of Ordinances:

Animal Care



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Changes to the Animal Care Ordinance

In January of 2013 the Bernalillo County Board of Commissioners approved significant changes to Chapter 6, Animals, of the Bernalillo County Code of Ordinances.

It is important that our citizens have a clear understanding of the ordinance as it pertains to animal care and control and their responsibility as an animal owner.

The changes to the Bernalillo County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 6, will be effective:

August 26, 2013

This brochure is intended solely to cover some of the more significant changes to the ordinance and provide information on where pet owners can educate themselves about their responsibilities. The ordinance in its entirety can be found at:

www.berncogov

If you have any additional questions, please contact Bernalillo County Animal Care Services at:

505-468-PETS (7387)



What do I need to know?

IDENTIFICATION:

Historically, all pets in unincorporated Bernalillo County were required to be licensed and vaccinated for rabies. That will remain the same. In addition, ALL pets will be required to be microchipped. Microchipping is the only form of permanent registration for your pet. There is a much higher probability of a pet that is microchipped to be reunited with their owner. Not only is it good practice, but now is also the law.



TETHERING:

There is a significant amount of research that indicate a tethered animal, spending its life at the end of a chain, is likely to develop considerably more adverse behavioral issues than one that is not tethered. Further, tethered dogs comprise a majority of the animal cruelty and neglect investigations performed by Animal Care Services in Bernalillo County. Tethering of your pet as a form of confinement is prohibited under the ordinance as amended. All pets must be secured by a fence, suitable enough to keep the animal from running at large, or a pen of sufficient size to allow for exercise, free movement and a healthy environment.

What does my pet need?

The care and maintenance of animals is covered in section 6-56 of the ordinance as amended. It is important that all pet owners read this section in its entirety and understand their obligations as a pet owner in Bernalillo County. In general however, you are obligated to provide your pet with;

1. Adequate and appropriate food and water;
2. A safe environment free of dangers or anything that could injure your pet;
3. Shelter, in good repair and appropriate size for the animal. The shelter must be accessible and insulated when necessary;
4. Veterinary care when necessary. If your pet is injured or sick you are obligated to provide veterinary care for them; and
5. A space adequate to prevent overcrowding and allow for adequate exercise.

What about pets allowed to run at large?

Under the existing ordinance, and reinforced in the ordinance as amended, pets are not permitted to run at large off the property of the owner unless secured by a leash. Owners who allow their pets to run at large are subject to criminal charges and any subsequent fines and fees.

Under the ordinance as amended, pets found running at large twice are required to be sterilized within 30 days of the second offense.